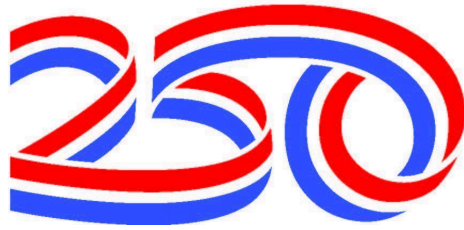


PLANNING AMERICA'S 250th ANNIVERSARY | JULY 4, 2026

AMERICA



**ANNUAL REPORT TO
THE U.S. CONGRESS**

**SUBMITTED BY
THE U.S. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION
January 31, 2025**



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STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

January 31, 2025

I am pleased to provide this progress report for 2024 on behalf of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission (the “Commission”) and its supporting organization, America250.org, Inc. (the “A250” and together, “America250”). This is the third such report since my presidential appointment as Chair of the Commission in July 2022. We have made considerable progress toward the Commission’s goals since my appointment, and I am excited to share our successes from 2024 with you.

In the report that follows, you will see how America250 is building momentum as we approach July 4, 2026—engaging communities from sea to shining sea, fostering partnerships with key stakeholders, and laying the groundwork for the largest and most inspiring commemoration in our nation’s history. We have been making space for all Americans—at the local, state, and national level—to join the movement, and we are excited to work with the Trump Administration to create the big moments that will define America’s 250th.

We have been coordinating closely with the Trump Administration and are delighted by their deep commitment and vision for this important milestone, as well as President Trump’s personal dedication to make America’s 250th a historic success. In addition to the memo we sent to President Trump last November, along with a separate letter to First Lady Trump, we have also engaged members of the Trump Administration to help us guide the conversations necessary to properly brief our internal and external stakeholders. Our West Wing contacts have been very helpful in relaying their shared interests in a collective planning effort worthy of the American public and have been very supportive of our work to date. The White House issued the Executive Order entitled, “[Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday](#)” establishing Task Force 250, and we could not be more pleased. You will see that the White House specifically identified the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission and their intent to coordinate the federal agencies’ communications and will continue to request our recommendations and advice.

America250’s work will continue as the national, nonpartisan organization charged by Congress to lead the 250th anniversary with the backing of all three branches of the federal government and its independent agencies. We look forward to working collaboratively with the White House, federal agencies, and our partners across the country to ensure that this milestone is not just a success but will also provide a sustained global platform in tandem with the World Cup in 2026 and the LA Olympics in 2028. We need and welcome the active participation of leaders at all levels: local,

state, federal and international. We intend to reach 350 million Americans (“350 for 250”) for this historic milestone, and the White House Task Force 250 will be a critical partner in this effort.

None of our progress would be possible without the continued support of Congress. On behalf of the Commission, I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has taken time to meet with us, attend our receptions and events, and support our work to date. I am especially thankful for the engagement and leadership of our Congressional Commissioners, Senate, and House Majority and Minority Leaders, and many current and potential members of the Congressional America250 Caucus and their dedicated staff. Like you, we remain committed to faithfully serving the American public - working for the people, as Congress intended, and to the benefit of this great nation.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Commission to fulfill our critical mission to the American people here and abroad.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosie Rios', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rosie Rios
Chair of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission

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I. Executive Summary

This past year was filled with achievement, collaboration, huge advancements, and meaningful connections for America250. From launching innovative public initiatives to forging strategic partnerships, we made significant strides in engaging Americans across the nation in celebrating and commemorating the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States. Among the highlights from this past year:

- **Nationwide Representation:** We now have 56 official State and Territory and Washington DC America250 Commissions, ensuring this celebration will touch the lives and reflect the experiences of all Americans. This is no small feat considering that each Commission was formed by either state legislation, administrative action, or an Executive Order by the Governor.
- **Largest Bipartisan, Bicameral Congressional Caucus:** In December, the America250 Congressional Caucus became the largest bipartisan, bicameral caucus in Congress. Incredibly, the caucus reflects near-equal representation from both parties—a rare and powerful testament to our unifying mission—and exceeded our initial goal of 250 members.
- **Honorary National Co-Chairs Announced:** This summer, President & Mrs. Bush and President & Mrs. Obama personally agreed to serve as Honorary National Co-Chairs of America250.
- **Landmark Corporate Commitments:** We were thrilled to secure a \$15 million commitment in December from our largest partner to date (to be announced shortly), which will be instrumental to ensure America’s 250th anniversary is truly an unforgettable celebration and a public-private partnership. Also, in May, Walmart was announced as a founding sponsor, supporting America250’s national service initiatives.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** We announced a number of new National Resource Partners with groups, including the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Points of Light, Meridian International Center, National Women’s History Museum, American Association of State and Local History (AASLH), iCivics, and More Perfect.
- **America250 Ambassador’s Circle:** We launched a collection of prominent and respected individuals who will lend their public profile, cultural expertise, and community relationships to raise awareness of the Semiquincentennial. This group includes the following individuals: Ed Rendell, Former Governor of Pennsylvania; Senator Cory Gardner, Former U.S. Senator, Colorado; Doris Kearns Goodwin, Author and Historian, Boston, Massachusetts; Willie Brown, Former Mayor, San Francisco, California; Gloria Estefan, Singer, Miami, Florida; Lance Bass, Pop Icon, Laurel, Mississippi; Darla Moore, Businesswoman, Charleston, South Carolina; and Mary Smith, former President of the American Bar Association, Enrolled Member of Cherokee Nation, Chicago, Illinois.

- **Public Engagements:** Chair Rios participated in many high-profile public events and engagements to raise awareness of America250, including with the following institutions: The National Governors Association, the Milken Global Conference, the Points of Light Conference, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Fortune Most Powerful Women Summit, the Hispanic Leadership Summit, and the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, among many others.
- **Judicial Branch Participation:** As one of the few entities representing all three branches of government, we were honored that the Supreme Court hosted our Commission meeting on September 19. The previous evening, they also hosted a reception on our behalf at the Supreme Court with all members of our Congressional Caucus invited as well as other stakeholders including federal agencies, partners and sponsors and featuring Ken Burns, the documentary filmmaker, as our guest speaker.

National programming for 2026: In 2024, we announced our national programming, all of which was part of the Playbook approved unanimously by the commission in March. **To be clear, everything that we are planning is unprecedented in scope and scale.** These programs include:

- **America’s Invitation:** A unique opportunity for Americans to share their stories and their hopes and dreams for the future of our country. Together, these stories create a portrait of America at 250 years. *Launched: Summer 2023.*
- **America’s Field Trip:** A multi-year, national contest that invites students in grades 3-12 to submit artwork, videos, and essays, answering the question, “What Does America Mean to You?” for the chance to receive unique experiences at iconic American historical and cultural sites. Supported by America’s Field Trip founding sponsor, BNY. *Launched: September 2024*
- **Our American Story:** A national effort to compile the largest oral and visual history and understanding of the United States, supported by America250 founding sponsor, Walmart. *Launched call for nominations July 2024.*
- **America Gives:** A multi-year, year-round effort focused primarily on volunteer service but will also include charitable giving and public service - including military service. Through this effort, America250 will establish the largest year of volunteer hours ever recorded by the U.S. in 2026. Supported by America250 founding sponsor, Walmart, America Gives will create a legacy of service beyond 2026. *Previewed: September 2024.*
- **America’s Culture:** An opportunity to showcase American art forms and cultural touchstones through music, dance, and other forms of creative expressions to showcase America’s rich and deep shared connections.
- **America Innovates:** A traveling tech expo that will display America’s greatest innovations and inspire the next generation of creators to visualize their own future through hands-on interactive experiences.
- **America Waves:** A unique way to create moments of connection for all Americans to come together with their communities at a designated local moment in time, wave their American flags, celebrate America’s 250th, and honor the contributions of those who brought us to where we are today.

- **Time Capsule:** A collaboration involving all 50 states, five territories, and the District of Columbia to collect items for a time capsule to be buried in Independence Mall in Philadelphia on July 4, 2026.
- **July 4 Activations:** A historic national celebration in Washington, D.C. and beyond, with celebrations across the country on July 4, 2026, in which we will partner with established groups who host legacy July 4 events and parade organizers at the state and local levels.

America250 has leveraged extraordinary momentum due to a considerable amount of focused and strategic work behind the scenes. We have largely completed the “Fresh Start” reset described last year to place the American people at the center of this commemoration, with the planning and programming decisions determined by the Congressionally appointed Commissioners. Our ability to “Educate, Engage, and Unite” has guided our planning efforts. Our priority through all of this work, is to ensure America250 is a conscientious fiscal steward of both appropriated and private funding and that all decisions are made with this in mind. We honored our commitment to match federal appropriation in FY 2024 via private contributions with our newly committed \$15 million sponsorship and will continue to do so through these strategic partnerships. We will continue to make decisions to serve the American people, which will require America250 to be a nimble, lean, and execution-focused organization. We stand ready to provide the most inspiring celebration that is of the people, by the people, and for the people, of this great nation.

II. Background: Where we have been

The first three years of Commission activities focused on developing a strategic plan to guide the Commission's work through 2026. A comprehensive planning process was co-led by then-Commissioner Rosie Rios and Dr. Anthony Rucci, an independent Emeritus Professor from Ohio State University. The outcome was presented in the first Annual Report to the President in December 2019, which outlined the following strategic priorities:

- Create an inspirational vision for America250 among all Americans and each American;
- Build relationships and secure valuable partners and stakeholders;
- Be comprehensive in scope, and both national and local in impact; and
- Ensure excellence in the execution of America250 to provide effective, ethical, and transparent stewardship.

These priorities continue to guide the Commission's work today, with a particular emphasis on public engagement in the design process. During this same period, the National Park Service issued an RFP to select the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) as the legislatively mandated Administrative Secretariat in April 2018. In June 2019, working with the Commission, the ABT recommended the creation of the America250 Foundation, Inc. to facilitate and enable significant development and fundraising efforts. The Foundation is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in Delaware and is a Type II sole supporting organization per 509(a)(3). Since May 2020, the Foundation, now known as the .Org, has effectively provided most of the administrative services that were originally being provided by ABT.

Throughout this stage, a strong focus was maintained on governance oversight through routine and regular convening of Commissioners at official quarterly meetings, as well as a robust Commission subcommittee structure which included: Executive, Finance, Development, Government Affairs, Programs & Planning, Marketing and Communications, and Governance Committees.

The period between 2020 and 2022 was primarily focused on developing frameworks and strategies for building out programs and soliciting partners, with periodic research to ensure that America250's planning aligned with the expectations of the American people. In July 2022, President Biden appointed Rosie Rios as Chair of the Commission. Chair Rios's mission was to put the American people first in the solicitation of ideas and inspiration, while continuing to align with the Commission's strategic objectives.

After extensive consultation with the Commission's Executive Committee, Chair Rios transitioned the organization to a new managed services model for the design and execution of programs and partnerships, allowing for immediate scope and scale without extensive hiring at the America250 staff level. This new model utilizes experienced outside professionals with extensive public engagement and media expertise under contract to execute strategic initiatives and allows for greater flexibility and cost management as opposed to the more fixed costs associated with staffing internally.

The goal was to produce a streamlined America250 Playbook that identifies a concentrated menu of priority programming interests including:

- What national programs will be designed and managed directly by the Commission;

- What programs at the Federal, State, and local levels can be elevated through co-branding with America250; and
- What programs can be most impactful through collaborative partnerships.

Up until 2022, America250 has encountered a number of governance challenges, particularly in its early stages, including legal actions (which have been dismissed, and, at this time, neither the Commission nor the Board have any outstanding litigation). Significant strides have been made under Chair Rios's leadership to restore trust in America250 and refocus on its core mission. This includes engaging a series of independent, outside workplace and governance specialists who have delivered concrete recommendations on how to best mitigate any issues and work together moving forward to return both programming and governance as priorities of the Commissioners. In the past, America250.org, Inc., formerly known as the America250 Foundation, Inc., which was initially set up to focus on facilitating procurement and development, became the default governance of the Commission because of the initial Commission dysfunction that precluded attaining a quorum at the quarterly meetings. **Since Chair Rios' first Commission meeting as Chair in September 2022, the Commission has achieved a quorum at every official Commission meeting.**

To ensure transparency and fiscal responsibility, an independent accounting firm was retained to conduct a comprehensive Agreed Upon Procedures review of both the Commission and America250.org's financial records from 2019-2021. The intent of voluntarily engaging in this additional fiscal review was to put to rest lingering questions about fiscal management, exploited by previous commissioners and misrepresented in the media.

Despite these legacy challenges, under Chair Rios' leadership, America250 has succeeded in engaging with the American public and activating initial programming. In addition to launching America's Invitation, by the end of 2024, all 56 states and territories had established State-level Commissions, 23 Federal Agencies and 35 private entities had signed on as partners and 260 members of Congress had joined the Congressional America250 Caucus. Furthermore, multiple national surveys conducted by America250 among Americans since 2019 have consistently produced guidance that reflect a robust level of enthusiasm for America's 250th anniversary of independence.

The Commission is continuing to be good stewards of its appropriations. This year America250 continued to decrease its fixed costs by moving its headquarters from Alexandria, Virginia to GSA space in the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC. Reducing its footprint from 9,900 sq ft in Virginia to 2,883 sq ft in Washington, DC resulted in lower recurring rental costs by 57%. Further, America250 continued a regular review of staffing, managed services firms and alignment between the Commission and America250.org, Inc., with a staffing plan around the external resource model approved by the Commission's Executive Committee in December 2022 and December 2023. Current priorities center on organizing all staff as a single unit as visualized in a single organizational chart - truly One250 was completed in the second quarter of FY 2024. This realignment ensures that we are a lean, nimble organization equipped to meet the scale necessary to plan and execute a Semiquincentennial worthy of the American people. To that end, America250 experienced a 33% decrease in fixed costs from FY 2023 to FY 2024, primarily due to a reduction in the number of permanent employees. Further, America250 continues its commitment to Congress to ensure that almost 90% of the budget is dedicated to programming and public engagement. Continuous improvement, maximum efficiencies and fiscal stewardship remain a top priority moving forward.

III. Strategic Update: Where we are today

America250 successfully launched its first public initiative on July 4, 2023, with America’s Invitation. This was the first comprehensive public engagement campaign for the Semiquincentennial. At the heart of America’s Invitation is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Americans across the country to share their unique stories, hopes, and dreams about what being an American means to them and what they love about our nation through a video portal. America’s Invitation is an ongoing campaign we will use to maintain a steady drumbeat of public engagement and to communicate directly with the American people about how they want to celebrate and commemorate this historic milestone. America’s Invitation, asks the public to share their own American stories and reflect on what this country means to them and their hopes for the future — through photos, videos, poems, essays, songs, and more. Our call-to-action was amplified across major broadcast and social media platforms in the days following July 4 — including from the stage of PBS’s national broadcast of A Capitol Fourth, at-large-scale Independence Day events, including the Wawa Welcome America Festival in Philadelphia and George Washington’s Estate at Mount Vernon in Virginia. America’s Invitation was also highlighted by the Department of Veterans Affairs in a newsletter to 11 million veterans, military families, and other subscribers, on the National Park Service’s social media platforms, reaching more than 5 million followers, and by the U.S. Department of Education, the Library of Congress, AmeriCorps, the U.S. Mint, and the U.S. Government Publishing Office, State Commissions, and others.

America’s Field Trip

America’s Field Trip is a nationwide contest from America250 that invites students in grades 3-12 to submit essays, poems, or art, reflecting on what America means to them for the chance to earn a once-in-a-lifetime field trip experience to one of our nation’s most iconic historical and cultural sites. For both the pilot (2024) and current contest (2024–2025 school year), a total of 75 first-place awardees and their parents choose from more than a dozen specially-curated experiences across the country, receiving free travel and accommodations. The 75 second-place awardees receive a cash award, and the three teachers associated with the highest-scoring submission in each grade level category also receive a cash award.

The contest formally launched on March 4, 2024, as a three-month pilot program, with May 17, 2024, as the deadline for submissions. Kicking off America’s Field Trip as a pilot contest gave us the ability to gather insights and refine components of the program in preparation for scaling the contest for 2025, 2026, and beyond. Among the primary goals for this pilot was building a foundation for youth-focused America250 programming and additional educational programs and partnerships geared toward engaging families and younger Americans.

For the pilot contest, we initiated an open call to America250 Ex Officio Commission members, including all National Park Service (NPS) and Smithsonian locations, to identify field trip destinations. The number of field trip offerings was limited to 11 to ensure each awardee would be able to go on a trip with at least one other student.

The BNY Foundation serves as a founding sponsor of America’s Field Trip, having awarded America250 a three-year grant to support the execution of the contest. We also issued an RFP and retained a contest administrator to refine the official contest rules, design and implement the online submission portal, manage data collection, and ensure proper deletion of data after the contest ended. Probability Works screened all entries, notified contest winners, coordinated travel arrangements for awardees and parents, verified awardee eligibility, conducted background checks

for chaperone adults, and handled reporting and the issuance of tax forms.

Leading up to the launch of the pilot contest and throughout the submission period, America250 conducted extensive outreach to educators, parents, and school communities to spread the word and drive awareness of the contest. This included engaging more than 75 educational and education-adjacent organizations and hundreds of national, state, and local constituency groups. In partnership with worldwide ed-tech leader Discovery Education, America250 shared resources to help educators bring America's Field Trip to classrooms, including customized digital activities and lesson plans in English and Spanish. Chair Rios participated in multiple media interviews and America250 hosted a Facebook Live featuring representatives from Discovery Education and the panel of educators advising around the contest. We also deployed a paid media campaign that consisted of digital advertising on a variety of platforms and channels, working with micro-influencers, and sponsoring newsletters to share contest information with parents and educators on the platforms they were already using. Advertising reached millions of parents and teachers nationwide, but also cast a wide net of stakeholder interests around the country.

The pilot contest garnered thousands of submissions from students in 49 of 50 U.S. states and two U.S. territories. In June, a panel of current and former educators judged the entries and selected 150 students hailing from 44 U.S. states and territories as first- and second-place awardees. We worked with trusted educational stakeholders, including the National Council for the Social Studies, the National Council for History Education, and the America250 Civics, History, and America's Future Advisory Council to identify and recruit educators to serve as judges.

The public announcement of the inaugural cohort of winners on July 8 included a large-scale billboard activation in Times Square designed to celebrate the awardees and acknowledge their achievement. America250 also deployed run-of-site display ads on USA Today.com, driving to the awardee page of the website. These high-visibility activations served not only as a public recognition of the awardees, but were also a means to promote America's Field Trip in high-traffic spaces. We also coordinated with State and Territory commissions to acknowledge the awardees locally, created a dedicated page on the America250 website to highlight the winning submissions, and secured extensive media coverage.

The field trips for the 75 first-place awardees and their parents took place in July and August 2024. We received extremely positive feedback from students and parents who participated in the field trips—the mother of a Nevada awardee said, “When the country can feel divided, it’s important to remember the beliefs we share. Through the trip, the kids who represent our next generation found common ground and met people from outside of their friend groups and neighborhoods. Now they have new friends from across the country!” A student awardee from Alabama shared, “This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I’d recommend for anyone who wants to learn more about our country. These field trips [don’t] shy away from any part of our history, making it all the more authentic and enjoyable.” We are pleased to share that we were able to launch a successful Pilot program and provide these once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for students and their families for under 1.6 million dollars.

Following the pilot contest, we also sourced feedback from awardees, stakeholders, and staff to identify areas of improvement that could be applied to the next iteration of America's Field Trip in the fall. From logistics to engagement strategies, we worked to incorporate this feedback and made minor program adjustments so that we are running an efficient and impactful contest for the 2024–2025 school year.

America250 launched the second iteration of America's Field Trip, this time for the full school

year, on September 16, 2024, timed around Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. The contest will remain open for submissions until April 16, 2025, and includes several field trips from the pilot contest as well as several new experiences. We began soliciting proposals for 2025 field trip destinations in the spring of 2024 and received nearly 80 submissions, which we narrowed down to more than one dozen field trips for the first-place awardees.

Our outreach efforts to continue promoting the contest are ongoing. In December, Chair Rios participated in a satellite media tour that included more than two dozen radio and television interviews. More on what is ahead for America's Field Trip can be found in the next section of this report.

Our American Story

Our American Story is America250's national oral and visual history project to collect, share, and preserve stories from people across the United States of America ahead of the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026. This project builds on America's Invitation. Our American Story will gather stories from all 50 states, 5 territories and the District of Columbia in the year leading up to the Semiquincentennial. This project's widespread reach will allow America250 to organize the nation's most representative American story to date and provide a snapshot of our country to inspire future generations to celebrate the richness of our shared story.

The majority of work on Our American Story in 2024 was spent planning and refining the program so that implementation could begin in earnest in 2025 and fully launch on July 4 of this year.

- **Story Nominations:** Preliminary work has begun to build a "story bank" to help identify individuals and communities with engaged storytellers. On July 4, 2024, America250 announced a call to action for Americans to nominate unsung champions in their communities with a story to share. The nomination program is powered by founding partner Walmart. The nomination program included a video and online nomination form, which is being regularly amplified across America250's organic social media platforms and email programs.

On October 3, 2024, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol began running the video and a QR code to submit a nominee while waiting at customs at Dulles Airport, with opportunities to expand to other airports. The ask to nominate unsung champions will also be running on PRX podcast platforms as a 30-second audio ad. America250 has received nominations from Americans across 26 states.

- **Partnerships:** America250 worked throughout 2024 to strengthen partnerships with key institutional leaders, including the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Through these partners, similar organizations, and their member networks, Our American Story aims to tap into a vast network of libraries, historical societies, schools, and community centers and, thanks to the planned digital portal, stand up additional locations across the country where Americans can record their stories.

America Gives

America Gives is America250's signature volunteer, community service, and impact campaign. The program is focused on reinvigorating a national year-round culture of service in the United States through 2026 and beyond. With the ambitious goal of making 2026 a record-breaking year for volunteer service, America Gives will ensure that the Semiquincentennial leaves an enduring, tangible, and positive legacy in communities across America.

In 2024, America250 successfully recruited an extraordinary set of marquee founding partners for America Gives – including iconic American organizations with deep history and well-developed networks of service. Founding Partners include Habitat for Humanity, Blue Star Families, 9/11 Day, Keep America Beautiful, Daughters of the American Revolution, AmeriCorps, and the Peace Corps. Walmart is America Gives' Founding Sponsor. Points of Light has also been onboarded as an America250 National Resource Partner, bringing its unsurpassed expertise and infrastructure as the world's largest organization dedicated to volunteer service. Together, these organizations enable America250 to exponentially increase the reach and impact of America Gives.

America Gives was publicly previewed with a coordinated activation around September 11, 2024—one of the nation's two federally-recognized days of service. As part of the launch, America250 rolled out a new website featuring service opportunities, a two-minute launch video that we shared with the NFL, History Channel, and Corporation for Public Broadcasting to amplify, and featured stories of public service. Chair Rios joined Founding Partner 9/11 Day and 9/11 Families at the New York Stock Exchange to ring the opening bell on the morning of September 11. Following the event, Chair Rios joined 9/11 Day and other America Gives Founding Partners onboard the Intrepid Air & Space Museum to pack meals as part of a day of service. In addition, Representative Robert Aderholt and members of the Congressional America250 Caucus took part in a 9/11 Day meal packing event in Washington, D.C.

The 9/11-oriented preview uncovered insights that have significantly strengthened our planning for 2025 and 2026. Looking forward, we have been able to refine our campaign design, identify more marquee partners for recruitment, and map out the additional infrastructure needs in anticipation of a broader debut of America Gives in summer 2025.

Time Capsule

In 2024, America250 made notable progress toward meeting the statutory requirement to bury a time capsule in Philadelphia on July 4, 2026, with an emphasis on three major workstreams: location of the capsule, design and build of the capsule itself, and contents.

In 2024, in concert with the National Park Service, America250 worked with Congressional partners on a proposed legislative fix that would broaden the original statutory language dealing with the burial of the time capsule, to allow greater flexibility in its placement and better ensure the long-term survival of the capsule itself.

With that fix on track for approval, America250 engaged over a period of months with the leadership of Independence National Historical Park to identify potential locations for the capsule, with a broad preference for incorporating the capsule into a new planned art installation being planned for the Semiquincentennial.

America250 also worked with partners at the Library of Congress and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on the physical design and construction of the capsule. NIST has considered specifications for a vessel that would meet the requirements of preserving materials for 250 years and has offered concepts for three different designs and estimates design and construction will take six to 12 months to complete.

In terms of contents, America250 has sought guidance from the Library of Congress to establish physical criteria for the sort of materials that would be suitable for long-term preservation. In the months ahead, the team will establish broader criteria for substantive content, work with partners across the states and territories to solicit input, and build out a plan for submissions and curation.

America Waves

America Waves is America250's series of nationwide patriotic moments that will bring the country together at a designated local moment of time to pause and reflect on the milestone and create a "Wave of Connection" from Guam to Alaska. Through the America Waves program we will work with partner organizations to deliver hand-held flags to any American household who requests one. The program will also work to organize and amplify community-based events to bring together Americans to wave the flags in unison at 2:50 pm locally on July 4, 2026, and perhaps other moments.

America Waves will partner with national membership organizations *and* local community groups to distribute flags and develop events and activities on July 4, 2026, that pay respect to the meaning behind the flag — unity, freedom, and hope — in ways that are authentic to their community. This strategy offers several opportunities — the chance to expand our reach and create a uniquely accessible, inclusive program; a focus on community impact, including service opportunities, for instance, with veterans' groups that honor and celebrate those who served; and a differentiated approach that distinguish America Waves events from typical July 4 activities by connecting partners at the local and national level, ensuring that participants feel like they are part of something bigger.

The majority of work on America Waves in 2024 was focused on due diligence and initial community partner outreach to assess feasibility and begin planning for the production and distribution of flags to any American who requests one. In 2025, we will make final production and distribution recommendations and decisions so that program implementation, including for community events and other communications activations, can begin in earnest in 2026 in the run-up to July 4.

- **Flag Production and Distribution:** America Waves has established partnerships with Valley Forge and Annin Flagmakers, America's oldest and largest flagmakers, to help produce/ license collectible American flags for the program. Outreach has also started to engage USPS and other Ex Officio partners, as well as Walmart and others, around flag distribution.
- **Community Partnerships and Programming:** America250 worked throughout 2024 to strengthen and establish partnerships with key local and national community and membership organizations, including the National Flag Foundation, the Longest Table NYC, the American Horticultural Society, Girl Scouts, cities and towns across the country, and others. Through these partners, similar organizations, and their member networks, America Waves aims to tap into existing communities and social networks as

well as planned July 4 activities. Community partners can leverage their existing relationships to promote America Waves and encourage participation with their followers. By centering our local partners, we can focus on real impact and shine a spotlight on diverse community events, service opportunities, and other opportunities that embody the meaning behind the flag.

Outreach and Engagement

America250's ongoing public engagement efforts have successfully initiated outreach to over 2,000 organizations from faith-based groups, rural America, veterans, Indigenous/Native American (AANHPI), Latino, African-American, and rural communities. Public engagement teams have been engaging local, state, and national organizations to help expand our reach around the rollout of our tentpole initiatives, such as America's Field Trip, Our American Story, and America Gives. As we continue to implement our Playbook, we aim to bring these impactful programs to even more communities across the nation.

We conducted strategic outreach to engage students and families on America's Field Trip. In total, this effort targeted school districts in rural, native and urban communities nationwide, along with dozens of organizations with dedicated civics education programming for students from elementary to college levels. Organizations that were contacted include 4-H, Young America's Foundation, Home School Legal Defense Association, American Council of Trustees and Alumni, National Constitution Center, Hillsdale College, Tunnel to Towers, Focus on the Family, and others.

As we gear up for upcoming rollouts of America's Field Trip, Our American Story, and America Gives, teams have been engaging local, state, and national organizations to help expand our reach. As we continue to implement our Playbook, we aim to bring these impactful programs to even more communities across the nation.

Honorary National Co-Chairs

In August, America250 announced that President George W. Bush, First Lady Mrs. Laura Bush, President Barack Obama, and First Lady Mrs. Michelle Obama will serve as Honorary National Co-Chairs. As Honorary Co-Chairs, President and Mrs. Bush and President and Mrs. Obama will lend their voices to the nationwide effort to mark this historic milestone. The participation of these two Presidents and First Ladies in this initiative, who collectively led the country through the first 16 years of the 21st century, shows a continued dedication to service and commitment to their country.

Partnerships and Partners Update

Throughout 2024, as programs have continued to be rolled out and previewed, America250 has expanded its network of partners and partnerships to support the commission's efforts of reaching 350 million people by the 250th anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence.

As part of this process, America250 defined its partnerships as follows:

- **America250 Advisory Councils:** Individuals who are experts in their field and can help amplify America250's efforts and provide guidance on outreach for select program areas.
- **Supporting Partners:** Organizations that help build awareness and support for America250 through a reciprocal branding agreement, and that America250 supports by

amplifying events and activities on an interactive map and calendar.

- **Programming Partners:** Organizations outside of the federal government that support our programming efforts through in-kind contributions, network support, or by sharing existing programming of theirs to be part of our tentpole programs.
- **National Resource Partners:** A select group of expert nonpartisan, non-profit organizations that will help elevate and scale America250 programming in exchange for placement in the funding directory.
- **Sponsors:** Organizations providing funding to America250 who receive visibility and awareness for their contributions.

Specifically, in June of 2024, America250 rolled out the National Resource Partner program, a cohort of nonprofit institutions with unique expertise that will help scale America250's effort to become the largest, most inspiring celebration and commemoration in America's history. The cohort of National Resource Partners includes: American Association of State and Local History, iCivics, Meridian International, More Perfect, National Congress of American Indians, Washington National Cathedral, National Women's History Museum, Points of Light, and the United States Conference of Mayors.

Later in the summer, the team secured programming partners in support of America Gives, including AmeriCorps, PeaceCorps, 9/11 Day, Blue Star Families, Daughters of the American Revolution, Habitat for Humanity and the Combined Federal Campaign.

In recent months, America250 has also signed partners, including YMCA, National Association of Manufacturers, Sons of the American Revolution, Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association, Peoria Riverfront Museum, and more.

Update on Advisory Councils and Cadence

In January 2024, America250 reconstituted the Advisory Councils, bringing twelve councils down to six that more closely aligned with the programs under development. The current Advisory Councils include:

1. America's Culture
2. Civics, History & America's Future
3. American Innovation
4. America's Servicemembers
5. America's Youth
6. America's International Partners

As part of this reconstitution, Advisory Council members are asked to provide guidance on outreach efforts in the lead-up to the 250th Anniversary. America250 Advisory Councils meet four times a year to discuss the programming underway. In addition, America250 team members meet with individual Advisory Councils on an ad hoc basis to discuss specific programming needs.

For example, in November, the Civics, History & America's Future Advisory Council met to discuss ways in which America250 could advance Civics Education as part of the 250th Anniversary. Recommendations from the Councils are taken and discussed among the Commission which gives ultimate direction on a path forward.

New Commissioners

In 2024, five of our six Commission vacancies were filled by Congressional Leadership. Three of the new Commissioners are from the Senate, and two are private citizens. Senate Leader Mitch McConnell appointed Senator Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia on March 22, and Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska on April 19. Senate Leader Charles Schumer appointed Senator Alex Padilla of California on May 8, and Tonio Burgos of New York on November 13. House Speaker Mike Johnson appointed Jimmy Rane of Alabama to the Commission on August 13. See Appendix B.

The Commission now has one vacancy as of January 2025, and we look forward to Senate Leader Schumer appointing a new member that will complete our group of 24 Commissioners, as we approach the Semiquincentennial.

Circulating Collectable Coin Redesign Act of 2020

After years of persistent advocacy led by Chair Rios since 2016, the Circulating Collectable Coin Redesign Act (P.L. 116-330) was finally enacted in December 2020, thanks to the bipartisan efforts led by Congress and signed by President Trump. This legislation paves the way for the U.S. Treasury to issue special quarters emblematic of the 250th anniversary of America's founding. Up to five quarter designs will be issued to honor the contribution of women to critical events in American history. In addition, commemorative \$1 coins will also be minted. The U.S. Mint writes:

“The planned redesign of circulating coinage in 2026 will serve as a tangible reminder of our shared heritage. Adding to the excitement, the Mint even invited the public to participate in a survey about potential design themes, allowing Americans to have a say in how they want to commemorate this momentous occasion. The survey was open from November 3 to December 3, 2023, and asked participants for input about potential themes for the coin designs. Those proposed themes were drafted in collaboration with the United States Mint, the Smithsonian, the National Archives and Records Administration, the National Park Service, and the Library of Congress.”

The U.S. Mint plans to release the new coins in 2026. The program will see new designs on many circulating coins, including the Lincoln cent, Jefferson Nickel, and Roosevelt Dime, with special provisions for quarter, half-dollar, and dollar-denominated coinage.

State and Territory Convening

By the end of 2024, America250 realized its long-sought goal of establishing a Semiquincentennial planning Commission in all 50 states, five U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. It was also critical that the milestone of reaching 56 State and Territory Commissions be paired with a commitment to strengthening America250's connectivity and value to each of those Commissions.

Throughout 2024, America250 took concerted action to deepen the federal Commission's relationship with state-level and territory-level Semiquincentennial planning Commissions. A robust cadence of proactive communication with state and territory commissions – as well as more frequent engagement with state and territory commission representatives around tentpole development, execution, and other planning – has yielded significantly improved integration of state and territory efforts into a cohesive national Semiquincentennial framework.

America250's first in-person State & Territory Convening in Washington, D.C., served as the keystone of our improved engagement and information sharing with states and territories. The July 9-11, 2024, convening invited representatives from all state and territory Semiquincentennial planning commissions – as well as observers from the remaining states and territories who have not yet created commissions – for three days of working sessions with representatives from key federal agencies, advisory councils, museum curators, and national partners. Representatives from 46 states and territories attended this convening, making it the most comprehensive gathering of Semiquincentennial planners from across the nation to date.

Presentations included a new landscape and public sentiment analysis from FGS Global, plans from America250 Ex Officio agencies, updates on America250 Tentpole Programs, and featured discussions from museum curators, partner organizations, and experienced state commission leaders themselves. Each state and territory was also invited to present to the plenary session an update on their plans for 2026 – information which has dramatically accelerated our tracking of state-level plans and also enabled cross-pollination of ideas between states that will substantially expedite the work of newer state-level commissions. In breakout sessions, states delved deeper into topics such as working with educators, applying for relevant federal grants, and social media community building, in addition to joining ad hoc regional breakouts to discuss issues of particular relevance to their region. In planning and executing the convening, the partnership of America250's Ex Officio agencies was invaluable in creating efficiencies and delivering an impactful and productive experience to the State and Territory Commission representatives in attendance.

Drawing on the success and learnings of the 2024 State & Territory Convening, America250 is developing plans for a 2025 convening from July 28-30. Our goal is to broaden participation and continue the integration of state/territory and federal Semiquincentennial planning efforts in the critical final year before 2026.

IV. Vision: Where we are headed

America250's focus on the Fresh Start—demonstrating positive momentum, resetting the Commission at the forefront of our planning efforts, and advancing key initiatives such as a new logo, name change, website, and branding—as well as our fiscal due diligence, positions us to scale our work, secure private funds and build a Semiquincentennial worthy of the American people.

Building on the success of America's Invitation, we are launching quarterly public affairs events across the United States to further engage key local leaders and stakeholders. These initiatives aim to augment public involvement in crafting the Playbook for 2026. Simultaneously, we are securing partnerships from public, private, corporate, and non-profit sectors to ensure the programmatic rigor necessary for 2026.

States and territories are actively forming their Commissions, and America250 will convene another grand meeting in 2025 to ensure seamless planning between Federal and State agencies.

As we move into 2025, America250 is working on a number of potential initiatives and partnerships. Note that many of these are in the development stage and may not have been approved by the Commission or prospective partners as of December 31, 2024.

America's Field Trip: Shaping Tomorrow Through the Eyes of Our Youth

We are hard at work finalizing logistics for the field trips that the 75 first-place awardees will take in July and August 2025. As we continue to promote and execute the 2024–2025 contest, we are also exploring how the program can be scaled and enhanced for 2026 and beyond. This includes looking at increasing the number of awardees, and expanding the field trip offerings.

The next few months leading up to the submission deadline for the 2024–2025 contest will be focused on spreading the word about America's Field Trip and encouraging students to enter the contest by April 16, 2025. This will include earned media and digital marketing, targeted constituency outreach, school visits, and potentially a virtual town hall that invites classrooms across the country to learn about America's Field Trip. The next group of first- and second-place awardees will be announced in late May or early June 2025.

We will be soliciting field trip proposals for 2026 contest awardees from a variety of stakeholders in the spring of 2025 with the goal of finalizing the destinations over the summer before the contest kicks off for the 2025–2026 school year in September.

Our American Story

Upon its launch on July 4, 2025, Our American Story will comprise four major component efforts:

- **“Main Street”** will represent the most sweeping component of Our American Story and the primary effort to gather stories from everyday Americans in the year leading up to the Semiquincentennial. A showcase piece of the Main Street story-gathering will come through a partnership with StoryCorps, centered on a 10-stop road trip using existing StoryCorps equipment and visiting all the regions in the contiguous 48 states. 2025 stops will bring the tour to the Midwest, the Mountain West, the Southwest, and the West

Coast. Audio of stories gathered as part of the road trip will be preserved indefinitely by the Library of Congress.

- **Institutional and Organizational Partnerships** will further enhance Our American Story’s ability to reach as many Americans as possible. Beyond the previously mentioned discussions with AASLH, IMLS, and other partners, America250 has also prioritized outreach to membership-based organizations focused on community service and volunteerism. These organizations and their built-in membership networks can help drive a truly grassroots movement to participate in Our American Story. To date, the Girl Scouts has expressed interest in this model, and other organizations could potentially include DAR, AARP, Urban League, VFW & American Legion, Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions Clubs International, youth sports, NCAI, LULAC, USO, Honor Flights, and more.
- **American Icons and Key Leaders** is a planned partnership series that would feature prominent Americans from diverse fields and backgrounds who have made significant contributions to our country. The interviewees could include current and former presidents and other officials, authors, industry leaders, and interesting “influencers” with a bent towards both our history and our future — through a non-partisan lens.

Beginning in July 2025 and culminating in July 2026, America250 envisions hosting a monthly interview series, potentially in partnership with different presidential libraries to add localized branding, help drive audience, and provide additional structure to the series.

- **“The Story of Our American Story”** will document this project as it unfolds in the run-up to the Semiquincentennial in an effort to amplify the gathered stories and bring them to life for a broader audience. The purpose of this effort would be to amplify the impact of Our American Story, elevate particular stories gathered as a way to inform and inspire viewers about the triumphs and challenges that have shaped our nation, and create a lasting legacy for Our American Story and a valuable educational resource. America250 envisions working in partnership with a media organization or streaming platform to help plan and implement this component of the project.

With the proposal outlined above, along with the appropriate resources, Our American Story is well-positioned to push ahead in earnest and add to the growing success of America250 programming.

America Gives

America250 plans to launch America Gives in full in 2025, raising a nationwide call to action to organizations of all kinds to plan more ambitious goals for volunteer service and leave a lasting impact in the Semiquincentennial year 2026. America Gives will seek to unite volunteer organizations, membership groups, corporate America, youth groups and schools, and faith-based service networks in common purpose to make calendar year 2026 a record-setting year of volunteer service in America. Our ambition is to reignite a culture of service and impact far beyond 2026, and leave an indelible, positive effect on communities across America that are supported by the volunteerism of ordinary citizens working in concert.

During the first and second quarters of calendar year 2025, America250 plans to develop the key program infrastructure needed to record, verify, and aggregate hours of service at a national scale. In parallel, we will work to recruit additional priority partners and engage service networks in

preparation for a tentative summer 2025 full launch of the campaign. For the remainder of 2025, America250 will work to extend our call to action and further widen our circle of participating organizations to make plans for service in 2026.

Across the Semiquincentennial year, America Gives will generate and elevate stories of service drawn from trusted partner organizations – sustaining a steady drumbeat of visibility that helps build momentum for volunteerism in communities across America.

Other Tentpole Programs that were mentioned earlier, America Innovates, America’s Culture, and July 4 activations are in development and will require extensive planning and engagement with all of our stakeholders.

Ambassadors/Talent/Influencers

In June 2024, we launched the America250 Ambassador Circle alongside notable individuals from regions around the country who volunteered to lend their voices and their platforms to raise awareness of America250. As part of the initial cohort of Ambassadors, we were pleased to announce the following individuals:

- Gloria Estefan; Miami, FL
- Cory Gardner; Yuma, CO
- Ed Rendell; Philadelphia, PA
- Doris Kearns Goodwin; Boston, MA
- Darla Moore; Charleston, SC
- Willie Brown; San Francisco, CA
- Lance Bass; Laurel, MS
- Mary L. Smith; Chicago, IL

As we continue building upon our programs, the goal is to help build a roster of influential supporters for A250, and as we build stronger relationships with talent, we will determine the best ways to leverage our Ambassador Circle as spokespeople for specific A250 programs, campaigns, and projects. Talent can be particularly helpful for opportunities where the barrier to entry is a high-profile supporter; we’ll ensure the use of talent in A250’s initiatives which will help ensure mainstream visibility for the various programs.

Our Ambassador Circle will work to advance the organization’s mission and engage with more Americans. Ambassadors can speak on behalf of the organization at events in each of their states, participate in media engagements, amplify America250 efforts on social media, and participate in the specific programs we’ve outlined below. In addition, these individuals will provide guidance and strategic input about future America250 programming and initiatives in their local communities and across the nation. Specific responsibilities will include the following:

- Represent America250 in key events and communications, including:
 - Participation in media interviews (broadcast, online, print, podcasts);
 - Amplifying America250 news, events, campaigns, or general messaging through social media or other platforms;
 - Inclusion of name, photo, and bio on the America250 website and on social

- media;
- Capture a video as part of America’s Invitation to share talent’s story about what America means to them.
- Advise or assist with the identification and engagement of potential individuals (ie. teammates, castmates, etc.), corporate (ie. brand marketing teams), foundation partners, and prospective donors (i.e. talent-led foundations), including making introductions where appropriate.
- Meet with America250 representatives on an as-needed basis to advise on strategy to engage key constituencies.

Additionally, we’d like to implement a Champions role to attract the highest tier of talent - in parallel with the Ambassador Circle, Champions will still represent America250 and raise awareness around the celebrations, but in a lighter lift capacity given their demanding and unpredictable schedules.

The Champions will also represent the A250 organization and work to bring its mission to the forefront for many Americans. As these talent supporters will be of a higher caliber, we’d present the following lighter-lift responsibilities to their teams to ensure this role works with their busy and unpredictable schedules:

- Represent America250 in key events and communications, including:
 - Amplifying America250 news, events, campaigns, or general messaging through social media
 - Inclusion of name, photo, and bio on the America250 website and on social media;
 - Capture a video as part of America’s Invitation to share talent’s story about what America means to them.

Development Update

America250 deeply appreciates the continued support of Congress through annual appropriations, which remain a critical foundation for our mission. However, private investment is essential to executing the largest and most inspiring celebration and commemoration in American history.

Over the past several years, America250 has prioritized building strategic relationships with major gift supporters, corporate partners, and philanthropic institutions. Chair Rios, alongside key Commissioners, has been actively engaging leaders across industries to secure both financial contributions and in-kind support critical to our success.

These efforts are already yielding significant results. At the end of 2024, we secured \$15 million from our largest sponsor to date, along with additional commitments from a growing network of partners. With these investments and the continued momentum behind our National Tentpole Programs, America250 is well-positioned to scale its impact in 2025 and beyond. We remain committed to leveraging both public and private resources to educate, engage, and unite all Americans in the lead-up to our nation’s Semiquincentennial.

We look forward to continued collaboration with Congress and our partners to ensure that America250 serves as a unifying and impactful commemoration and celebration, engaging Americans in honoring our past, celebrating our present, and shaping our future.

V. What we need from Congress

America250 is excited to move into the next phase of its operations with programming and events that will capture the attention - and the spirit - of the American people, as directed by the U.S. Semiquincentennial Act. None of these plans would be possible without the continued commitment by Congress to provide sufficient funding to support the Commission's ability to fulfill this mission in an extraordinary fashion.

America250 is deeply grateful for Congress' support of the Commission, both through the work of the appointed members of Congress who serve as Commissioners and the funding support the Commission has received annually beginning in FY 2019.

At all times, America250 seeks to be a good steward of the public trust bestowed on the Commission and its Commissioners and to be aggressive and prudent in its responsibilities for managing the Federal funding appropriated to it.

As we approach 2026, America250 will need Congress's ongoing commitment to help create the enthusiasm and momentum required across all corners of our nation to execute a 250th anniversary worthy of the American people. With two more fiscal years left, we are scaling our latest appropriations request to \$100 million to align with our ambitious programming. The majority of the Commission's expenses since Chair Rios' tenure have been focused on engaging the American public, and based on the success of America's Invitation and the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, it was funding well-spent. To date, we have experienced increases in active participation of our State and Territory Commissions, corporate and community partners, Congressional America250 Caucus members, and most importantly, Main Street America demonstrating that we have engendered the trust that has alluded the Commission in the past. The additional Tentpole Programs that we are proposing are high-impact, large-scale, galvanizing, purpose-driven and meaningful programs that will significantly impact the American public, and especially the next generation of leadership. And if we are effective, many of these programs can even sustain themselves long after 2026 through our partnerships.

Moving forward, in addition to the funding support that we will need to execute this once-in-a-lifetime experience, members of Congress can assist by joining the Congressional America250 Caucus. Finally, the Commission hopes to call on members of Congress to attend and support upcoming events at the Federal, State, and local levels to share the message and mission of America250 with their constituents.

VI. Working with the White House

America250 has set the table, and built a **movement** that is galvanizing people and communities across the country. Now, we are thrilled to collaborate with the White House to inspire the **big moments** that ensure this is the most significant celebration in our nation's history.

The recent Executive Order, "*Celebrating America's 250th Birthday*," underscores the Administration's commitment to a coordinated planning process, formally recognizing the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission as a key partner in this national effort. Through the establishment of the White House Task Force 250, the Administration provides an important framework for collaboration and will allow America250 to align with federal partners and drive a nationwide commemoration worthy of the American people.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the transition team, the Cabinet, federal agencies, and Congress. Looking ahead, we are excited about expanding the America250 team by welcoming new ambassadors, advisory council members, and other key collaborators. These individuals will play an integral role in broadening the reach and impact of our mission.

We are also keen to partner with the White House to enhance our current activations, introduce new initiatives, and solidify the programming for July 4, 2026. Together, we can channel our collective enthusiasm and momentum to ignite a nationwide movement. Current activations such as America's Field Trip, America Gives, and Our American Story are already fostering engagement across the country, laying the groundwork for this once-in-a-generation celebration.

APPENDICES

A. Legislative History

B. Current and Past Appointments to the Commission

C. Commission Meetings List

D. Public and Private Funding History

E. 2023 Federal, State and Legislative Engagement

a. Federal and International Partnerships

b. State Commission Activity

c. Legislative Engagement

- **Commission Appointments**
- **Congressional America250 Caucus Activity**
- **Semiquincentennial Commemorative Coin Act**
- **Semiquincentennial Time Capsule Act**
- **Special Session at Independence Hall**
- **Reports to the President and the Congress**
- **Quarterly Reports**
- **FY 2024 Budget Request**
- **FY 2025 Budget Request**
- **FY 2026 Budget Request**

F. Names and Creation Dates of State and Territory Semiquincentennial Planning Entities

G. Congressional America250 Caucus list

H. Key Appearances and Press

Appendix A – Legislative History

The U.S. Semiquicentennial Commission Act was introduced in the House of Representatives by former Representative Pat Meehan from Pennsylvania and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. It was considered and approved on the House Floor under suspension of the Rules on July 5, 2016, and subsequently approved by unanimous consent on July 12, 2016. The bill was sent to President Barack Obama and was signed into Public Law on July 22, 2016. (Public Law 114-196 (130 Stat. 685)).

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/4875/all-actions?overview=closed#tabs>

Because of the need for some technical changes (adding Ex Officio members, recognizing the Commission's logo, and the desire for Federal funding), the U.S. Semiquicentennial Commission Amendments Act was introduced in the Senate by former Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. It was approved by the Committee and was passed by the Senate on July 21, 2020. Subsequently, the House approved the bill with some amendments with the approval by the Senate, and the bill was sent to President Donald Trump. It was signed into Public Law on December 31, 2022 (P.L. 116-282 (134 Stat. 3386)).

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3989/all-actions?overview=closed&s=2&r=3&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Semiquicentennial+to+omey%22%5D%7D#tabs>

Appendix B - Current and Past Appointments to the Commission

USSC Leadership

Commissioners

Current Public Sector Members (as of December 31, 2024)

Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), March 22, 2024–Present, (Appointed by Senate Minority Leader McConnell)

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), April 19, 2024–Present, (Appointed by Senate Minority Leader McConnell)

Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), May 8, 2024–Present, (Appointed by Senate Majority Leader Schumer)

Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), November 15, 2016–Present, (Appointed by Senate Minority Leader Reid)

Representative Robert Aderholt (R-AL), February 24, 2017–Present (Appointed by Speaker Ryan)

Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), February 22, 2019–Present (Appointed by Speaker Pelosi)

Representative Dwight Evans (D-PA), January 8, 2019–Present (Appointed by Speaker Pelosi)

Representative Maria Salazar (R-FL), April 12, 2021–Present (Appointed by House Minority Leader McCarthy)

Current Private Sector Members (as of December 31, 2024)

Representative Robert A. Brady of Pennsylvania, September 19, 2019–Present (Re-Appointed by Speaker Pelosi on September 19, 2019)

Reginald M. Browne of Pennsylvania, September 21, 2023–Present (Appointed by Leader Jeffries)

Tonio Burgos of New York, November 13, 2024–Present (Appointed by Senate Majority Leader Schumer)

Val Crofts of Wisconsin, February 25, 2017–Present (Appointed by Speaker Ryan)

Representative Joseph Crowley of New York, October 8, 2021–Present (Re-Appointed by House Minority Leader Pelosi)

Daniel M. DiLella of Pennsylvania, February 8, 2017–Present, Served as Chairman from February 26, 2018 until 07/2022 (Appointed by Senate Majority Leader McConnell)

Cathy Gillespie of Virginia, February 8, 2017–Present (Appointed by Senate Majority Leader McConnell)

Noah Griffin of California, July 3, 2017–Present (Appointed by House Minority Leader Pelosi)

Wilfred M. McClay, Ph.D. of Oklahoma, February 25, 2017–Present (Appointed by Speaker Ryan)

Lucas Morel, Ph.D. of Virginia, February 8, 2017–Present (Appointed by Senate Majority Leader McConnell)

Jimmy Rane of Alabama, August 13, 2024–Present (Appointment by Speaker Johnson)

Rosie Rios of California, January 11, 2018–Present (Chair), Appointed Chair in 07/2022 (Appointed by Senate Minority Leader Schumer)

James L. Swanson of Washington, D.C., November 15, 2016–Present (Appointed by Senate Minority Leader Reid)

Thomas Walker, Jr. of Alabama, February 8, 2017–Present (Appointed by Senate Majority Leader McConnell)

Lynn Forney Young of Texas, February 25, 2017–Present (Appointed by Speaker Ryan)

Vacancy (Appointment by Senate Majority Leader Schumer) (Hohns)

Former Commissioners: Sorted by date of resignation or other event

Heather Murren of Nevada, November 15, 2016–Unknown ** (Appointed by Senate Minority Leader Reid)
Grant Hill of Florida, July 3, 2017–September 6, 2019 ** (Appointed by House Minority Leader Pelosi)
Representative Pat Meehan (R-PA), February 24, 2017–April 27, 2018 *** (Appointed by Speaker Ryan)
Robert A. Brady of Pennsylvania, May 18, 2017–January 3, 2019 *** (Appointed by House Minority Leader Pelosi) (Re-Appointed by Speaker Pelosi on September 19, 2019)
Joseph Crowley of New York, May 18, 2017–January 3, 2019 *** (Appointed by House Minority Leader Pelosi), (Re-Appointed on October 8, 2021)
Representative George Holding (R-NC), May 23, 2018–January 3, 2021 *** (Appointed by Speaker Ryan)
Richard Trumka, May 19, 2017–August 5, 2021 * (Appointed by House Minority Leader Pelosi)
Ambassador Amy Gutmann, Ph.D. of Pennsylvania, July 3, 2017–March 1, 2022 ** (Appointed by House Minority Leader Pelosi)
Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR), February 8, 2017–March 11, 2022 ** (Appointed by Senate Majority Leader McConnell)
Senator Patrick Toomey (R-PA), February 8, 2017–January 3, 2023 *** (Appointed by Senate Majority Leader McConnell)
Senator Robert Casey, Jr. (D-PA), November 15, 2016–February 7, 2023 ** (Appointed by Senate Minority Leader Reid)
Ambassador David L. Cohen of Pennsylvania, November 15, 2016–March, 2023 ** (Appointed by Senate Minority Leader Reid)
Andrew Hohns, Ph.D. of Pennsylvania, November 15, 2016–June 8, 2023 ** (Appointed by Senate Minority Leader Reid)
Jim Koch of Massachusetts, February 25, 2017–August 22, 2023 ** (Appointed by Speaker Ryan)
Lorna M. Auerbach of California, August 25, 2023–February 28, 2024 ** (Appointed by Speaker McCarthy)

***Passed Away**

****Resigned from Commission**

*****Retired or Resigned from Congress/End of Term**

Public Law 114-196 also called for Executive, Judicial and Legislative branches, and other governmental and nonprofit heads to serve as non-voting Ex Officio member agencies of the Commission. Additional departments and Federal entities were added as Ex Officio member agencies of the Commission with the passage of a technical amendment package, Public Law 116-282.

Current Ex Officio non-voting members of the Commission

Department of the Interior	National Archives and Records Administration
Department of State	National Endowment for the Arts
Department of Justice	National Endowment for the Humanities
Department of Education	Library of Congress
Department of Defense	Institute of Museum and Library Services
United States Supreme Court	Smithsonian Institution

Appendix C – Commission Meetings List

Date Meeting Location/Highlights

November 14-15, 2018 Independence Hall, Philadelphia, PA

- Inaugural meeting - Commissioners sworn-in with Commissioner Dan DiLella as Chairperson selected by President Donald Trump.

March 24-25, 2019 National Headquarters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Washington, D.C.

- Strategic Planning. Keynote address by the Honorable John Warner, former Administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

June 13-14, 2019 Union League Club of Philadelphia and Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia, PA

- Commission's Committees begin to report and many stakeholders attend to begin creating the First Report to the President. Many breakout and working sessions were conducted.

September 15-16, 2019 Hilton Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

- Strategic planning sessions.

November 15, 2019 Teleconference call

- Commissioners approve all the governance documents of the Commission (Bylaws, Meeting Guidelines, Conflict of Interest Policy, and Travel and Reimbursement Policy). Frank Giordano was approved by the full Commission as the Executive Director.

March 24-25, 2020 The White House, Washington, D.C.

- Major presentations by the Planning and Historical Society Program Development Committee and the Marketing and Communications Committee.

June 18, 2020 Teleconference

- Reports from Committee Chairs and the America 250 Foundation's planning and program efforts.

November 20, 2020 Teleconference

- Special Presentation of National Signature Programs.

March 25, 2021 Teleconference

- Presentation of programs and events for July 4, 2021.

June 15, 2021 Teleconference

- Updates on all Commission Committees and a presentation from the America 250 Foundation, Inc.

September 9, 2021 Teleconference

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Update.

March 9, 2022

Teleconference

- Report and approval on changes to the governance documents and presentations on planning activities of the Foundation.

June 7, 2022

Smithsonian Institution Building (The Castle), Washington, D.C.

- Retreat for Commissioners only.

September 19, 2022

Museum on the American Revolution, Philadelphia, PA

- Commissioner Rosie Rios was selected by President Joe Biden as the Chairperson of the Commission in July. Chair Rios presents her vision on the direction of planning and programs for America250, and discussion on the organizational structure of the Commission and the Foundation. Reports were presented by Ex Officio members.

November 14, 2022

Smithsonian Museum of American History, Washington, D.C.

- To strengthen the Commission's Committee structure, the full Commission approves amendments to the Bylaws and Meeting Guidelines. Reports were presented by Ex Officio members.

March 27, 2023

United States Capitol, Washington, D.C.

- Approval of Committee charters, discussion and approval of America's Invitation, reports from Ex Officio members and RevolutionNJ.

June 12, 2023

Independence Hall Visitors Center, Philadelphia, PA

- Austin Weatherford was approved by the full Commission as Executive Director. Reports from Ex Officio members and the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission.

July 25, 2023

Federal Hall, New York City, NY

- The first Commission planning meeting and a report by representatives of the New York State Two Hundred Fiftieth Commemoration Commission. Executive Director Weatherford provided an update on Fresh Start. Commissioners received a presentation on the options for the new logo of the Commission and representatives of the New York State Two Hundred Fiftieth Commemoration Commission.

October 13, 2023

Library of Congress Jefferson Building, Washington, D.C.

- The Commission was shown the first iteration of the tentpole programs for the lead-up to 2026. Commissioners received reports from Ex Officio members and a presentation from representatives of the America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission.

December 15, 2023

Faneuil Hall, Boston, MA

- The Commission approved the reconstituting of the Advisory Councils, changes to the Bylaws, and the creation of the America250 Ambassadors Circle. Commissioners received reports from Ex

Officio members and a presentation from representatives of the Massachusetts Special Commission on the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

March 20, 2024 Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA

- The Commission met during Virginia American 250 Revolution Commission’s (VA250) “A Common Cause to All” convening. Commissioners received a presentation on the America250 “Tentpole Programs,” and provided feedback on the breadth and depth of the programs. Virginia First Lady Suzanne Youngkin and Honorary VA250 Chair Carly Fiorina provided updates on the progress that the Commonwealth and VA250 had made in preparing for the nation’s Semiquincentennial.

May 10, 2024 The American Village, Montevallo, AL

- Commissioners received an update from Chair Rios on key work, updates, and outreach since the last Commission meeting, including the addition of new Commissioners (Sens. Capito, Murkowski, and Padilla); new caucus members; America’s Field Trip school visits; and preparations to announce the first cohort of national resource partners. Ex Officio members of the Commission provided updates, and Colonel Alan Miller provided an update on how the Alabama 250 Commission plans to have their kick-off in April 2025 and the organization built out detailed committees to tackle various operational and commemorative objectives.

July 16, 2024 Carpenters’ Hall, Philadelphia, PA

- Commissioners were invited to have lunch and converse with students from the original 13 colonies that were nominated to participate in the Young Peoples’ Continental Congress. Following lunch, Commissioners received updates on the “Tentpole Programs,” Commission, Committees, Ex Officio agencies, and Stewart McLaurin of the White House Historical Association presented plans for the 2026 annual Christmas ornament. Lastly, Michael Newmuis of the City of Philadelphia provided an update on Philadelphia’s plans for 2026.

September 19, 2024 Supreme Court of the United States, Washington, DC

- An update on the growing number of America250 Caucus members was given by Chair Rios. Commissioner Jimmy Rane took the oath of office, following his appointment on August 13, 2024. Commissioners attended a working lunch to discuss the role of civics in the Semiquincentennial, and were then given a detailed presentation from the Department of the Navy on its plans for 2025 and 2026. The meeting ended with a final presentation from the Director of the Maryland 250 Commission.

November 8, 2024 Old Provost and Exchange Dungeon, Charleston, SC

- In keeping with the Commission’s goal to conduct meetings where “History Happened,” the Commission met at the Old Provost and Exchange Dungeon in Charleston, SC. Commissioners received an update on America’s Field Trip, America Gives, Our American Story, and were given a breakdown of the timeline of tentpole launches. Chair Rios advised that the Commissioners would receive an updated Playbook and will receive an update on the transition work with the incoming administration.

Appendix D - Public and Private Funding History

PUBLIC FUNDING

Beginning in FY 2019, the Commission has received annual Federal appropriations provided by Congress, and it seeks to continue to receive funds through the end of the Commission’s term on December 31, 2027. Federal funding received:

FY 2019	\$500,000	P.L. 116-6, enacted 2/15/19
FY 2020	\$3,300,000	P.L. 116-94, enacted 12/20/19
FY 2021	\$8,000,000	P.L. 116-260, enacted 12/27/20
FY 2022	\$8,000,000	P.L. 117-103, enacted 3/15/22
FY 2023	\$15,000,000	P.L. 117-328, enacted 12/29/22
FY 2024	\$15,000,000	P.L. 118-42, enacted 3/9/24
FY 2025	TBD	TBD

PRIVATE FUNDING

Through the efforts of the current and former Chairs of the Commission and its Executive Directors, approximately \$12.4 million in cash contributions and \$11.8 million in-kind pledges has been raised from the private sector to date.

For FY 2023 and all subsequent years, the Commission’s goal is to significantly increase private sector funds earmarked for Commission identified programs, partnerships, and events.

FY 2023, FY 2024 & FY 2025 Budget Comparisons

Category	FY 2023		FY 2024		FY 2025	
	Actual Expenditure	%	Actual Expenditure	%	Budget	%
Staff Costs - Salaries & Benefits	\$ 4,932,745	34%	\$ 3,079,430	21%	\$ 3,370,170	18%
G&A - Rent, IT, Office Supplies, etc	771,249	5%	827,824	6%	1,021,030	5%
Travel	211,347	1%	262,537	2%	405,400	2%
Grants - State & Territory Commissions	-	0%	155,000	1%	150,000	1%
Programs/ Professional Services	8,673,603	59%	10,352,447	71%	13,679,900	71%
Contingency					558,795	3%
Total	\$ 14,588,945	100%	\$ 14,677,237	100%	\$ 19,185,295	100%

Contributions to other organizations

Contributions to other organizations			
Date	Payee	Description	Amount
05/24/2021	1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission	Grant to support commemorative program	10,000.00
05/26/2021	AIANTA	Grant to support AIANTA programs	5,000.00
05/26/2021	Association of African American Museums	Grant to support AAAM programs	5,000.00
06/30/2021	Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums	ATALM 2021 scholarships	5,000.00
08/30/2021	Philadelphia250	Contribution to Philadelphia250	25,000.00
09/19/2021	NCPH	Conference sponsorship	3,000.00
09/19/2021	The Carpenters' Company	Support for Young People's Continental Congress	17,000.00
09/28/2021	ASALH	Conference sponsorship	5,000.00
09/30/2021	North Carolina Department of Cultural & Natural Resources	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
12/21/2021	Historic Society of Michigan	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
12/21/2021	ND State Historical Society	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
01/10/2022	Virginia 250th Commemoration	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
02/22/2022	National History Day	Special prize sponsorship	5,000.00
04/27/2022	Preservation Maryland, Inc.	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
07/22/2022	AIANTA	Sponsorship AIANTA programs	5,000.00
08/09/2022	Association of African American Museum	Title Sponsorship_ AAAM 2022	5,000.00
08/23/2022	AASLH	2022 Annual meeting sponsorship	3,000.00
10/28/2022	UTAH Dept of CCE	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
11/29/2022	Philadelphia250	Contribution Philadelphia250_Yr 2 of 4	25,000.00
01/19/2023	Wisconsin Dept of Veterans Affairs (WDVA)	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
02/10/2023	National History Day	Annual sponsorship	5,000.00
04/06/2023	Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission, Inc	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
05/10/2023	AIANTA	2023 AIANTA bronze level Sponsorship	5,000.00
06/13/2023	Alabama State American Village	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
08/16/2023	Delaware Heritage Commission	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
08/25/2023	State of CO - History Colorado	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
09/18/2023	State of Kansas - Dept of Commerce	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
09/30/2023	Philadelphia250	Non-profit Contribution_3 of 4 P.A.	25,000.00
11/09/2023	Dec 16th, 1773, Inc dba Boston Tea Party	Boston Tea Party Grant	50,000.00
11/14/2023	Nebraska State Historical Society	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
01/18/2024	South Dakota Historical Society Foundation	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
02/09/2024	State of Wyoming SPCR	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
02/23/2024	State of Montana Historical Society	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
03/15/2024	Washington State Historical Society	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
04/18/2024	The Oregon Historical Society	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
04/26/2024	National History Day	Annual Sponsorship	5,000.00
07/31/2024	HI AMVETS Service Foundation	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
08/09/2024	State of Arizona	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
08/09/2024	OH- The Ohio Historical Society	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
08/09/2024	Texas State History Museum	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
08/23/2024	LA-Baton Rouge Area Foundation	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00

08/23/2024	PA-Philadelphia250	Contribution Philadelphia250_Yr 4 of 4	25,000.00
09/05/2024	IL Humanities Council, Inc	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
09/11/2024	AR Foundation for Arkansas Heritage & History	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
09/11/2024	Connecticut Humanities Council, Inc	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
09/20/2024	WV Division of Culture & History	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
10/11/2024	America250PA	PA_A250 1st continental Congress Press Event	50,000.00
10/11/2024	Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association	2026 Rose Parade Float Fee	7,500.00
10/31/2024	NV State of NV Controller	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
11/08/2024	Rhode Island Historical Society	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
11/14/2024	The Mississippi America250 Foundation	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
12/13/2024	The State of Alaska	Seed Fund - State A250 Commission	10,000.00
Total			600,500.00

Appendix E - 2023 Federal, State and Legislative Engagement

a. Federal and International Partnerships

The Federal team plays a vital role in unifying the diverse components of the Federal government, encompassing executive agencies, independent agencies, commissions, boards, committees, and other relevant entities. Their primary objective is to facilitate the collective participation of these entities in commemorating the significant milestone of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. By fostering collaboration and coordination across these various corners of the Federal government, the team ensures a cohesive and inclusive approach to honoring this momentous occasion in the nation's history.

In addition to working closely with the 12 agencies specified in the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission Act, the Federal team has been actively engaged with approximately 20 additional agencies. We are also diligently pursuing strong connections with all Federal agencies to encourage and support participation in the Semiquincentennial commemoration. In addition to our Ex Officios, agencies that have been engaged in 2024 include Americorps, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, NASA, the National Gallery of Art, the U.S. Postal Service, Government Publishing Office, U.S. Mint, and Census Bureau. The involvement of Federal agencies is paramount to the development of our commemoration planning process.

To ensure effective collaboration across all of America250's Federal partners, four primary communication channels have been established:

- **Meetings with Agency Ex Officio Representatives:** These meetings serve as a platform for thoughtful and engaging conversations about activities related to the America250 commemoration. The Agencies' participation in these meetings has been consistent, and they have provided valuable feedback to enhance the planning process.
- **Bi-Monthly Working Groups:** America250 works with federal agencies to convene three working groups: 1) National Mall and Visitor Experience, 2) Civics and Education, and 3) Marketing and Feedback. These meetings serve as an opportunity for Ex Officio partners to convene and discuss the core 2026 programming tentpoles, align on key activation dates, and coordinate associated planning efforts. Ex Officio members diligently attend these meetings and provide topics for discussion in advance to ensure we cover the latest updates and due-outs.
- **Quarterly Meetings with Communication Directors and public engagement officers:** These interactions have facilitated effective communication strategies, ensuring information is appropriately shared with the public and key stakeholders.
- **Legislative Brainstorming Meetings:** Consisting of a broad group including five Congressional offices and various Federal agencies/commissioners.

b. State Commission Activity

America250 seeks to ensure that each and every American has the opportunity to engage with and participate in the commemoration and celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary, and most Americans will have the opportunity to do so at the local and State levels. Therefore, America250 worked to encourage all U.S. States, five territories, and the District of Columbia to establish their own Semiquincentennial planning entities through legislation or executive action for the anniversary. All 56 Semiquincentennial planning entities have been created and America250 continues to coordinate and collaborate with all through regular communication and targeted outreach. This is an additional 13 that were brought on during 2024. See Appendix F for the list of names and creation dates of State and Territory Semiquincentennial planning entities.

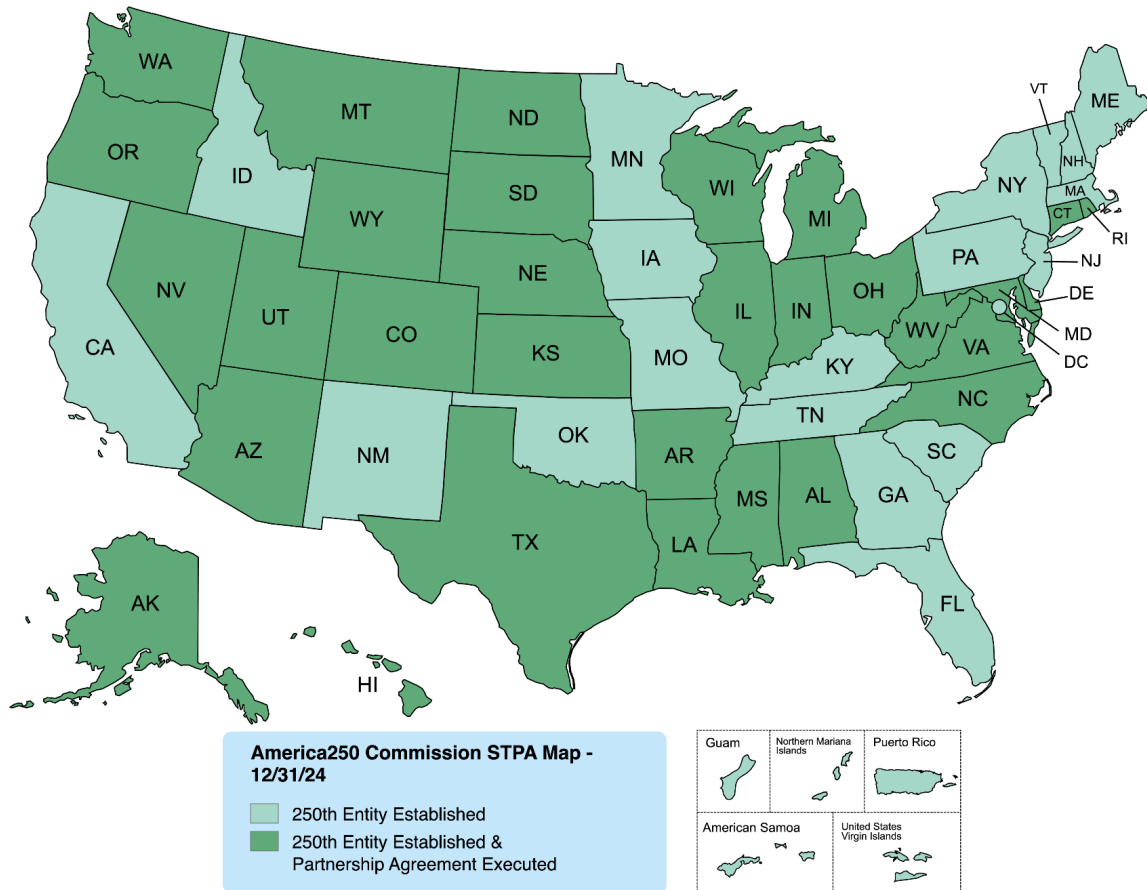
State Collaboration Efforts: During 2024, America250 provided significant, ongoing planning support and counsel to State and Territory Commissions, via virtual briefings, one-on-one meetings, and the 2024 State & Territory Convening. This support included and/or resulted in:

- Significant participation by State and Territory Commissions in amplifying America's Field Trip to their networks of schools, educators, youth groups and media contacts.
- Partnership around key historical moments, notably the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia.
- Chair Rios and senior leadership of America250 addressing state commission meetings and engagements including Alaska, Arkansas, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.

Partnership Agreements: As of December 31, 2024, 31 states have executed the America250 State and Territory Partnership Agreement (STPA). Each State has been provided a trademarked America250 logo, the option to use a secured domain name for its website, and the option to receive \$10,000 in funds to support Semiquincentennial planning initiatives.

The following 31 States have executed the STPA: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Several additional Semiquincentennial planning entities are considering executing the STPA to support their planning efforts.



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c. Legislative Engagement

● **Commissioner Appointments:** Of the 24 Commission appointments, eight are Members of Congress, and 16 are private citizens.

Appointments in 2024 were as follows:

- Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), March 22, 2024–Present, (Appointed by Senate Minority Leader McConnell)
- Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), April 19, 2024–Present, (Appointed by Senate Minority Leader McConnell)
- Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), May 8, 2024–Present, (Appointed by Senate Majority Leader Schumer)
- Tonio Burgos of New York, November 13, 2024–Present (Appointed by Senate Minority Leader Schumer)
- Jimmy Rane of Alabama, August 13, 2024–Present (Appointment by Speaker Johnson)

The Commission has one vacancy: a private citizen to be appointed by Senate Leader Charles Schumer. See Appendix B.

- **Congressional America250 Caucus and Activity:** As America’s Semiquincentennial approaches, America250 is on a mission to encourage all 541 members of Congress to join the Congressional America250 Caucus. Members of the Caucus are kept informed of activities and preparations related to America250 and upcoming commemorations of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As 2026 nears, Caucus members will be encouraged to get involved in briefings, meetings, and promoting America250 on the national stage, in their state, and in their communities whenever possible.

The Caucus co-chairs are the elected members of the Commission, including Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Alex Padilla (D-CA), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), and Representatives Robert Aderholt (R-AL-04), Dwight Evans (D-NJ-03), Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL-27), and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12).

America250 continues to contact Congressional Members and staff regarding invitations to join the Congressional America250 Caucus.

As of December 31, 2024, the Congressional America250 Caucus had 260 Members, including 40 U.S. Senators and 220 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, an increase of 146 Members since the end of 2023. As States and Territories announce the creation of State Commissions, America250 works to inform Members of the State’s congressional delegation. Letters are sent providing an update on the creation of the State Commission and inviting Members to join the Caucus. See Appendix G.

In-person Congressional America250 Caucus receptions were held on January 17, June 5, and September 18, 2024, on Capitol Hill. Hosted by the Commission, Chair Rosie Rios greeted fellow Commissioners, Caucus members and other Members, and numerous Congressional staff, representatives of Federal Ex Officio agencies, and several interested parties. At the receptions, the primary topics of discussion were the scheduled launch of America’s Field Trip, the Commission-approved programs, and continued collaboration with all States and Territories in development of their planning efforts.

A Congressional America250 Caucus reception was also held on December 10, 2024. Chair Rios and Commissioner Aderholt spoke to the group about ongoing America’s Field Trip program, the growing involvement of our Ex Officio Federal partners, achieving the goal of 250 Caucus members, and achieving the goal by governors in creating Semiquincentennial planning entities in the 50 states, the five Territories, and the District of Columbia.

Monthly reports on America250’s actions and activities are being distributed by the office of Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman to all Congressional America250 Caucus members.

- **Semiquincentennial Time Capsule Act:** On November 14, 2023, Representative and Commissioner Bonnie Watson Coleman of New Jersey, introduced the Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act (H.R. 6394). The bipartisan and bicameral bill, part of the

nation's planned Semiquincentennial celebration, would authorize the Architect of the Capitol to create a time capsule and have it buried on the west lawn of the Capitol, to remain sealed until July 4, 2276, the nation's 500th Anniversary. The contents of the time capsule will be determined by the offices of the Speaker of the House, the Office of the Minority Leader of the House, and the Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate. They will include items that represent important legislation or institutional milestones of Congress, a message from the Congress to the future Congress, and other items that reflect our history at the time. Also on November 14, 2023, a companion bill (S. 3293) was introduced by Senator and Commissioner Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire. H.R. 6394 was approved by the House on December 16, 2024. Although the bill was sent to the Senate for consideration, they did not move on it. A new bill is expected to be introduced in 2025.

- **Special Session at Independence Hall**

In honor of the Semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, on June 25th, Representative Brendan Boyle (D-PA-02) of Pennsylvania introduced House Concurrent Resolution 115 calling for Congress to hold a joint session of Congress at Independence Hall, in Philadelphia, on Thursday, July 2, 2026. The Resolution had been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary but went no further. A new Resolution is expected to be introduced in 2025.

- **Reports to the President and the Congress:** Pursuant to Public Law 114-196, Section 9(d), the Commission is required annually through December 31, 2027, to “submit to Congress a report of the activities of the Commission.” An annual report for 2023 to the President and Congress was submitted on January 23, 2024. The report reflects action and activities and provides a general overview describing the path forward for America250. The report was provided to Commissioners and members of the Congressional America250 Caucus. The report is available on the America250.org website.

- **Quarterly Reports:** Included in underlying legislation of H.R. 133 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, enacted on December 27, 2022, is language directing the Commission to provide the Appropriations Committees with quarterly reports detailing spending by activity to continue to help the Committees understand the Commission's funding needs. The Commission continues to provide the Committees with quarterly reports.

- **FY 2024 Budget Request:** The Commission approved its budget request of \$30,000,000 for FY 2024. The Commission's \$30,000,000 request was included in President Biden's budget request to Congress, released on March 9, 2023. The Commission coordinated with its elected Commissioners for submission to the Appropriations Committees.

During the 1st quarter of FY 2024, Congress passed two Continuing Resolution (CR) to continue government operations into FY 2024. The CR (P.L. 118-15) continued through November 17, 2023. The second CR (P.L. 118-22) continued government operations through February 2, 2024, for the Department of Interior and several other departments. A third CR (P.L. 118-40) continued

operations through March 8, 2024.

Congress approved an appropriations bill that included funds for Interior Appropriations and \$15,000,000 for the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission. Public Law 118-42 was enacted on March 9, 2024.

- **FY 2025 Budget Request:** The Commission approved its budget request of \$100,000,000 for FY 2025. The Commission's \$100,000,000 request was included in President Biden's budget request to Congress, released on March 11, 2024. The Commission coordinated with its elected Commissioners for submission to the Appropriations Committees.

For continuing government operations into FY 2025, Congress passed two Continuing Resolutions (CR). The first CR (P.L. 118-83) continued through December 20, 2024. The second CR (P.L. 118-158) continues government operations through March 14, 2025. Action on the FY 2025 appropriations bills is expected in 2025.

- **FY 2026 Budget Request:** The Commission is preparing its budget request for FY 2026, a fiscal year that will include the actual anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence - July 4, 2026. The budget request will reflect the funding required to implement the national programs and activities approved for execution by the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission.

Appendix F - Names and Creation Dates of State and Territory Semiquincentennial Planning Entities

**NAMES & CREATION DATES
OF STATE AND TERRITORY SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL
PLANNING ENTITIES**

As of 12/31/24

Alabama: Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission - 2/11/21
Alaska: America250-Alaska Task Force – 11/6/24
American Samoa: American Samoa Semiquincentennial Commission – 1/31/24
Arizona: Arizona America250 Commission - 3/23/22
Arkansas: Arkansas 250 Commission – 7/1/24
California: California America 250 Workgroup - 7/3/24
Colorado: America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission - 5/26/22
Connecticut: Connecticut Semiquincentennial Commission - 7/1/22
Delaware: Delaware Heritage Commission Semiquincentennial Committee - 7/14/23
District of Columbia: America's Semiquincentennial - District of Columbia 250 Commission – 9/12/24
Florida: Florida Semiquincentennial Advisory Commission – 12/6/24
Georgia: Georgia US250 Committee - 10/31/23
Guam: Guam America250 Commission – 12/16/24
Hawaii: Hawaii 250th Commission - 12/15/23
Idaho: America250 in Idaho Task Force - 7/1/24
Illinois: Illinois America 250 Commission - 5/27/22
Indiana: Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission - 3/7/22
Iowa: Iowa America 250 Committee - 7/6/23
Kansas: Kansas Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial - 4/7/22
Kentucky: Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission - 4/14/21
Louisiana: America250 Louisiana Commission - 6/3/22
Maine: Maine Semiquincentennial Commission - 7/31/23
Maryland: Maryland 250 Commission – 7/3/23
Massachusetts: Massachusetts Special Commission on the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution - 7/16/21
Michigan: Michigan USA 250th Committee - 12/30/20
Minnesota: Governor’s Committee on Minnesota America 250 - 9/22/23
Mississippi: Mississippi USA Semiquincentennial Commission - 3/28/23
Missouri: America 250 Missouri Commission -7/6/23
Montana: Montana 250th Commission - 5/18/23
Nebraska: The Nebraska Semiquincentennial Commission - 8/21/21
Nevada: Nevada America250 Commission – 6/6/24
New Hampshire: New Hampshire American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission - 4/11/22
New Jersey: RevolutionNJ - 8/17/18

New Mexico: New Mexico Semiquincentennial Commission – 3/1/24
New York: New York State Two Hundred Fiftieth Commemoration Commission - 12/22/21
North Carolina: North Carolina USA 250th Committee - 10/4/19
North Dakota: North Dakota America250 Commission - 4/24/21
Northern Mariana Islands: CNMI America250 Commission – 8/8/24
Ohio: Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial - 6/30/21
Oklahoma: Oklahoma Semiquincentennial Commission – 8/1/24
Oregon: America 250 Oregon Commission – 2/29/24
Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial (America250PA) - 6/12/18
Puerto Rico: Puerto Rico Commission for the Commemoration of the Semiquincentennial of the United States - est. 7/2/24
Rhode Island: Rhode Island Semiquincentennial Commission (RI 250) - 6/14/21
South Carolina: South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission - 3/20/19
South Dakota: America’s 250th South Dakota Commission - 7/6/23
Tennessee: Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial - 5/10/19
Texas: Texas America 250 Commission - 5/30/21
U.S. Virgin Islands: America250 Commission of the United States Virgin Islands - 7/1/23
Utah: America250 Utah Commission - 8/13/21
Vermont: Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission - 12/15/20
Virginia: Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission - 4/9/20
Washington: Washington Semiquincentennial Committee - 3/17/22
West Virginia: West Virginia Semiquincentennial Commission - 4/26/21
Wisconsin: Wisconsin Commission for the Semiquincentennial of the United States - 12/3/21
Wyoming: Wyoming Semiquincentennial Planning Task Force - 6/30/23

Appendix G - Congressional America250 Caucus List

CO-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AMERICA250 CAUCUS (260 as of 12/31/24, including 128 Ds, 131 Rs, and 1 Independent)

ALABAMA

Sen. Katie Britt (R-AL)
Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL-04) – Caucus
Co-Chair
Rep. Jerry Carl (R-AL-01)
Rep. Barry Moore (R-AL-02)
Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL-06)
Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL-03)
Rep. Dale Strong (R-AL-05)

ALASKA

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) – Caucus
Co-Chair
Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK)

AMERICAN SAMOA

ARIZONA

Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ-06)
Rep. Eli Crane (R-AZ-02)
Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ-09)
Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-07)
Rep. Greg Stanton (D-AZ-04)

ARKANSAS

Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)
Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)
Rep. French Hill (R-AR-02)
Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR-04)
Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR-03)

CALIFORNIA

Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA) – Caucus
Co-Chair
Sen. Adam Schiff (D-CA)
Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA-33)
Rep. Nanette Barragan (D-CA-44)
Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA-06)
Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA-41)
Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24)
Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA-28)
Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA-21)
Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA-08)
Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA-34)
Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-02)
Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA-50)

Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-01)
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA-12)
Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA-49)
Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA-36)
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-18)
Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA-05)
Rep. Kevin Mullin (D-CA-15)
Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-19)
Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA-50)
Rep. Michelle Steel (R-CA-45)
Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA-14)
Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA-39)
Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA-35)

COLORADO

Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO-01)
Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-02)

CONNECTICUT

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)
Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT-02)
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-03)
Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT-04)
Rep. John Larson (D-CT-01)

DELAWARE

Sen. Thomas Carper (D-DE)
Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE-AL)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC-AL)

FLORIDA

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12)
Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL-16)
Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL-03)
Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL-02)
Rep. Scott Franklin (R-FL-18)
Rep. Bill Posey (R-FL-08)
Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL-27) –
Caucus Co-Chair
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL-25)
Rep. Daniel Webster (R-FL-11)
Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL-24)

GEORGIA

Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-GA)
Rep. Sanford Bishop, Jr. (D-GA-02)
Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA-01)
Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-GA-09)
Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-GA-11)
Rep. Rich McCormick (R-GA-06)
Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA-08)
Rep. Nikema Williams (D-GA-05)

GUAM

Del. James Moylan (R-GU-00)

HAWAII**IDAHO**

Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)
Sen. James Risch (R-ID)
Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-ID-01)
Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID-02)

ILLINOIS

Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL-06)
Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL-07)
Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL-11)
Rep. Jonathan Jackson (D-IL-01)
Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-08)
Rep. Mary Miller (R-IL-15)

INDIANA

Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN-04)
Rep. Andre Carson (D-IN-07)
Rep. Erin Houchin (R-IN-09)
Rep. Rudy Yakym (R-IN-02)

IOWA

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA-02)

KANSAS

Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS-04)

KENTUCKY

Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY-06)

LOUISIANA

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)
Rep. Troy Carter (D-LA-02)
Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA-04)

MAINE

Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)
Sen. Angus King (I-ME)
Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01)

MARYLAND

Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD-05)
Rep. Glenn Ivey (D-MD-04)
Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-MD-07)
Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD-08)
Rep. David Trone (D-MD-06)

MASSACHUSETTS

Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA)
Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA-08)
Rep. James McGovern (D-MA-02)
Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA-06)
Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA-07)
Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA-03)

MICHIGAN

Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI-12)
Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI-08)
Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI-09)
Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI-04)
Rep. Hillary Scholten (D-MI-03)
Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI-11)
Rep. Shri Thanedar (D-MI-13)
Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI-05)

MINNESOTA

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

MISSISSIPPI

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)
Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)
Rep. Michael Guest (R-MS-03)
Rep. Trent Kelly (R-MS-01)
Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS-02)

MISSOURI

Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-MO)
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO-05)

MONTANA**NEBRASKA**

Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE-02)

NEVADA

Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV-02)
Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV-04)
Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV-03)
Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV-01)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) – Caucus
Co-Chair
Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH-01)

NEW JERSEY

Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)
Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05)
Rep. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R-NJ-07)
Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ-03)
Rep. LaMonica McIver (D-NJ-10)
Rep. Rob Menendez, Jr. (D-NJ-08)
Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ-01)
Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06)
Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ-11)
Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ-04)
Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ-02)
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12) –
Caucus Co-Chair

NEW MEXICO

Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)

NEW YORK

Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY-09)
Rep. Andrew Garbarino (R-NY-02)
Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY-08)
Rep. Timothy Kennedy (D-NY-26)
Rep. Nicholas Langworthy (R-NY-23)
Rep. Mike Lawler (R-NY-17)
Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY-11)
Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY-06)
Rep. Marc Molinaro (R-NY-19)
Rep. Joseph Morelle (D-NY-25)
Rep. Patrick Ryan (D-NY-18)
Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21)
Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-NY-03)
Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY-24)
Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY-20)
Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY-15)
Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY-07)

NORTH CAROLINA

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)
Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC-12)
Rep. Valerie Foushee (D-NC-04)
Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC-05)

Rep. Don Davis (D-NC-01)
Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC-09)
Rep. Greg Murphy (R-NC-03)
Rep. Deborah Ross (D-NC-03)
Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC-07)

NORTH DAKOTA

Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)
Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Del. Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP-AL)

OHIO

Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-OH-03)
Rep. Shontel Brown (D-OH-11)
Rep. Mike Carey (R-OH-15)
Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH-05)
Rep. Michael Rulli (D-OH-06)
Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH-02)

OKLAHOMA

Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)
Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)
Rep. Stephanie Bice (R-OK-05)
Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK-03)

OREGON

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01)

PENNSYLVANIA

Sen. John Fetterman (D-PA)
Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA-02)
Rep. Matthew Cartwright (D-PA-08)
Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA-04)
Rep. Chris DeLuzio (D-PA-17)
Rep. Dwight Evans (D-PA-03) – Caucus
Co-Chair
Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01)
Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA-06)
Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA-16)
Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA-09)
Rep. Scott Perry (R-PA-10)
Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA-05)
Rep. Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA-15)
Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA-07)

PUERTO RICO

RHODE ISLAND

Rep. Gabe Amo (D-RI-01)
Rep. Seth Magaziner (D-RI-02)

SOUTH CAROLINA

Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC-03)
Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC-05)
Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC-02)

SOUTH DAKOTA

Sen. Michael Rounds (R-SD)

TENNESSEE

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)
Rep. Tim Burchett (R-TN-02)
Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN-09)
Rep. Scott DesJarlais (R-TN-04)
Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN-03)

TEXAS

Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX-19)
Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX-36)
Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX-26)
Rep. John Carter (R-TX-31)
Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX-20)
Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX-30)
Rep. Monica De La Cruz (R-TX-15)
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX-37)
Rep. Jake Ellzey (R-TX-06)
Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-TX-16)
Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX-07)
Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-TX-29)
Rep. Al Green (D-TX-09)
Rep. Wesley Hunt (R-TX-38)
Rep. Morgan Luttrell (R-TX-08)
Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX-10)
Rep. Troy Nehls (R-TX-22)
Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX-11)
Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX-21)
Rep. Keith Self (R-TX-03)
Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R-TX-24)
Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX-33)
Rep. Roger Williams (R-TX-25)

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Del. Stacey Plaskett (D-VI-AL)

UTAH

Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)
Rep. Celeste Maloy (R-UT-02)
Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT-01)
Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT-04)

VERMONT**VIRGINIA**

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)
Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)
Rep. Don Beyer, Jr. (D-VA-08)
Rep. Ben Cline (R-VA-06)
Rep. H. Morgan Griffith (R-VA-09)
Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA-02)
Rep. Jennifer McClellan (D-VA-04)
Rep. Robert Scott (D-VA-03)
Rep. Robert Wittman (R-VA-01)

WASHINGTON

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-07)
Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA-02)
Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA-04)

WEST VIRGINIA

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) –
Caucus Co-Chair
Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-WV)
Rep. Carol Miller (R-WV-01)
Rep. Alex X. Mooney (R-WV-02)

WISCONSIN

Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI-06)
Rep. Bryan Steil (R-WI-01)
Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-WI-03)

WYOMING

Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)
Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WY-AL)

Appendix H - Key Appearances and Press

In 2024, Chair Rios attended many events and speaking engagements to share the vision of America250 and the organization's plans. These engagements also led to increased private sector connections and collaboration opportunities for the organization. National and local media also expressed growing interest in our programs and America250 was featured in many press placements across broadcast, print and online channels. Press was particularly interested in America's Field Trip, the Ambassador Circle announcement and news that President George W. Bush, Mrs. Laura Bush, President Barack Obama, and Mrs. Michelle Obama will serve as Honorary National Co-Chairs of America250. Some highlights are described below.

Select Appearances by Chair Rios

January 17, 2024	Hosted Congressional America250 Caucus Reception, Washington, DC
January 18, 2024	Participated as a judge at the Rendell Center Citizenship Challenge, Philadelphia, PA
January 18, 2024	Attended Carpenter's Hall 300th Anniversary Kick-off Reception, Philadelphia, PA
February 24, 2024	Remarks at National Governors' Association Winter Meeting, Washington, DC
March 19, 2024	Remarks at "A Common Cause for All" Luncheon in conjunction with USSC Commission Meeting, Williamsburg, VA
April 10, 2024	Remarks at Cavanaugh Council and President's Circle Biennial Symposium, Washington, DC
April 11, 2024	Remarks to Texas Historical Commission, via Zoom
April 22, 2024	Visited Boys and Girls Club to talk about America's Field Trip, New York, NY
April 29, 2024	Met with former President George Bush regarding co-chair role, Dallas, TX
April 30, 2024	Appeared on "Modern Mom Probs" Podcast hosted by Tara Clark
May 8, 2024	Spoke at a panel at the Milken Global Conference, Los Angeles, CA
June 4, 2024	Remarks at National Congress of American Indians Conference Cherokee, NC

June 5, 2024	Hosted Congressional America250 Caucus Reception, Washington, DC
June 14, 2024	Remarks at Points of Light Annual Conference Houston, TX
June 20, 2024	Remarks at US Conference of Mayors Summer Conference Kansas City, MO
July 9-11, 2024	Hosted State and Territory Convening, Washington, DC
July 13, 2024	Participated in the Smithsonian's "Night at the Museum" event Washington, DC
July 16 - 17, 2024	Spoke at the Young People's Continental Congress Luncheon in conjunction with Commission Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
August 5, 2024	Remarks at Naturalization Ceremony, Chicago, IL
August 6, 2024	Participated in America's Field Trip Events, New York, NY
August 22 - 23, 2024	Attended and spoke at Michael Milken's Hamptons Dialogue East Hampton, NY
September 11, 2024	Attended 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony at World Trade Center then participated in a service project packing meals aboard The Intrepid New York, NY
September 17, 2024	Remarks at Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative Annual Meeting Baton Rouge, LA
September 18, 2024	Hosted Congressional America250 Caucus Reception and Discussion with Ken Burns in conjunction with Commission Meeting at the Supreme Court, Washington, DC
September 21, 2024	Remarks at PA250's Press Event, Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia, PA
September 23, 2024	Remarks to Arkansas State Commission Meeting, via Zoom
September 23, 2024	Remarks at Keep America Beautiful Reception, New York, NY
September 24, 2024	Remarks at Clinton Global Initiative Roundtable Discussion New York, NY

September 26, 2024 Remarks at More Perfect Convening, Mount Vernon, VA

October 3, 2024 Remarks at Alaska Historical Society Meeting, via Zoom

October 8, 2024 Spoke on the National Cathedral’s “Crossroads” Podcast
Washington, DC

October 9, 2024 Remarks at Independent Sector Conference, Washington, DC

October 10, 2024 Remarks at Washington State Commission Meeting, via Zoom

October 15, 2024 Remarks at Fortune’s “Most Powerful Women” Summit, Dana Point, CA

October 27, 2024 Met with National Congress of American Indians Leadership and spoke at
the Leadership Reception, Las Vegas, NV

October 30, 2024 Remarks at National Congress of American Indians General Assembly
Las Vegas, NV

November 7-8, 2024 Remarks at USSC Commission Reception and Meeting, Charleston, SC

November 21, 2024 Remarks at Historic Hotels of America Conference, via Zoom

December 3, 2024 Remarks at European Union Cultural Counsellors Meeting
Washington, DC

December 5, 2024 Remarks at The Business Roundtable meeting, via Zoom

December 10, 2024 Hosted Congressional America250 Caucus Reception, Washington, DC

December 11, 2024 Remarks at the State Department Public Affairs Officers’ Town Hall
via Zoom

December 11, 2024 Remarks at Hispanic Leadership Summit, New York, NY

Press Examples from America’s Field Trip

America250 has generated more than 75 pieces of coverage focused on America’s Field Trip. Stories covered the pilot launch, the pilot student awardees from their respective states, and the full school year 2024-2025 contest launch. America250 Chair Rosie Rios also participated in a media tour in December 2024 to promote the contest which reached more than 10.5M Americans.

[March19] FOX News: 'America's Field Trip' to send students to nation's top landmarks for 'unforgettable experiences' | Fox News

[\[April7\] \[VIDEO\] WOOD TV8: How students could win trip to iconic national landmark](#)

[\[May9\] Greeley Tribune: Former U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner encourages Winograd students to enter America's Field Trip contest](#)

[\[July9\] Franklin County Free Press: ELEVEN PENNSYLVANIA STUDENTS AMONG FIRST-EVER 'AMERICA'S FIELD TRIP' AWARDEES](#)

[\[July12\] \[VIDEO\] Fox Baltimore: Nine local students awarded in "America's Field Trip" contest](#)

[\[July12\] Boston Globe: Peabody third-grader and middle schoolers from Boston and Chelmsford are winners in America's Field Trip contest](#)

[\[July17\] \[VIDEO\] ABC 4 Utah: Two Lehi students selected to win tickets to 'America's Field Trip'](#)

[\[July17\] Maine Morning Star: Reflecting on what America means, two Maine students among national essay award winners](#)

[\[July17\] \[VIDEO\] ABC Salt Lake City: Two Lehi students selected to win tickets to 'American Field Trip'](#)

[\[July18\] The Eagle-Tribune: Student wins national essay competition](#)

[\[September3\]: PostandCourier.com: Student wins America 250 contest](#)

[\[September18\]: Coral Springs Talk: Coral Springs Elementary 5th Grader's Essay Wins First Place and a Trip to Yellowstone](#)

[\[September21\]: Pacific Daily News: Guam students can win trip to national landmarks with America250](#)

[\[September24\]: WCBI.com: Celebrating 250 years of America through exploration](#)

[\[September 27\] WUSA9.com: Inspiring the next generation: America250's Historic Field Trip for students across the nation](#)

[\[December4\] USA Today: 'Rediscover our country': Have you been to these 10 US destinations?](#)

[\[December14\] 13WHAM.com: America's Field Trip: what the U.S. means to you](#)

[\[December19\] \[AUDIO\] The Doug Wagner Show: Rosie Rios - America250.org](#)

[\[December24\] WTKR.com: America's Field Trip on Coast Live](#)

[December31] Newschannel9.com: America's Field Trip: A Journey Across America for Students

Press Examples from Ambassador Circle Announcement

[June12] Laurel Leader-Call: Bass selected as ambassador for celebration of America250

[June13] MyChesCo: Former Governor Ed Rendell Joins America250 Ambassador Circle

[June14] Charleston Regional Business Journal: Business leader and philanthropist Darla Moore joins team to celebrate America's 250th

[June14] Columbia Business Report: Business leader and philanthropist Darla Moore joins team to celebrate America's 250th

[June19] Post & Courier: Darla Moore joins America250 Ambassador Circle

[July2] American Law Institute: Mary Smith Named to Ambassador Circle for America250

OTHER PRESS

[July4] NPR: Get ready: America's big 250th birthday celebrations are just 2 years away

[July4] Newsweek: Optimists Will Write the Story of America | Opinion

[August1] Associated Press: Obama and Bush join effort to mark America's 250th anniversary in a time of political polarization

[August1] Newsweek: Obama and Bush to Mark America's 250th Anniversary

[October12] Boston Globe: America's 250th birthday, the World Cup, the Olympics: the vibes promise to be much different under Trump or Harris

[November7] [VIDEO] Fox 24 News Now: America 250 Chair Rosie Rios on The Most Comprehensive Celebration in Our Nation's History

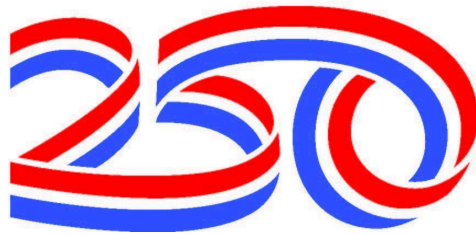
[November7] Newsweek: America's Turning 250, and Donald Trump Is Throwing the Party

[November15]: Fortune: Most Powerful Women Summit 2024: America's 250th

[November24] [VIDEO] NBC News: Iowa to host fair to celebrate America's 250th anniversary in 2026

[November28] Daily Caller: VICTORIA HUGHES: Trump Is Going To Give America A Spectacular 250th Birthday Celebration

AMERICA



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