



# Proclamation

*WHEREAS, our community is located in the ancestral homeland of people who inhabited this area long before Europeans arrived, including Potawatomi and Winnebago settlements; and*

*WHEREAS, a river flowed through a tamarack swamp into Lac La Belle, and a dam was built across it in 1837 that formed Fowler Lake, it was named COO-NO-MO-WAUK which translates to 'Where the Waters Fall or Meet; and*

*WHEREAS, first settled as a town, Oconomowoc was named in 1846; made a village in 1865, and a city in 1875; and*

*WHEREAS, a plank road was built connecting Oconomowoc with Milwaukee, Waukesha, Pewaukee and Watertown, the community continued to grow; and*

*WHEREAS, the completion of the Milwaukee and Watertown railroad only accelerated growth and the establishment of churches, schools as well as commerce; and*

*WHEREAS, in the late 19th century, Oconomowoc became a resort community known as the Newport of the West as wealthy residents from around the country, including six US Presidents, enjoyed the area and several hotels; and*

*WHEREAS, Fowler Lake hosted the US Olympic Speedskating Trials and as a result, four American men's gold medalists at the 1932 Olympics were qualified in Oconomowoc; and*

*WHEREAS, downtown Oconomowoc's Strand Theater showcased the World Premiere screening of the iconic film The Wizard of Oz in 1939, a historical event still celebrated today; and*

*WHEREAS, the 20th century brought industry growth through agriculture, manufacturing, canning, evaporated & powdered milk, as well as the establishment of Brownberry Ovens; and*

*WHEREAS, Oconomowoc continues to grow and be a place that proudly cherishes our rich history and past accomplishments; and*

*WHEREAS, Oconomowoc's Downtown Revitalization efforts has created a destination and the recognition of the "Heart of Lake Country" for southeastern Wisconsin; and*

*WHEREAS, the community continues to be a thriving City of over 19,500 residents, and attracting more through its small town character, friendly people and excellent quality of life; and*

*WHEREAS, Oconomowoc citizens, organizations, businesses, and local government take pride in their community, which creates a great place to live and visitor destination in the 21st century; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Oconomowoc will be 150 years old in 2025 and the Sesquicentennial year will celebrate Oconomowoc's history, community and future.*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Robert P. Magnus, Mayor of the City of Oconomowoc, on behalf of our entire community, do hereby proclaim the year 2025 to be a celebration of Oconomowoc's Sesquicentennial and do proclaim January 16 every year hereafter to be the City of Oconomowoc Day. I urge all citizens, organizations, businesses, and local government to find and create ways to celebrate this significant milestone of our 150th anniversary year and join as a community in ceremonial activities and an interest in exploring our Past, experiencing our Present, and engaging our Potential.*

*Dated this 7th day of January 2025*

*Robert P Magnus*

Robert P. Magnus, Mayor City of Oconomowoc