



DANE COUNTY  
**BOARD of** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SUPERVISORS**  
CHAIR PATRICK MILES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: May 14, 2026

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**Dane County Board Recognizes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

**DANE COUNTY, Wis.** — On Thursday, May 14, 2026, the Dane County Board of Supervisors officially recognized June 15, 2026, as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Dane County. The board passed 2026 RES-019 to raise awareness about elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue and to urge all residents to honor, protect, and advocate for older adults.

2026 marks the 20th annual observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Research indicates that at least 10 percent of adults age 65 and older experience some form of elder abuse in a given year. In 2025, there were 505 reports of elder abuse investigated in Dane County.

“Older adults are pillars of our communities, including in the rural parts of Dane County I represent, where they serve as mentors, volunteers, and the keepers of local history,” said Supervisor Patrick Downing (District 30), who read the resolution. “Elder abuse often goes unseen, especially in places where neighbors may live miles apart. Recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is a reminder that protecting older adults is everyone's responsibility, no matter where they call home.”

The resolution notes that ageism and social isolation are major drivers of elder abuse and emphasizes the importance of maintaining and strengthening social supports, including senior centers, human services, and transportation, so older adults can continue to live independently and remain connected to their communities.

The Dane County Board of Supervisors reaffirms its commitment to fostering a community that honors, protects, engages, and advocates for older adults in pursuit of a community without elder abuse. If you suspect elder abuse or neglect, contact the Dane County Department of Human Services Adult Protective Services Division Helpline at (608) 261-9933. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call or text 911.

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**OFFICE OF THE DANE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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***About the Dane County Board of Supervisors:*** The Dane County Board of Supervisors is the legislative and policymaking body of Dane County government. Composed of 37 supervisors elected to represent each county district, the county board's mission is to effectively represent the people of Dane County, providing services that secure the blessings of freedom, ensure domestic tranquility, promote the general welfare, and perfect the forms of government. Learn more about the county board at <https://board.danecounty.gov/>.