



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

VIDALIA ONION FESTIVAL DAYS

- WHEREAS:** The Vidalia Onion Festival celebrates the annual harvest of Georgia's official state vegetable, the Vidalia Onion, and attracts more than 30,000 visitors from around the world to South Georgia each year; and
- WHEREAS:** Providing a significant economic impact to the South Georgia region, the Vidalia Onion Festival has grown tremendously since its humble beginnings in 1977, when the Vidalia Women's Club and the Vidalia Lions Club organized an arts and crafts festival as a fundraiser to promote the Vidalia Onion; and
- WHEREAS:** The Vidalia Onion Festival operates through local contributions, event sponsorships, and limited revenue-generating activities, and in turn reinvests funds back into the community throughout the year; and
- WHEREAS:** The 49th Annual Vidalia Onion Festival will host multiple events at Ronnie A. Dixon City Park and throughout Historic Downtown Vidalia, showcasing the community's culture, heritage, and hospitality, with pre-festival events beginning April 21, including Movie Under the Stars and the Vidalia Cooking Experience featuring Skye Estroff, followed by the Student Chalk Walk and Carnival on April 22, and Opening Ceremonies and a Street Dance with Fireworks on April 23; and
- WHEREAS:** The Vidalia Regional Airport will host an air show featuring the United States Navy Blue Angels, along with numerous additional performers, on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26; and
- WHEREAS:** Favorite traditional events, including Arts and Crafts, the renowned Vidalia Onion Eating Contest, Onion Run, Sweet Onion Showdown, recipe contest with public tasting, and other family-friendly activities, ensure a memorable experience for residents and visitors alike; and
- WHEREAS:** With the aroma of freshly prepared Vidalia Onions and a celebration shared with people from across the globe, the festival honors the legacy, lore, and agricultural significance of the Vidalia Onion while strengthening community pride and statewide recognition; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 21 - 26, 2026, as VIDALIA ONION FESTIVAL DAYS in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 5th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



B. P. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Lauren M. Curry

CHIEF OF STAFF



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