



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #267

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

WHEREAS, after approximately 250 years of slavery serving as a tool of oppression and exploitation, news of the Emancipation Proclamation finally reached enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865;

WHEREAS, while the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, for more than two years after, slavery continued in Texas due to a lack of enforcement of the 1863 proclamation in the westernmost Confederate state;

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to declare the end of slavery, finally freeing the more than 250,000 people who had continued to be enslaved there;

WHEREAS, since 1865, June 19 has become known as Juneteenth, America's second Independence Day, and is one of the oldest and most popular annual commemorations of the true end of slavery in the U.S.;

WHEREAS, State Sen. Spencer Coggs and State Rep. Marcia Coggs first introduced legislation in 1987 to formally recognize Juneteenth in the state, which finally came to fruition in 2009, when Wisconsin became the 32nd state to formally recognize Juneteenth;

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2020, the Juneteenth Flag was raised over the Wisconsin State Capitol building for the first time in state history, and later, was followed by the federal government recognizing Juneteenth as a federal holiday in 2021;

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth Flag features 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 all that people who were enslaved and their descendants shall be "forever free"; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates those who have pushed the nation forward to ensure all people are treated with dignity and respect, and the occasion serves as an opportunity to reaffirm Wisconsin's commitment to ensuring that the fight for equal rights continues, promising a brighter future for all.

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 Wednesday, June 18, 2025, and ending at sunset on Thursday, June 19, 2025.

2. Authorize state buildings and any jurisdiction of the state of Wisconsin to fly the Juneteenth Flag on the same dates, 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 seventeenth day of June in the year of two thousand twenty-five.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".

TONY EVERS
Governor

By the Governor:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Godlewski".

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State