



The Proclamation Guide

2024 National Radon Action Month

Proclamations are an important way you can help spread radon awareness and action. A Proclamation is a legal declaration by your local Mayor or Governor declaring January as National Radon Action Month. This guide will give you step-by-step instructions on how to contact your local officials, provide a template, and encourage you to share your success!

Simple Step-by-Step Protocol for Requesting a Mayoral/Governor Proclamation

1. Search for your Mayor or Governor by phone book or Google.
2. Call and ask to speak to the Mayor's/Governor's secretary.
3. Introduce yourself as a resident and say that you are seeking a Proclamation as part of Radon Action Month. You will be asked to send more information.
4. Ask for an email address and the correct spelling of the Mayor's/Governor's name.
5. Then email a brief statement that says:

Hi, I am a resident of [name of municipality/state]. I spoke with your office about my request that January be proclaimed Radon Action Month. Here is the information requested. I will call next week to offer more information if needed.

Thank you, [your name, address and phone number].

Attach: a copy of the draft declaration, together with the letter we have provided.

6. Schedule a call back for one week later. On that date, call and speak to the secretary.
7. Be prepared to answer any questions, offer to come in and give more information. Ask when you may have an appointment or may expect a decision. Tell them that even though it is dated January, you would like to receive it at their earliest convenience so you can begin to publicize it.
8. If they say no, or are indecisive, thank them politely and hang up.
**If you wish to pursue it further do NOT call again. Try having other community members call and say that they too wish to see your city, town or state be a Radon Action Month supporter.*

**You may also ask a City Councilperson, repeating the same process as above. Unless you know who your Councilperson is, start with the chairman of the City Council and ask him or her to do it or to point you to your Councilperson.*
9. We want to know about your success! Please share your local proclamations throughout the month of January on AARST-NRPPP social media [Twitter @StopRadon](#) and [Facebook](#) so we can celebrate your achievement! Use "hashtags" #NRAM, #Radon, #Radonawareness, #RadonActionMonth, #TestYourHomeforRadon,

Initial Letter (Template) to Mayor or Governor explaining your request

[Date]

[The Honorable and full name of official]

[Address of official]

Dear [Title (e.g., Senator, Mayor, Governor) and last name]:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated January as National Radon Action Month. **Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer** among non-smokers, responsible for more than **21,000 deaths annually** in the United States alone. [If available, add local facts about radon]. In support of this effort, I am writing to ask you to help us raise awareness about radon risk in our state this January, which will help save lives throughout the year.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil, and water that can accumulate to dangerous levels inside homes, schools and other buildings. It cannot be seen and has no odor; the only way a family can know if their house has a radon problem is if they test for it. The good news is that radon problems can be fixed. Getting the word out to your constituents about the importance of testing for radon and fixing a radon problem can **save lives** in our state/communities.

Here are four important **actions you can take** to get the word out about radon and save lives in our community:

- * **Proclaim January as National Radon Action Month** in our state/community and hold a proclamation signing ceremony with key health officials, community activists, and the press (see sample proclamation page XX);

- * **Use your Website** to let your constituents know January is National Radon Action Month. Provide a link to EPA's radon page and use the National Radon Month web banners available online at www.epa.gov/radon, feature National Radon Action Month activities planned in our state and highlight our state's winner of the National Radon Poster Contest at www.sosradon.org.

- * **Conduct an interview with local media** – in addition to traditional radio, television, and print media, consider podcasts or other emerging media;

- * **Attend a local radon event** – See www.epa.gov/radon/nram/activities.html to find events in our area to promote radon awareness in our state/community.

With your leadership we can prevent lung cancer deaths in our community by educating the public about the danger of radon. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Organization]

[Phone Number/Email Address]

Letter to accompany sample Mayoral/Governor's Proclamation

To:

(Mayor's /Governor's Secretary)

(Mayor's /Governor's Name)

(City/Town, State)

I live in (City/Town/State) and would greatly appreciate it if Mayor /Governor (Name) would consider issuing a Proclamation to recognize Radon Action Month, January 2021. More information may be found at www.radonmonth.org. Last year there were many states and municipalities that recognized January as Radon Action Month, as well; Michigan, Colorado, Virginia, Georgia, Carroll County Ohio, and Walton County Georgia to name a few.

January is recognized nationally by the EPA, but with joint efforts between state, county and federal officials, radon awareness and testing could be common in every home across the United States. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, responsible for more than 20,000 deaths annually in the United States alone. Radon is undetectable without radon testing, it has no smell and is a colorless carcinogenic.

Attached is a sample proclamation drawn up for this purpose.

A proclamation would help raise public awareness of this national health risk and could lead to saving thousands of lives.

As a further indication of your leadership in promoting radon risk reduction, I would ask that you lead your jurisdiction in pursuing the adoption of requirements for radon-resistant construction methods in the construction of new homes and other buildings. These measures will add little to a builder's upfront cost for a new structure and can help reduce the cost of mitigating should high levels of radon be found after the building process is complete.

I am available to answer any questions, provide more information, and even meet with Mayor/Governor (Last Name) in his/her offices if that would be helpful in deciding about issuing a Proclamation for Radon Action Month. Even though it doesn't occur until January an early issuance would be greatly appreciated, to help with decisions about publicizing the event locally or internationally.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know when a decision has been made or when more information would be useful.

With appreciation,

(Your First & Last Name)

(Home Address)

(City, State, Zip)

(Phone number)

Sample Proclamation by local official

[County Executive's, Mayor's, Governor's, Local Town Council] Proclamation In Support of National Radon Action Month In [County, City, or State]

WHEREAS, radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that may threaten the health of our citizens and their families;

WHEREAS, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S

WHEREAS, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers;

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Sciences estimates that up to 21,000 lung cancer deaths occur in the United States each year;

WHEREAS, radon is found in one in 15 homes across the U.S. have elevated radon levels;

WHEREAS, any home in **[community]** may have elevated levels of radon (even if other homes in the same neighborhood do not);

WHEREAS, testing for radon is simple and inexpensive;

WHEREAS, identified radon problems can be fixed;

WHEREAS, **[your organization]**, *the U.S. Surgeon General, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organization* are supporting efforts to encourage homeowners to test their homes for radon, have elevated levels of radon reduced, and have new homes built with radon-resistant features.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **[name]**, **[title]**, or **[county, city, or state]** do hereby proclaim:

JANUARY [Dates], [Year]

Official National Radon Action Month

In [County, City, or State]

(Signature of Official)