



NEWSLETTER

June 2024



On January 1st, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation declaring “that all persons held as slaves” within rebel states “are, and henceforward shall be free.” With the stroke of his pen, more than 3.5 million enslaved people in the secessionist South gained their freedom. This proclamation of independence was mostly symbolic with true freedom from bondage happening over two and a half years following the surrender at Appomattox in April of 1865.

On May 10, 1865, United States Brigadier General Edward M. McCook arrived in Tallahassee, Florida to take possession of the city from Confederate Forces. 10 days later, on May 20th, the Emancipation Proclamation was officially declared in effect, with an announcement sent by Major General Quincy A. Gilmore declaring that "the people of the black race are free citizens of the United States." News spread fast of this freedom, quickly making its way to Thomasville. Thousands of African Americans held in bondage were finally free. One month later on June 19, 1865, federal troops led by General Gordon Grange arrived in Galveston, Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation.

This day later became known as Juneteenth, to commemorate the last enslaved African Americans in the United States finally receiving freedom. For decades, Juneteenth was celebrated primarily with African American communities, with public readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, music, cookouts, and more. In Thomasville, emancipation celebrations for May 20th were important to the African American community, with many celebrations on local plantations like Pebble Hill.

As early as the mid-1990s, advocates have pushed for Juneteenth to become a federal holiday, but it officially earned that status in June 2021 after being signed into law by President Joe Biden. This push for national recognition stemmed from the global Black Lives Matter protests of the summer of 2020 following the murder of George Floyd.

Today we honor and celebrate Juneteenth as a symbol of resilience and a testament to the enduring spirit of those who have fought, died, and dreamed for freedom. As we celebrate this holiday, we must reflect on our progress and the work that remains. Our country is plagued by systemic racism, legacies of slavery & oppression, challenges to truthful education, and blatant attacks against our rights. Now more than ever, we must commit ourselves to the ideals of justice, equality, and freedom for all.

by Sarah Byrne, CIG, Museum Educator - Jack Hadley Black History Museum, Thomasville GA June 2024

**OUR LIVES BEGIN TO END
THE DAY WE BECOME
SILENT ABOUT
THINGS THAT MATTER.**

Martin Luther King Jr.



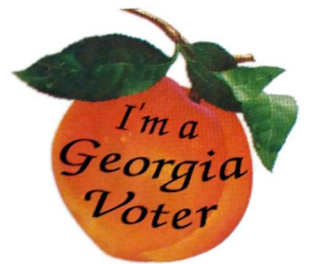
**DEMOCRACY MATTERS!
PLEASE VOTE IN 2024!**

**2020 Election voter turnout was
68.4% for women and 65.0% for men.**

Yes, your vote matters. Are you registered?
Are you SURE you are registered?

Visit **GA My Voter Page** at
<https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/> to:

- ✓ Register to vote before October 7th
- ✓ Check voter registration status
- ✓ Find poll & early voting locations
- ✓ Review sample ballot for the upcoming election
- ✓ And more



TCDP's Membership Options

The Thomas County Democratic Party (TCDP) is the rapidly-growing minority party in Thomas County, striving to create a better future for everyone by working to educate the public about issues affecting our community; encourage voting; support qualified candidates for office; and facilitate the goals of our state and national party.

Member

Membership is free to all. Any principled individual believing in a true democracy can become a member of TCDP. We welcome participation and foster a healthy group of opinions. Go online to add your name:

<https://thomascountymocrats.org/index.php/join-tcdp/>



Supporting Member

While membership is open regardless of ability to pay, we encourage a \$40/year donation to support our activities year-round. Supporting members of TCDP contribute to the Party's activities through recurring or single donations either in the form of dues or general donations in any increment. ActBlue will collect your information and add you to the TCDP MailChimp.



**TCDP
ActBlue**

TCDP Happenings

Our events are open to the public - **JOIN US!** Check our social media / website for updates.

Monthly General Meetings

Date: 1st Tuesdays

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Thomasville Library, Flipper Room at 201 N. Madison Street

Exception: August 6th & September 3rd

Meeting location: Covey Nest at 210 W. Jackson Street, Thomasville

Postcard Writing

Date: 2nd Tuesdays through the November 5th election

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: San Marcos Mexican restaurant

We are writing postcards with messages on democratic hopes and values, personal freedoms, reproductive health, and election successes for mailing ahead of the November 5th election.

Socializing



Date: 3rd Thursdays

Time: 5:30 PM

Place: Check our social media / website for varying local venue



We believe the economy should work for everyone, healthcare is a right, our diversity is our strength, and our democracy is worth defending!

Get in touch: PO Box 2742, Thomasville, GA 31799

Email us: Info@ThomasCountyDemocrats.org

Check us out: <https://thomascountydemocrats.org/>

Follow us on:



Thank you!

