



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #205

Relating to a Proclamation that the Juneteenth Flag Be Flown over the East Wing of the Wisconsin State Capitol Building

WHEREAS, after nearly 250 years, the horrific institution of slavery in the United States finally came to a formal end on June 19, 1865, when the last remaining enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, received word of the Emancipation Proclamation;

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, America's second independence day, commemorates this event and is a reminder that liberation has, and will forever be a collective effort and that even in America's darkest hours, the human spirit cannot be silenced, and freedom will triumph;

WHEREAS, the first celebration of Juneteenth took place in Texas on June 19, 1866, and in 2021, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act established Juneteenth as a federal holiday;

WHEREAS, in 1987, Wisconsin State Sen. Spencer Coggs and State Rep. Marcia Coggs first proposed legislation to formally celebrate Juneteenth in Wisconsin, in 2009 Wisconsin formally recognized Juneteenth, and in 2020, for the first time in state history, the Juneteenth Flag was raised over the Wisconsin State Capitol and has been each year since;

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth Flag holds much symbolism: a star to represent Texas, the lone star state; a nova, or new star, representing a new beginning and the freedom of African Americans; the curve on the flag dividing the red and blue colors representing a new horizon and a future of opportunities and promise for Black Americans; and red, white, and blue colors, reminding us that people who were enslaved and their descendants shall be forever free; and

WHEREAS, on Juneteenth, the people of Wisconsin are called upon to embody the State Motto: "Forward" and be leaders in the pursuit of justice, freedom, racial equality, and equity so that we may continue the progress Juneteenth represents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State, hereby:

1. Order that the Juneteenth Flag shall be flown over the East Wing of the State Capitol Building, beginning on Friday, June 16, 2023, and ending at sunset on Monday, June 19, 2023.
2. Authorize state buildings and any jurisdiction of the state of Wisconsin to fly the Juneteenth Flag from Friday, June 16, 2023, until sunset on Monday, June 19, 2023, for the purpose of recognizing Juneteenth.



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 sixteenth day of June in the year of two thousand twenty-three.

Handwritten signature of Tony Evers in blue ink.

TONY EVERS
Governor

By the Governor:

Handwritten signature of Sarah Godlewski in blue ink.

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State