



## DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, on September 22, 1862, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, issued “The Emancipation Proclamation” stating, “. . . all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;” and

**WHEREAS**, Texas was the last Southern state to hear about the Emancipation Proclamation when U.S. Major General Gordon Granger and his regiment arrived in Galveston on June 19, and announced that slavery had ended; and

**WHEREAS**, the first official Juneteenth celebration was held in 1866 in Texas and its observance has spread across the United States from then to the present time; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is an elision of June 19th and is also known as Juneteenth Independence Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Liberation Day, and commemorates the end of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth—a holiday of observance in Florida—is now a national holiday as well as the oldest national commemoration of the end of slavery, uniting our country in celebrating freedom for all, including the passage in 1865 of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery in the United States.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Board of County Commissioners of DeSoto County recognize June 19th, 2026 as:

### “JUNETEENTH DAY”

Passed and duly adopted on this 9th day of June, 2026 by the DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Mandy Hines  
County Administrator

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Steve Hickox  
Chairman