



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capital
Boise

WHEREAS, in the year 2026, the United States of America will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the country's founding and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776; and

WHEREAS, the founding of the United States of America is one of the most extraordinary and providential events in human history and should be celebrated accordingly; and

WHEREAS, in celebrating the Declaration of Independence, we are reminded that it is our responsibility as Americans to keep our Republic by preserving self-governance, pursuing happiness, inspiring gratitude and patriotism, and passing down patriotic traditions to future generations; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 114-196, passed by the 114th U.S. Congress and signed by the president in 2016, established the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to direct the national commemoration of America's founding – known as America250 – and encouraged similar state and local efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho shall participate in this national commemoration as "America250 in Idaho"; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's representation on the Congressional America250 Caucus by U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson and U.S. Sen. Jim Risch underscores our state's commitment to this historic milestone; and

WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho provides an opportunity for Idahoans to participate in commemorating the ideals of the American Revolution: advancing liberty, equality, and justice; and

WHEREAS, Idaho, known as the "Gem State," occupies a unique place in the mosaic of American history, with significant historical milestones, eras, innovations, and advancements; and

WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho will make Idaho's unparalleled history, distinctive attributes, and the invaluable contributions of its residents the foundation on which Idahoans understand their place in this region, the country, and the world; and

WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho will commemorate our national founding while recognizing Idaho's historical significance, natural beauty, agricultural importance, traditions and heritage, economic impact, and education, arts, and the humanities; and

WHEREAS, learning about Idaho's history builds honor in our great state and strengthens Idahoans' shared values of family, integrity, self-reliance, patriotism, and community belonging; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Idaho Legislature invites partners, communities, organizations, and all Idahoans to participate in America250 in Idaho throughout the commemorative period.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brad Little, Governor of the State of Idaho, by the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the State of Idaho, do hereby order and direct the following:

Section 1. *The Idaho State Historical Society is hereby the lead agency for executing the America250 in Idaho Commemoration.*

- 1. The Idaho State Historical Society shall plan, encourage, develop, and promote initiatives and activities to be held in Idaho to commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding.*
- 2. The Idaho State Historical Society shall coordinate the work of the America250 in Idaho Task Force in executing the commemoration.*
- 3. The Idaho State Historical Society shall inform and seek guidance from the America250 in Idaho Advisory Council created by House Concurrent Resolution 31.*

Section 2. *The America250 in Idaho Task Force will serve at the pleasure of the Governor and shall consist of the following:*

1. *The First Lady of Idaho, honorary*
2. *The Idaho Secretary of State*
3. *The Idaho State Superintendent of Public Instruction*
4. *The Director of the Idaho State Historical Society, serving as Chair*
5. *The Idaho State Historian, serving as Vice Chair and Secretary*
6. *The Executive Director or a representative from:*
 - a. *Idaho State Department of Agriculture*
 - b. *Idaho Commission on the Arts*
 - c. *Idaho Department of Commerce*
 - d. *Idaho Department of Education*
 - e. *Idaho Commission for Libraries*
 - f. *Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation*
 - g. *Idaho Public Television*

The Task Force will meet on a minimum quarterly cadence in coordination with the Idaho State Historical Society. The Task Force shall have the authority to establish liaison subcommittees to execute the commemoration.

The Task Force Chair shall develop reports on major commemoration initiatives and public outreach efforts for the Advisory Council.

Section 3. *The Council shall provide guidance and recommendations to key America250 stakeholders, including the Office of the Governor, to ensure a successful and impactful commemoration in Idaho. The Council shall foster statewide engagement of commemoration activities in local communities and enhance awareness of Idaho's history, values, and contributions to American history.*

Section 4. *The America250 in Idaho Commemoration shall commence in July 2024 with events, projects, and activities celebrating our nation's founding, triumphant history, and promising future.*

Section 5. *The Council and Task Force shall coordinate and promote programs and activities throughout the state to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the history and valuable contributions Idaho and its people have made to the fabric of our nation.*

Section 6. *The Council and Task Force shall complete its work and be dissolved and repealed on June 30, 2027, with a prior report to the Governor and Idaho Legislature to be maintained in the State Archives for a potential tricentennial commission to use in preparation for its work in 2076.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 1st day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-eighth, and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred thirty-fourth.



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR



PHIL MCGRANE
SECRETARY OF STATE