

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

ACR 214 (Bryan, et al.)

As Introduced June 1, 2026

Majority vote

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.

Major Provisions

- 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, Chapter 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.

COMMENTS

According to the Author

2026 marks the centennial anniversary of national recognition of Black History in the United States, and June marks 161 years since the last people forced into American chattel slavery gained their freedom. At a time when the nation's chief executive attempts to scrub Black stories from our history, and the highest court in the land legitimizes regressive policies intended to re-entrench supremacy over others, it is incumbent on this Legislature to uplift the stores of the victims of manifest destiny. ACR 214 is a declaration that We, the People of the State of California, grateful for our freedoms, refuse to ignore our nation's troubled past and our role in perpetuating the harms of mankind's greatest sin.

Arguments in Support

None on file

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

No fiscal impact. This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

VOTES

ASM RULES: 10-0-0

YES: Pacheco, Lackey, Ahrens, Dixon, Garcia, Mark González, Irwin, Michelle Rodriguez, Sanchez, Zbur

UPDATED

VERSION: June 1, 2026

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