



DEMOCRATIC
PARTY *of*
OREGON

Black Caucus

*Happy Juneteenth
Everybody!
Thank you, from
the
Black Caucus*



June 12, 2022

Happy Juneteenth

What is Juneteenth?

- “June” plus “nineteenth” blends the month and day the news of freedom reached Galveston, TX.
- Sometimes called *Jubilee* – the year of freedom from enslavement
- Sometimes called *Freedom Day* or *Emancipation Day*



Happy Juneteenth

“Freedom Delayed . . . Freedom Denied”

June 19, 1865 (Two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation) Union General Gordon Granger’s *General Order Number 3*, important news of freedom

***“The people of Texas are informed
that in accordance with a
Proclamation from the Executive
of the United States,
all slaves are free.”***



Happy Juneteenth

“Freedom Delayed . . . Freedom Denied”

Explanations for the delay in delivering and enforcing the Emancipation Proclamation:

- Messenger murdered on the way to Texas with the news
- Official Proclamation was withheld by enslavers to maintain the “free labor” force on their plantations
- Federal troops waited for slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest



Happy Juneteenth

Remarkable transformation of June 19th
from a day of new FREEDOM
into an annual rite called *“Juneteenth.”*



Important to remember . . .

- Juneteenth is not just about celebrating a day or a single historical event
- Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom, resilience, community and the possibilities of good things to come.



156 years later...

Juneteenth Freedom Celebrations grow and flourish in communities and organizations throughout the United States:

- Honors the tradition of bringing in guest speakers & community elders to recount past historical events in African American history and culture
- Newer traditions focus on education, personal self-improvement, and community development



Past and present Juneteenth Freedom Celebrations are joyful occasions:

- Communities & organizations march in parades
- Festivities include musical entertainment, dance and games for young, old, all ages, all racial and cultural groups
- Always, FOOD—an abundance of wonderfully prepared soul food and many other ethnic dishes



Progressive Steps to Official Recognition of Juneteenth Holiday

- Juneteenth was established as a state holiday in Texas in 1980.
- By 2021, 47 states observed Juneteenth as a state holiday
- June 2021, the Oregon Senate, on a 28-0 vote, unanimously passed HB 2168, recognizing June 19th's cultural and historical significance. The Bill passed the house 53-0.
- June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation into law establishing June 19 as [Juneteenth National Independence Day](#)
- June 19, 2021, Governor Kate Brown signed HB 2168 into law, making Juneteenth an official holiday in Oregon



Important to remember . . .

Despite certifying Juneteenth as a federal holiday, Black Americans continue to face daily systematic challenges, including

- The growing racial wealth gap
- Persistent disparities in health care, housing, and employment (as highlighted by the Covid -19 pandemic)
- Grossly disproportionate incarceration rates
- And much more



Also important to remember . . .

- The Juneteenth holiday should not be seen as a substitute for substantive action to closing the disparities, but one single step of recognition in the right direction.





FREEDOM

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