

State of Louisiana



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
PROCLAMATION NUMBER 07 JML 2026

LEGAL STATE HOLIDAY - JUNETEENTH DAY

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, more than 250,000 enslaved people in the state of Texas received news that they were free and that the Emancipation Proclamation had declared all enslaved people to be free nearly two and a half years earlier;

WHEREAS, since 1865, Juneteenth Day has been celebrated as a special day of celebration for freedom, and the celebration of this day has grown into a day of learning, sharing, and giving respect to the history, culture, and achievements of African-Americans;

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1980, Juneteenth officially became a Texas state holiday. Since then, the federal government, all 50 states, and the District of Columbia have also commemorated or recognized the day;

WHEREAS, the 117th Congress established Juneteenth National Independence Day and declared June 19 as a legal public holiday. This bipartisan legislation unanimously passed the Senate and passed the House by a vote of 415-14 becoming the 12th federal holiday recognized by the U.S. government;

WHEREAS, Act 433 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, authored by then-Representative Sharon Weston Broome and co-authors Cleo Fields, Leonard Lucas, Edwin Murray, and Yvonne Welch, enacted R.S. 1:58.2, which recognizes and designates the third Saturday in June as Juneteenth Day throughout the State of Louisiana, to celebrate emancipation;

WHEREAS, Act 128 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, authored by Representative Larry Selders, with the entire Legislative Black Caucus as co-authors, recognizes Juneteenth Day as a day of public rest and a legal holiday;

WHEREAS, R.S. 1:55(B)(3) empowers the Governor to authorize, by Executive Proclamation, the observance by the departments of the State of other holidays and half-holidays that the Governor deems in keeping with efficient administration;

WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana recognize and honor the observation and celebration of Juneteenth Day;

NOW THEREFORE I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: It is hereby declared that Juneteenth Day, a day of rest and remembrance, will be observed in conjunction with the federal holiday as a legal holiday on Friday, June 19, 2026.

Section 2: Insofar as practicable, the appointing authorities and/or heads of all institutions, offices and departments of the State (hereafter “appointing authority”) shall permit the officers and employees under their control to observe the Juneteenth Day holiday on Friday, June 19, 2026. Nonetheless, an appointing authority shall have the discretion to require officers or employees to work on the holiday when, in the appointing authority’s judgment, it is required for the efficient administration of a State facility, the operation of which is necessary and indispensable to the citizens of this State.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge on this 24th day of April 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nancy Landry", is written over a horizontal line.

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE