

Date of Hearing: June 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 214 (Bryan) – As Introduced June 1, 2026

SUBJECT: Juneteenth.

SUMMARY: Recognizes June 19, 2026, as Juneteenth; and, urges the people of California to join in celebrating Juneteenth as a day to honor and reflect on the significant role that African Americans have played in the history of the United States, and how they have enriched society through their steadfast commitment to promoting unity and equality. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Juneteenth, also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” “Emancipation Day,” “Emancipation Celebration,” and “Freedom Day,” is the oldest African American holiday observance in the United States.
- 2) Juneteenth, or June 19, 1865, is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed when General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3, almost two and one-half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.
- 3) Juneteenth education and celebrations declined in America in the early part of the 20th century, but the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s saw a resurgence of interest in Juneteenth, along with renewed community celebrations of the day.
- 4) In 1979, Texas State House Representative Al Edwards of Houston successfully sponsored House Bill 1016 (Acts 1979, Ch. 481), thereby making Texas the first state in the nation to establish Juneteenth as an annual paid state holiday starting the following year. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition.
- 5) As of 2022, all 50 states in the country recognize Juneteenth as an official state holiday or day of observance.
- 6) California law requires the Governor to proclaim the third Saturday in June of each year to be known as “Juneteenth National Freedom Day: A day of observance,” to urge the people of California in celebrating this day to honor and reflect on the significant role that African Americans have played in the history of the United States.
- 7) A growing number of American and African American cultural institutions have sponsored Juneteenth cultural events designed to make all Americans aware of this celebration, including the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., the Chicago Historical Society, the Black Archives of Mid-America in Kansas City, the California African American Museum in the City of Los Angeles, the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in the City of Dearborn, Michigan, the African American Museum in the City of Dallas, Texas, and the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation.

8) Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas, a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics, and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement, and for planning the future.

9) 2026 marks 161 years of freedom celebrations.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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