

**MINUTES**  
**Approved by Council**  
**America250 in Idaho Advisory Council**  
**Friday, February 13, 2026**  
**1:00 P.M.**  
**Room EW20**  
**Boise, Idaho**

Members in attendance: Cochairs Representative Mitchell and Senator Adams; Representative Bruce, Senator Guthrie, Representative Galaviz, Julie Ellsworth, Treasurer; Janet Gallimore, Executive Director, Idaho State Historical Society; Phil McGrane, Secretary of State. Absent/excused: Jeff Newgard, President/CEO, Bank of Idaho; and Legislative Services Office (LSO) staff: Terri Kondeff and Hayley Kaae-Domgaard.

NOTE: Presentations and handouts provided by the presenters/speakers are posted to the Idaho Legislature's website [usa Meeting Materials – Idaho State Legislature](#), and copies of those items are on file at the Legislative Services Office in the State Capitol. Recordings of the meeting may be available on the committee's website listing.

**Opening Remarks/Minutes Approval**

Cochair Adams called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A silent roll call was taken. Cochair Adams welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cochair Mitchell briefly thanked the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) for the *Four Score and Seven Years Before* opening event held at the state museum. He appreciated the excitement and enthusiasm of the event.

**Representative Bruce made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 19, 2026. Director Gallimore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

The committee revisited a motion made during the October 21, 2026, meeting to clarify the motion further.

**Senator Guthrie made a motion to approve reimbursement of the State Superintendent of Public Education for FY 2026 expenses up to \$20,882 for the purchase of additional materials for the Spirit of US Boxes for schools. Representative Bruce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**America250 Financial Update**

LSO Staff Hayley Kaae-Domgaard briefly reviewed financial documents covering the Commemorative Fund balance, total expenditures, and the Celebration Fund balance used to fund grants for cities and counties. She then concluded her comments.

**Subcommittee Update**

Representative Galaviz provided an update on subcommittee progress and the 250th Capitol Celebration planning. She presented AI-generated images to the committee to visualize plans for the July 4th celebration. She reviewed the logistics and partnership with the Boise 4th of July Parade. Representative Galaviz provided an overview of the budget for the celebration. She emphasized the subcommittee's focus on creating items for the celebration that can then travel statewide so all regions of Idaho can be involved.

**Senator Guthrie made a motion to approve the proposed America250 budget as presented, including funding for the July 4th State Capitol celebration and support for the America250 in Idaho Ambassador Program. The committee further authorized the solicitation and acceptance of private donations to support these efforts. Funds related to the Ambassador Program will be managed by the America250 Advisory Council. Any remaining funds and donated funds shall be**

**used for the continued support of the Ambassador Program and regional and county America250 events throughout the remainder of the calendar year. Treasurer Ellsworth seconded the motion.**

Representative Bruce wanted to clarify that any potential overages in cost had been taken into consideration while constructing the budget presented. Representative Galaviz verified that the variability of costs associated with the celebration was taken into account to ensure the budget would not be overextended.

**Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

### **America250 Ambassador Update**

Treasurer Ellsworth updated the committee on the progress of the Ambassador Program. She showed a breakdown of the America250 workload her office has taken on and emphasized column two. This area of work for America250 efforts would be where the Treasurer would be interested in seeking more support in the form of an intern due to the size of the workload. She gave a brief overview of the Revolutionary Spuddy Buddies and their activities.

Treasurer Ellsworth then presented a mock-up image of the Liberty Bell carriage that would be in the Boise 4th of July Parade and then tour the state. She gave an overview of the logistics of the project, including fundraising efforts. She then updated the committee on the progress of legacy projects, the Ambassador Program, and events. She also shared the challenge coin that is being produced for the America250 Ambassador Program.

Cochair Mitchell shared for the benefit of the committee members that the community service project reached 11,317 acts of service throughout the state at the time of the meeting. Treasurer Ellsworth then concluded her presentation.

### **Governor's Task Force Update**

ISHS Director Gallimore gave an update on the Governor's America250 Task Force. She emphasized encouraging constituents to record their verbal histories on the America250 website. She let the committee know that they have partnered with the Idaho Lottery Commission. They plan to create an Idaho America250 scratch ticket. She also explained the virtual *Moments That Made Us* exhibition, which is accessible to the entire state online for constituents to download and enjoy. The exhibition highlights the connection between Idaho and U.S. history. *Reading the Republic* will be a free online resource for universities and constituents to access pivotal documents from the revolutionary time period. Director Gallimore updated the committee that \$50 million of federal funds have been allocated to nationwide America250 efforts. How and if those funds will be distributed to individual states is yet to be determined. She highlighted updates made to the website and gave a brief overview of the *Four Score and Seven Years Before* event, and that the exhibition will be open to the public on February 14, 2026. She highlighted several upcoming events and exhibitions and concluded her presentation.

### **Federal Commission/Partnership Report**

State Historian HannaLore Hein updated the committee on America250 efforts being made on a national level.

### **The White House Task Force and Freedom250**

- Freedom Truck
  - o A total of six "mobile museum" trucks are being outfitted to go out to all continental states. Idaho has the opportunity to request a truck to visit.
- Great American State Fair

- o The State Fair will occur from June 25 through July 10 in the National Mall. Letters to governors went out from the White House inviting their state to participate. Plans are in progress to coordinate Idaho’s participation
- Rededicate 250: A Jubilee of Prayer, Praise, and Thanksgiving
  - o May 17, 2026, Freedom 250 will host a faith-focused event in the National Mall with major musical artists and faith leaders.
- Presidential 1776 Award, Civics Contest
  - o The contest tests knowledge of the road to independence, the American Revolutionary War, and the ideas that shaped our nation. Any high schooler can take the first-round online exam (The Impossible Civics Test), but only the four top high schoolers from each state, D.C., and U.S. Territory advance to the in-person regional semifinals.

### **Federal U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission**

- Our American Story
  - o Our American Story is a national initiative to collect, preserve, and celebrate the voices of Americans from across the country.
- America Gives
  - o The official launch of the America Gives project was announced on January 1, 2026. Americans can take the Year of Service pledge and log their volunteer hours at [America250.org/America-Gives](https://America250.org/America-Gives).
- July 5th as a day of reflection
  - o America’s Day of Reflection is intended to mark a transition from the celebration of the Semiquincentennial to the “After the Fireworks” phase of America250 activities that will carry through the end of 2026. The day will invite Americans to reflect on what the journey to the 250th has meant to them and how they can prepare for the path ahead.
- America’s Field Trip
  - o 55 of the 56 states/territories have submissions. America’s Field Trip is a nationwide contest from America250 that invites students in grades 3–12 to submit original artwork or written reflections on what America means to them, with the chance to earn once-in-a-lifetime field trip experiences at some of the nation’s most iconic historical and cultural sites, with travel and lodging provided.

Ms. Hein then concluded her presentation.

### **Miscellaneous Business**

Committee members discussed future meeting dates. Cochairs thanked all committee members for their time and hard work on America250 efforts.

**The committee adjourned at 1:41 p.m.**