



NYSBLT

New York State
Black Legislative Task Force

(518) 455 - 5273

nysbltaskforce@gmail.com



@nysbltaskforce

"Advancing legislation and securing financial resources for the progress and protection of Black People."

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June 19, 2025

As we celebrate Juneteenth today, the New York State Black Legislative Task Force reflects on the significance of this day and the ongoing pursuit of freedom, equity, and justice for Black Americans. Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, marks the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States. On June 19, 1865, more than two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, news of freedom finally reached the enslaved people in Galveston, Texas. Today, Juneteenth is a reminder of our nation's unfinished work and a celebration of the resilience, strength, and cultural contributions of the Black community.

In 2020, New York State enacted legislation that requires the Juneteenth flag and the Black Liberation flag to be raised at all state buildings each year on June 19th. This law ensures that the holiday is visibly and officially recognized as a moment of both reflection and celebration across our state.

On behalf of the Task Force, we encourage all New Yorkers to honor Juneteenth in ways that are meaningful and impactful. Here are several ways you can commemorate the holiday:

- Attend a Juneteenth flag-raising ceremony in your city or town to stand in solidarity and witness this powerful symbol of freedom.
- Support Black-owned businesses, artists, and entrepreneurs as a form of economic empowerment.
- Attend educational events, such as historical lectures, film screenings, or book discussions focused on Black history, civil rights, and liberation.
- Join cultural celebrations featuring music, dance, food, and storytelling that highlight the richness and diversity of Black culture.
- Reflect and rest—Juneteenth is also a time for restoration, healing, and envisioning a more just future.

In solidarity,

The New York State Black Legislative Task Force