

**First Reading**  
**A Resolution of the Washington County Democratic Central Committee,**  
**Resolution 2020-012**  
**Regarding Juneteenth - Emancipation Day**

A. Whereas President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipations Proclamation on January 1, 1863, and

B. Whereas it took until June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865, in Galveston Texas, for the last enslaved people to receive word that they had been be freed, and

C. Whereas the black population of Galveston immediately celebrated and created an annual celebration to mark their removal from bondage which quickly became known as Juneteenth or Emancipation Day, and which is now celebrated in at least 48 states\*, and

D. Whereas it is critical to the healing of divisions in this country that all Americans officially recognize the injustice of slavery and celebrate its end as part of our efforts to “create a better union”, and

E. Whereas Juneteenth has been celebrated in Portland and other cities in Oregon for at least 75 years, and

F. Whereas both Portland and Multnomah County have recently declared Juneteenth as Emancipations Day and a, respectively, official City and County holiday:

**THEREFORE, we the Washington County Democratic Central Committee (WCDCC) resolve as follows:**

1. We strongly encourage and support Governor Brown and our state legislators in their intent to establish an official annual state holiday on June 19<sup>th</sup> to be called Juneteenth.
2. We strongly encourage our Congressional Representatives to work toward the establishment of an official National Holiday on June 19.
3. We believe that this Holiday should be legally established as equal in force and importance to other National Holidays that commemorate significant milestones for the United States

*Resolution by G. Rosenthal, WCDCC Resolutions and Platform Committee Chair, June 19, 2020. Passed by the R&PC July 7, 2020 with a DO PASS recommendation.*

- *There are no Juneteenth Day celebrations in North Dakota or South Dakota.*

