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Governor Doyle Proclaims February Library Lovers' Month

The Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) is pleased to announce that Governor Jim Doyle recently issued a proclamation declaring February "Library Lovers' Month." The proclamation is the culmination of a year-long "I Love Libraries & I Vote!" campaign, which WLA launched last February to encourage library users to vote and remind those running for public office that many voters care deeply about libraries of all kinds.

According to Terry Dawson, WLA President, the association selected the theme for its campaign after a study sponsored by the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium showed that library users are more likely to vote than non library users. "The campaign has been a success," said Dawson, "and thousands of buttons and bumper stickers have been distributed to library lovers throughout the state to make those running for office aware of the value of libraries." In addition, Dawson mentioned that many libraries throughout the state also sponsored "listening sessions" for those seeking office this past fall. Some even became voter registration sites.

As the campaign comes to a close, WLA is encouraging library patrons to tell their legislators what they love about libraries. Dawson remarked, "Wisconsin residents are using their libraries more than ever. It's important that decision makers understand that libraries play a crucial role in the quality of life in this state."

Resources about the campaign, including tips on participating, and related resources on voter education and registration are available on the WLA website: <http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/legis/lovelibs/>.

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