

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, it was not until June 19, 1865, that it was announced to those still enslaved in Texas: "The people are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free;" and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration of the end of slavery, which became known as Juneteenth, is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates the role played by the ancestors of Black Americans in this nation's continual quest for freedom for all of humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth honors the contribution of Black Americans in the building of the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, on a larger scale, the celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity, which are at the core of the American Dream; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington state legislature passed legislation in 2021 that makes Juneteenth a legal state holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 16, 2021, Congress passed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, establishing June 19<sup>th</sup> as the 12<sup>th</sup> U.S. public legal holiday;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2022, as

### *Juneteenth*

in the state of Washington, and I urge all people in our state to become aware of the significance of this celebration in the heritage of our nation and state.

Signed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

