



# WHO DECIDES FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

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In the United States, there are 12 public or national holidays each year. These include: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day, Inauguration Day, George Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Even though the federal government has set these twelve holidays, each state gets to choose which holidays it observes.

Source: [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)



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## Fun Fact!

Holiday dates haven't always stayed the same. Thanksgiving used to fall on the last week of November when Abraham Lincoln set that tradition in 1863, and it stayed that way until 1939. In 1939, the last Thursday in November was the 30th. President Franklin D Roosevelt worried there would not be enough time for holiday shopping. There was a mixed response to this decision; twenty-three states and the District of Columbia celebrated the new date, while 22 states stuck with November 30th. In 1941, the 4th Thursday of November was set for Thanksgiving, and it has stayed the same since then.