

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

RE: JUDICIAL HOLIDAY DECLARED

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of West Virginia has proclaimed "Juneteenth" as a full-day state legal holiday for public employees, to be observed this year on Wednesday, June 19, 2024.

WHEREAS, Article VIII §3, of the Constitution of the State of West Virginia provides that the chief justice shall be the administrative head of all the courts;

It is, therefore, ORDERED "Juneteenth" shall be a judicial holiday for judicial offices operating within the West Virginia Judicial System to be observed this year on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. This Order applies to all judicial offices and judicial employees operating under the authority, supervision, or control of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

It is further ORDERED that the chief circuit judge of each circuit shall notify the magistrates and magistrate clerk's offices of this day and shall make an appropriate directive to provide the availability of magistrate court services on this date. Such directives may include, but are not limited to, provisions for filing with magistrate court clerks, directing a particular magistrate or magistrates to be on duty or on call, or such other local provision as will ensure access to the magistrate court.

The Administrative Office is hereby directed to distribute copies of this Administrative Order by appropriate means to all circuit judges, family court judges, and magistrates.

ENTERED: JUNE 11, 2024



TIM ARMSTEAD
Chief Justice



C. CASEY FORBES
Clerk of Court

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

A PROCLAMATION

By the Governor

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is celebrated each year on June 19 in the United States to commemorate the end of slavery; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on New Year's Day in 1863, which ordered the freeing of all slaves in states that were rebelling against Union forces; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation had little effect in Texas, where there were few Union troops to enforce the order; and

WHEREAS, the message of freedom finally reached African Americans in Texas on June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon Granger, backed by nearly 2,000 troops, arrived in the city of Galveston, and made the announcement; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia recognizes Juneteenth as the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, President Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, which established Juneteenth as an official federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia Code § 2-2-1 and West Virginia Code of State Regulations § 143-1-14 vests the Governor with the authority to proclaim and treat additional days as official holidays or days of special observance, or days for the general cessation of business; and

WHEREAS, in acknowledgement of the historical significance of Juneteenth, and the fact it is recognized as an official federal holiday, it is fitting and proper that the public employees of this State be permitted to generally cease business on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, to spend an extended and enjoyable holiday with their loved ones.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM JUSTICE, pursuant to the foregoing and by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **PROCLAIM** and **ORDER** that Wednesday, June 19, 2024, shall be treated as if it were an official holiday, and the public employees of this State may be excused from their work duties on that day without charge against accrued annual leave; and do further

PROCLAIM that this **ORDER** shall not affect private businesses, local governments, and other entities and individuals not employed by the State of West Virginia; nor shall it affect the work requirements of those public employees who may be called upon to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of West Virginia's citizenry and compensated in accordance with the legislative rules established by the West Virginia Division of Personnel; however, in accordance with West Virginia Code § 2-2-1(c), county commissions may treat Wednesday, June 19, 2024, as if it were a legal holiday, and the courts may do the same.

[Signature Page Follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.



By the Governor

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Seventh Day of June, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First Year of the State.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE