



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: In late August 1619, 20-30 enslaved Africans landed at Point Comfort – known today as Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia – aboard the English privateer ship White Lion, marking the beginning stages of what would become the institution of chattel slavery in the present-day United States; and
- WHEREAS: Our nation was conceived on July 4th, 1776, with the Declaration of Independence and its opening statement of “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”; and
- WHEREAS: On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which gave freedom to millions of enslaved people under Confederate control, but not to slave-holding border states or rebel areas already under Union control. However, as Northern troops advanced into the Confederate South, many enslaved people fled behind Union lines; and
- WHEREAS: In Texas, slavery continued as the state experienced no large-scale fighting or significant presence of Union troops. Many enslavers from outside the state viewed it as a haven for profiteering from chattel slavery and relocated there to continue; and
- WHEREAS: Over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, and far too long after the Declaration of Independence, freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when thousands of Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, to announce enslaved people in the state were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as “Juneteenth,” commemorating when more than 250,000 enslaved people in Texas were declared free; and
- WHEREAS: Equality must be lived, not merely declared, and on February 3, 2023, Governor Tim Walz signed into law legislation establishing Juneteenth as an official state holiday held each year on June 19; and
- WHEREAS: The Minnesota Legislature approved state agency contracts and compensation plans, making Juneteenth a paid holiday for most state employees; and
- WHEREAS: Juneteenth encourages us to reflect on our future, celebrate the many African Americans who have contributed selflessly to our state, and deconstruct the systemic racism that undermines our collective values and prosperity so that every Black person in Minnesota is afforded equal human dignity, agency, and protection under the law; and
- WHEREAS: Juneteenth marks our country’s second Independence Day, celebrating freedom and justice. The observance of this day calls us to recommit ourselves to the work of equity, equality, and justice. Each June 19, we are reminded of our incredible capacity to heal, hope, and emerge from our darkest moments with purpose and resolve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 19, 2026, as:

JUNETEENTH DAY

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 18th day of June.




GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE