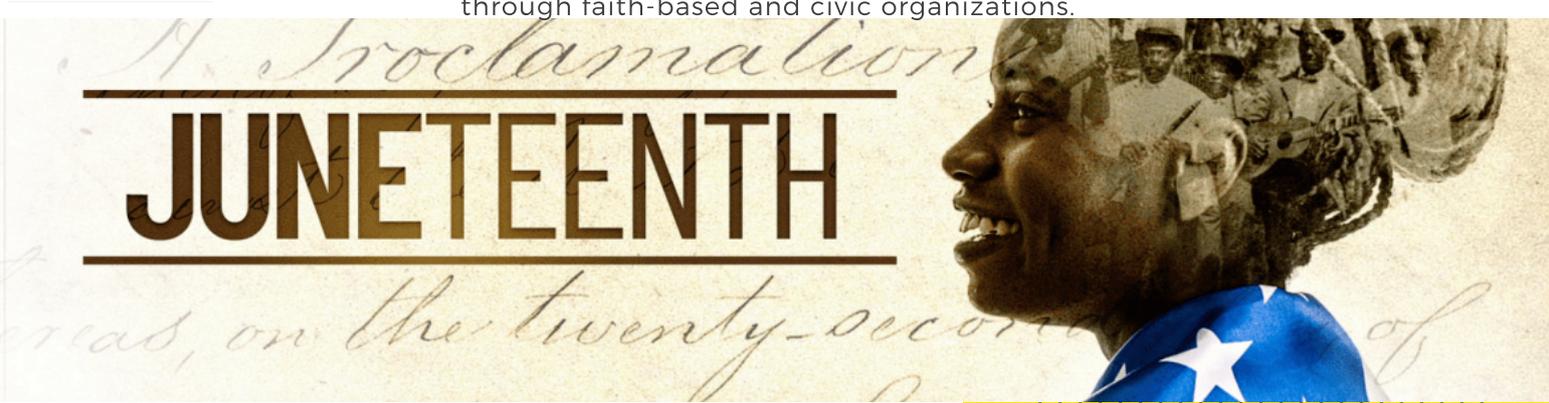




FOA VALLEY NEWS

Your community resource hub to increase civic participation through faith-based and civic organizations.



JUNETEENTH ACKNOWLEDGED AS A FEDERAL HOLIDAY

Report by Felina Banks, Community Organizer with Faith Organizing Alliance
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This past Saturday, June 19th our community joined in the commemoration of African American freedom. On this day and throughout the month celebrations are full of family gatherings community events with guest speakers and dancers, full of rejoicing and reflecting on the advancement of our people. It also serves as a time of reflection and planning on the future. On Thursday, June 17th President Biden signed legislation making Juneteenth, a federal holiday. The measure was passed in the House and Senate with bipartisan support. The law went into effect immediately, making Friday the first federal Juneteenth holiday. Public schools were closed on a moment's notice.

Though some are elated President Joe Biden signed this bill into law, giving recognition to the plight we have endured and a paid holiday, many are left in dismay that our black people are still waiting. We are waiting on The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, The Emmet Till anti-lynching Bill and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act Bill. So the question remains, is it symbolism without progress? As we are daily burdened with ongoing disparities, lawmakers have been pacifying our challenges in performative symbolism rather than passing laws to make substantive change.

Watching federal lawmakers take a knee, draping kente clothes over their political garb has been puzzling to say the least. What our people need to see is substantive change as it comes to reforming police brutality that inspired Colin Kaepernick's initial protest. We need to see a fair economic structure. We need bills put into place that will protect us! We've been celebrating Juneteenth; making it a federal holiday does not protect or enhance the life of our babies. There's more work to do!

LEGISLATION NEWS: Conservation and Environmental wins big

The 2021 legislative session was a fight. We are thrilled to see so many victories and will continue the push to pass direct policies that fight the climate crisis, invest in clean energy, and conserve lands, waters, and wildlife. Check out some of the bills being signed into law:

- [AB 349](#) to reduce smog pollution by closing the 'Classic Car' loophole
- [AJR 3](#) urging Nevada to conserve 30% of lands and waters by 2030 to fight the climate crisis (Nevada was the first in the nation to pass legislation like this)
- [SB 448](#), a major clean energy bill strengthening transmission and expanding electric vehicle charging stations

WHAT'S NEXT:

- 6/24 & 6/25 - HEALTH LIFE AMBASSADOR TRAINING 9:00AM TO 5:00PM AT THE PACT COALITION OFFICE: 1210 S. VALLEY VIEW BLVD STE #114. SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTER HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.COMMUNITYPARTNERSFORBETTERHEALTH.COM/EVENT-DETAILS/MIDDLE-SCHOOL-AMBASSADOR-TRAINING](https://www.communitypartnersforbetterhealth.com/event-details/middle-school-ambassador-training)
- 6/26 - NC100BW PRESENTS: ELEVATE OUR VOICES - FOR CHANGE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM 12:00PM - 1:30PM. ZOOM MEETING ID: 836 9404 1842 PASSCODE: 021975 [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83694041842](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83694041842)
- 6/26 - SUMMERTIME GET DOWN 5:00P - 8:00PM AT NEVADA PARTNERS: 690 W. LAKE MEAD BLVD. FREE FOOD, PRIMARY CARE CLINIC AND OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES. VOTER REGISTRATION CANVASSERS ONSITE ALSO TO UPDATE INFORMATION (IE., LAST NAME CHANGE, ADDRESS CHANGE, PARTY CHANGE)

COVID TESTING & VACCINATION SITES

- ONGOING - VACCINATION SITES WITH SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT AND PARTNER VACCINATION CLINICS: [HTTPS://COVID.SOUTHERNNEVADAHEALTHDISTRICT.ORG/VACCINE/DISTRIBUTION/](https://COVID.SOUTHERNNEVADAHEALTHDISTRICT.ORG/VACCINE/DISTRIBUTION/)
- ONGOING - COVID-19 TESTING SITES WITH SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT.: [HTTP://COVID.SOUTHERNNEVADAHEALTHDISTRICT.ORG/TESTING/](http://COVID.SOUTHERNNEVADAHEALTHDISTRICT.ORG/TESTING/)

RECOGNIZED DATES

- 6/27 - NATIONAL PTSD AWARENESS DAY

**"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."
 — Martin Luther King Jr.**

