

**What is the
cultural significance of
Cesar Chavez Day (March 31)
& Juneteenth (June 19)
within Yolo County?**



A Presentation by: Dr. Tico Zendejas

Cesar Chavez – ¡Sí Se Puede!

- Cesar Chavez was born on March 31, 1927, in Yuma, Arizona, to Mexican American farmworkers.

Farmworkers in the mid-20th Century across California including Yolo County, faced numerous challenges and harsh working conditions, including:

- Low wages
 - Lack of Labor Protections
- Exposure to Hazardous Substances
- Discrimination and racism



COUNTY OF YOLO



Organizing

- Co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), which later became the United Farm Workers (UFW) labor union, to address the hardships and oppression facing Mexican American and Filipino farm laborers in California.
- Chavez employed nonviolent tactics, such as boycotts, strikes, and hunger strikes, to bring attention to the exploitation and mistreatment of farmworkers.
- He fought for fair wages, access to clean drinking water, sanitary living conditions, and protection from pesticides and other hazardous substances commonly used in agricultural practices.



COUNTY OF YOLO

Cesar Chavez Day

Cesar Chavez Day is an official state holiday in California. It was established to honor the legacy of Cesar Chavez and his contributions to the labor rights movement and the agricultural community in Yolo County. Celebrated on March 31st, it serves as a day of remembrance and appreciation for Chavez's commitment to social justice and advocacy for farmworkers' rights.



The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth

- Three years into the Civil War, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.
- As the most remote state of the former Confederacy, Texas didn't recognize the Emancipation Proclamation until June 19, 1865, after General Gordon arrived in Galveston to enforce it.



I Have A Dream

- African Americans faced decades of discrimination, segregation, and racial violence
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Voting Rights ACT OF 1965
- The Civil Rights Movement was a catalyst toward political empowerment and representation
- Despite enduring systemic racism and economic disparities, African Americans have made overwhelming progress in terms of socioeconomic status, political representation, and cultural influence.



President Biden Signs Law in 2021

On June 17, 2021, Juneteenth was officially recognized as a federal holiday in the United States. The Juneteenth National Independence Day Act was signed into law by President Joe Biden, making June 19th a federal holiday. This designation commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and recognizes the significance of Juneteenth in American history and the ongoing struggle for equality.



Thank you Yolo County Board of Supervisors



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