Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, Thanksgiving was not observed as a holiday in Alabama until 1858 after the governors of Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina declared, Thursday, November 25 to be a day of thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, because of shortages of food during the Reconstruction period in the South, Thanksgiving was only celebrated sparsely; and

WHEREAS, Southerners began to observe the holiday with a menu much like those in new England, but by the 1890s, Southern families created their own Thanksgiving menus and traditions; and

WHEREAS, in 1863, Sarah Josepha Hale, known as Thanksgiving's original pioneer, continued her crusade to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. She wrote to President Abraham Lincoln encouraging him "to have the day of our annual Thanksgiving made a national and fixed union festival," and

WHEREAS, President Lincoln agreed and proclaimed a nationwide Thanksgiving day to occur on the last Thursday of November; and

WHEREAS, each succeeding president continued the proclamation until 1939, when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt moved the holiday permanently to the fourth Thursday in November to provide retailers with more Christmas shopping days:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim November 26, 2026, as

Thanksgiving Day

in the state of Alabama.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR ★ STATE OF ALABAMA ★

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 25th day of November 2026.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor