



***PROCLAMATION
In Recognition of
2026 SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH***

This Proclamation recognizes suicide as a preventable national and statewide public health problem, and suicide prevention as a national and statewide responsibility, and designates September 1 through September 30 as “Suicide Prevention Month” in Whitewater, Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, in 2024, suicide was the 10th leading cause of death overall in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals aged 10 to 34 years, with older adults aged 80 years and older experiencing the highest rates of suicide (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]);

WHEREAS, in the United States in 2024, over 48,000 individuals died by suicide (CDC);

WHEREAS, suicide rates increased approximately 32% in the United States from 2000-2024 (CDC);

WHEREAS, in 2024, an estimated 14.3 million adults aged 18 years or older reported having serious thoughts of suicide and 2.2 million adults attempted suicide in the past year, which is 1.5 times more reported suicide attempts in 2024 than in 2023 (National Survey on Drug Use and Health);

WHEREAS, in 2023, two in ten high school students seriously considered attempting suicide and almost one in ten high school students reported that they had made at least one suicide attempt in the past year (Youth Risk Behavior Survey);

WHEREAS, in 2023, Wisconsin reported 921 suicide deaths and in 2025 Wisconsin reported 3,167 suicide attempts (Wisconsin Department of Health Services);

WHEREAS, over 90% of the people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and potentially treatable mental health condition, although often that condition is not recognized or treated (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention);

WHEREAS, the burden of suicide is estimated to cost over \$500 billion in medical, work loss, value of statistical life, and quality of life costs nationally (CDC);

WHEREAS, the negative attitudes associated with suicidal thoughts and behaviors and mental health conditions work against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk of suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatize survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experience of suicide;

WHEREAS, if someone can get through the intense and short moment of an active suicidal crisis, they are unlikely to ultimately die from suicide;

WHEREAS, asking someone directly if they're thinking about suicide will not "put the idea in their head" and most will be relieved when someone starts a conversation;

WHEREAS, most people who survive a suicide attempt (85-95%) will not go on to die by suicide;

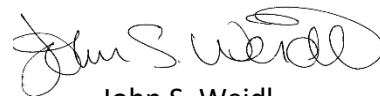
WHEREAS, 90% of people in the U.S. believe that suicide can be prevented at least sometimes, showing an incredible shift in public understanding about suicide from decades ago when society viewed suicide as an inevitable outcome;

WHEREAS, everyone has a role in preventing suicide and can learn suicide risks and warning signs and encourage and assist those who struggle to seek help;

WHEREAS, organizations such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention envision a world without suicide, and are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, through research, education, advocacy, and resources for those who have lost someone to suicide, who support someone who struggles, or who have struggled themselves, and urge that we:

1. Recognize suicide as a preventable national and statewide public health problem and declare suicide prevention to be a priority.
2. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities.
3. Encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the 2024 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and Wisconsin's Suicide Prevention Plan: Strategies for Action & Hope (Prevent Suicide Wisconsin 2025).
4. Promote awareness that there is no single cause of suicide; that suicide is complex; that risk may increase for a person when multiple contributors (e.g., mental health conditions, substance use and physical health conditions and pain, past trauma) converge in the context of stress; and that when a person has access to lethal means they may die by suicide.
5. Develop and implement strategies to promote lethal means safety and increase access to and the delivery of quality suicide prevention, mental health, and substance use crisis care and treatment and recovery services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, I, John Weidl, City Manager, for the City of Whitewater, do hereby designate September 2026 as "SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH" in Whitewater.



John S. Weidl

City Manager for the City of Whitewater