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Contact: Jason Rae
(715) 790-4334
jason@wislgbtchamber.com

# Wisconsin LGBT Chamber Honors Governor Evers with Legacy Leadership Award

*Recognition celebrates Governor's longstanding commitment to LGBTQ+ equality, inclusive economic development, and building a Wisconsin where everyone can succeed*

MILWAUKEE, WI – The Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce presented Governor Tony Evers with its Legacy Leadership Award on Thursday, November 19, recognizing his years of leadership and commitment to advancing LGBTQ+ equality and economic opportunity across Wisconsin.

Chamber members, business leaders, and longtime supporters gathered in Milwaukee for the presentation, coming together to celebrate the Governor's leadership and lasting contributions to Wisconsin's LGBTQ+ community.

"Governor Evers has been more than an advocate for our community. He has been a friend, a partner, and someone who has consistently demonstrated that LGBTQ+ Wisconsinites deserve to be seen, valued, and included," said Jason Rae, President & CEO of the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber. "Throughout his time in office, he has led with heart, passion, and conviction. We wanted to take this opportunity to simply say thank you."

Throughout his administration, Governor Evers has taken significant steps to advance LGBTQ+ inclusion and opportunity in Wisconsin. Among his actions:

- Becoming the first Wisconsin Governor to fly the Pride Flag over the State Capitol in 2019, continuing the tradition each year throughout his administration.
- Signing an executive order on his first day in office strengthening nondiscrimination protections in state employment, services, and contracting.
- Advocating for the inclusion of LGBTQ-owned businesses in Wisconsin's supplier diversity programs.
- Directing federal American Rescue Plan Act resources toward diverse business recovery, including investments supporting the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber's work with entrepreneurs and small businesses across the state.
- Vetoing legislation that would have restricted the rights, opportunities, and access to care of transgender Wisconsinites.

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For the Chamber, Governor Evers' leadership reflects the critical connection between inclusion and economic development.

"We believe Wisconsin should be a place where people want to start businesses, create jobs, invest in their communities, and build their futures," Rae continued. "Governor Evers has understood that building a more inclusive Wisconsin isn't separate from economic development. It is economic development. His leadership has helped create opportunities for LGBTQ+ and allied entrepreneurs to contribute to Wisconsin's economy."

The Chamber previously recognized Governor Evers as its Advocate of the Year in 2021. The Legacy Leadership Award builds upon that recognition, honoring the lasting impact of his administration as he approaches the conclusion of his time as Governor.

"His legacy isn't simply about executive orders, investments, or vetoes. It's about the people whose lives were touched by those decisions," Rae added. "It's about ensuring that people across our state know they belong here, that their contributions matter, and that they have the opportunity to succeed. We are deeply grateful for his leadership and friendship, and that is a legacy worth celebrating."

***About the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce***

The Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce works to create a strong, pro-fairness business community by supporting LGBTQ+ and allied businesses and corporations across Wisconsin. Through connection, education, advocacy and economic opportunity, the Chamber helps its members grow while working to build a stronger, more inclusive Wisconsin economy. The organization has nearly 700 businesses as members from around the state. In 2026, the Chamber was recognized by the National LGBTQ+ & Allied Chamber of Commerce with its Affiliate Chamber of the Year award, the highest recognition it presents to Chambers across the country. More information can be found online at www.wislgbtchamber.com.

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