

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 208

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 2026

### Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman **TENNILLE R. MCCOY**

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman **LINDA S. CARTER**

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman **SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

### SYNOPSIS

Urges Governor to designate 2026 as “Year of Black History” in New Jersey and commemorate 250 years of American independence.

### CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1    **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the Governor to designate 2026  
2       as the “Year of Black History” in New Jersey and commemorate  
3       250 years of American independence.

4  
5    **WHEREAS**, February has been designated as a time to celebrate Black  
6       history since 1926, when “Negro History Week” was originally  
7       established in February by historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson; and

8    **WHEREAS**, As the celebration of the accomplishments of Black  
9       Americans grew nationwide with the support of the Association for  
10      the Study of African American Life and History, President Gerald  
11      Ford recognized February as Black History Month in 1976; and

12   **WHEREAS**, Black History Month serves as a time to recognize and  
13      honor the contributions, achievements, and rich cultural heritage of  
14      Black Americans throughout history; and

15   **WHEREAS**, The year 2026 marks not only 100 years of honoring Black  
16      Americans, but also the 250th anniversary of our nation's  
17      independence, providing an opportunity to reflect on the  
18      intertwined histories of freedom and the African American  
19      experience; and

20   **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has a profound and significant history in the  
21      struggle for civil rights, serving as a pivotal location for key events  
22      in the African American experience; and

23   **WHEREAS**, The legacy of African Americans in New Jersey includes  
24      notable figures such as Paul Robeson, Alice Walker, and numerous  
25      others who have made indelible marks on the arts, sciences,  
26      politics, and social justice; and

27   **WHEREAS**, It is essential to educate future generations about the  
28      contributions of African Americans and to promote understanding  
29      and respect for diversity; and

30   **WHEREAS**, The 100th anniversary of honoring Black history presents  
31      an opportunity to reflect on the progress made and the challenges  
32      that remain in the pursuit of equality and justice for all; now,  
33      therefore,

34  
35        **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
36        *Jersey:*

37  
38        1. This House urges the Governor to designate 2026 as “The  
39        Year of Black History” in New Jersey to celebrate 100 years of  
40        honoring Black history and the 250th anniversary of American  
41        independence.

42  
43        2. This House urges the Governor to direct the Department of  
44        State to coordinate and promote events throughout the year,  
45        including, but not limited to, educational programs, cultural  
46        exhibitions, a public awareness campaign encouraging  
47        commemorative activities during Black History Month, and

1 community discussions that highlight the history and contributions  
2 of African Americans in New Jersey.

3  
4 3. This House urges the Governor to direct the Department of  
5 Education to develop and distribute educational materials to  
6 promote the teaching of African American history and contributions  
7 in schools across the State, focusing on the significance of  
8 commemorating 100 years of honoring Black history and 250 years  
9 as a nation.

10  
11 4. This House urges the Governor to encourage the New Jersey  
12 Economic Development Authority and the New Jersey Motion  
13 Picture and Television Development Commission to collaborate  
14 with nonprofits, as necessary, to develop initiatives that promote the  
15 creation of films, documentaries, and other media that focus on  
16 African American history and culture and support local filmmakers  
17 and create economic opportunities.

18  
19 5. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
20 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the  
21 Governor of this State.

22  
23  
24 STATEMENT

25  
26 This resolution urges the Governor to designate 2026 as “The  
27 Year of Black History” in New Jersey to celebrate 100 years of  
28 honoring Black history. The year 2026 is also the nation’s 250th  
29 anniversary of American independence, which provides an  
30 opportunity to reflect on the intertwined histories of freedom and  
31 the African American experience.

32 The nation began honoring the contributions, achievements, and  
33 heritage of Black Americans during the month of February when  
34 historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson established “Negro History Week”  
35 in 1926. To commemorate this milestone, the Governor is urged to  
36 direct the New Jersey Department of State to coordinate and  
37 promote events throughout the year that highlight the history and  
38 contributions of African Americans in New Jersey. The Governor  
39 is further urged to direct the New Jersey Department of Education  
40 to develop and distribute educational materials to promote the  
41 teaching of African American history and contributions in schools  
42 across the State, focusing on the significance of commemorating  
43 100 years of honoring Black history and 250 years as a nation. This  
44 resolution also urges the Governor to encourage the New Jersey  
45 Economic Development Authority and the New Jersey Motion  
46 Picture and Television Development Commission to collaborate  
47 with nonprofits, as appropriate, to develop initiatives that promote

- 1 the creation of films, documentaries, and other media that focus on
- 2 African American history and culture.