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# West Side Informer

## **Juneteenth - Changing the Course of A Nation**

While President Abraham Lincoln declared The Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, it took over two years before Major General George Granger’s General Order Number 3 announced the end of both slavery and the Civil War to the people of Texas. That date, June 19, 1865, which became known as Black Independence Day, is a date that represents the celebration of African American freedom.

Beginning in 1866 as an unofficial holiday, Texans celebrated Juneteenth with parades, cookouts, performances, and religious gatherings. Over time, celebratory traditions developed to honor Juneteenth, which Texans then carried into new lives as they moved to other states in the nation. Finally, on New Year’s Day in 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday in Texas.

It took an additional 10 years before other states would begin to officially recognize Juneteenth as a day of observance, but observation by all states and the District of Columbia didn’t come until 2021. The push to recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday began in 1997 and on June 17, 2021 The Juneteenth National Independence Day Act was signed into law as a federal holiday by President Joe Biden, 158 years after the Emancipation Proclamation legally ended slavery in the United States and 156 years after General Order Number 3 was announced in Texas ending both the Civil War and slavery.

Sources: <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R44865.pdf> ; <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/06/17/nearly-half-of-states-now-recognize-juneteenth-as-an-official-holiday/> ; <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/PLAW-117publ17>

### **BLCC Summer Hours**

**Sunday: 12 PM—2 AM**

**Friday: 7 AM—5 PM**

**Monday—Thursday: 7 AM—2 AM**

**Saturday: Closed**

**Holiday Closures: Monday, June 19 and Tuesday, July 4**

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