



PROCLAMATION

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to recognize the histories, cultures, and contributions of our residents whose roots came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Africa, Central and South America, and many tracing their heritage from the original indigenous peoples of Latin America; and

WHEREAS, the observation began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson, but was expanded by President Ronald Reagan to cover a 30-day period and enacted into federal law on August 17, 1988, calling upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this time with ceremonies, activities, and programs; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 U.S. Census estimates that slightly over 10% of Whitewater's population are Hispanic or Latinx residents; and

WHEREAS, 41.6% of the students in the Whitewater Unified School District identify as Hispanic; and

WHEREAS, 10.9% of the students at the University of Whitewater, Wisconsin, identify as Hispanic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater joins the rest of the nation in recognizing the unique and vital role in our economy, workforce, education, and faith communities these Hispanic and Latinx residents contribute.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Weidl, City Manager for the City of Whitewater, proclaims September 15, 2026, through October 15, 2026, as Hispanic Heritage Month in the City of Whitewater and encourages residents to observe this month with the theme "Collective Heritage: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future;" recognize the significant achievements of the Hispanic community in the economic and political industries; and celebrate the success and contributions of Hispanic Americans.

Presented this 6th day of October 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Weidl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John S. Weidl

City Manager for the City of Whitewater