

# THE NATIONAL DAY OF REASON IN MINNESOTA

May 7, 2020



The National Day of Reason honors the principles of secular lawmaking and separation of religion and government that have guided our country since its founding. We observe this day to remind lawmakers that public policy should be based on reason, science, and evidence to promote the general welfare.

Supporters affirm that government should not favor one religion over another or the religious over the nonreligious, as mandated by the Constitution. In Minnesota, we continue to witness the intrusion of religious ideology, and the denial of scientific knowledge, in critical areas including reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, climate change, vaccinations, medical aid in dying, religious displays in public schools, and cultural diversity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has added increased urgency to a central message of the Day of Reason – the importance of relying on science to guide public policy. The failure to do that has put thousands of lives at risk.

The National Day of Reason is an initiative of the American Humanist Association and other secular advocates who established it as an alternative to the congressionally mandated National Day of Prayer. Three Minnesota humanist groups – [HumanistsMN](#); the [First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis](#); and [Or Emet, the Minnesota Congregation for Humanistic Judaism](#) – have united to ensure the day is commemorated in our state.

Humanists believe that humans are moral agents responsible for shaping a desirable future for humanity and the planet, relying on reason, critical thinking, and scientific inquiry.

**For more information**, contact Suzanne Perry, HumanistsMN vice president, at [suzanne.perry@humanistsmn.org](mailto:suzanne.perry@humanistsmn.org).