



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Last year, people in Minnesota visited their local public library more than 12 million times, submitted nearly 2 million reference requests to trained library staff, and attended over 55,000 programs held at their local library branch; and
- WHEREAS: For decades, grateful community members have banded together into the nonprofit "Friends of the Library" to champion library services and the staff who maintain these vital community assets; and
- WHEREAS: "Friends" are a grassroots group dating back to the 1920s. Their presence continues strong to this day with a collective 19,700 members across Minnesota; and
- WHEREAS: Friends benefit 58 percent of public library systems in Minnesota, and, in some communities, Friends groups also exist to support the mission and activities of university libraries and K-12 school media centers; and
- WHEREAS: Friends are vocal and hardworking advocates for their library's continued public funding. Among core activities, Friends of the Library fill important fundraising functions, unlocking program and outreach opportunities; and
- WHEREAS: Friends are particularly visible as the coordinators of regular and beloved used book sales, providing funding for library programs and services in their community; and
- WHEREAS: Beyond fundraising, many Friends groups supplement their library's offerings by hosting programs including author talks, book clubs, and children's programs; and
- WHEREAS: Friends in many Minnesota communities can also be found volunteering their time in the library itself: reshelving books, staffing desk shifts, and even providing custodial services; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota recognizes Friends of Libraries and celebrates their work championing and sustaining library services across Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim October 20 – 26, 2024, as:

## FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October.



  
GOVERNOR

  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR