

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; on June 19, 1865, more than two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to declare the end of slavery; and

*WHEREAS*; due to the relative lack of Union troops available to enforce the 1863 proclamation in Texas and other formerly Confederate states, slavery had been effectively still legal in these areas prior to this declaration; and

*WHEREAS*; since 1865, June 19 has become known as Juneteenth and is one of the oldest and most popular annual commemorations of the end of slavery in the U.S.; and

*WHEREAS*; slavery was a legal institution that served as a tool of oppression and exploitation in the U.S. for nearly 250 years, leading to significant racial disparities in wealth, status, and capital that are still widely felt to this day; and

*WHEREAS*; in 2009, Wisconsin became the 32<sup>nd</sup> state to formally recognize Juneteenth, although legislation to recognize the day in Wisconsin was first introduced in 1987 by State Senator Spencer Coggs and State Representative Marcia Coggs; and

*WHEREAS*; on June 19, 2020, the Juneteenth Flag was raised over the Wisconsin State Capitol building for the first time in state history and has been flown over the Capitol in celebration each year since; and

*WHEREAS*; with the signing of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act in 2021, Juneteenth became an official federal public holiday in the U.S.; and

*WHEREAS*; the crimes and struggles of our ancestors cannot be separated from the country's modern history, and the continued recognition and celebration of Juneteenth provides all Wisconsinites with the opportunity to reflect on our collective past and how it informs the systems of oppression that persist today and to commit to the work ahead to build a more just, more equitable, and freer state for all; and

*WHEREAS*; this Juneteenth, as we proudly raise the Juneteenth Flag above the State Capitol once again, the state of Wisconsin joins Wisconsinites of all backgrounds in celebrating the end of one of the country's most shameful institutions—while recognizing that there is still much work to be done to address its lasting impact—and in moving forward in solidarity and strength toward the future we wish to see for our state;


*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,

do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023, as

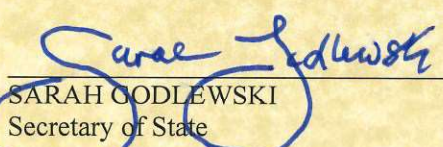
## JUNETEENTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023.

  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

  
SARAH GODLEWSKI  
Secretary of State