



STATE OF MISSOURI  
*Proclamation*  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, it is a time to commemorate the many and varied contributions of African Americans to the history and culture of this state, nation, and the world; and

**WHEREAS**, focusing attention upon the heritage of people of African descent will foster understanding, appreciation, and pride in the diversity of our society and in the cultural, social, and historical forces that shape the lives of all Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to seize the opportunity to honor the too often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every endeavor throughout our history; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme; and

**WHEREAS**, the Black History Month 2025 theme, “Engage, Educate, and Empower” encapsulates a comprehensive approach to honoring and advancing the contributions and experiences of Black individuals throughout history. Each component of the theme plays a crucial role in fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of Black history and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, the Black History Month Planning Committee along with other campus, local, state, and national organizations will be sponsoring activities to encourage an appreciation of African American history.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE KEHOE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**, do hereby proclaim February 2025 to be

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.



*Michael Kehoe*

*Mike Kehoe*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*Denny Hoskins*  
SECRETARY OF STATE