

MINUTES
Approved by Council
America250 in Idaho Advisory Council
Friday, March 13, 2026
1:00 P.M.
EW20 Room
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. Absent/excused: Jeff Newgard, President/CEO, Bank of Idaho; and Phil McGrane, Secretary of State. 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 Mitchell brought the meeting to order at 1:02 pm. A silent roll call was taken. Cochair Mitchell welcomed everyone to the committee.

Treasurer Ellsworth made a motion to approve the minutes from February 13, 2026, with a change on the bottom of the first page of the minutes, changing “subcommittee” to “council”. Representative Bruce seconded the motion. The motion passed 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 informed the committee that if all currently approved funds were expended, the Commemorative Fund balance would be over \$66,000. She also highlighted the status of the Celebration Fund balance and gave an estimated amount of funds that could be returned to the Commemorative Fund after the grant approval and disbursement process was completed. She then concluded her comments.

Subcommittee Update

Representative Galaviz introduced a proposal for the purchase of America250-themed “I Voted” stickers for the upcoming election to commemorate America250. The proposal would cover the cost of the sticker design and production for counties. The committee members asked if the counties would be paying a portion of the production costs since the counties usually pay to produce the regular “I Voted” stickers for elections. Representative Galaviz explained that this proposal would cover all the costs for counties.

Cochair Adams motioned to approve the “I Voted” stickers funding request totaling \$12,992. Senator Guthrie seconded the motion.

The committee discussed wanting to see the breakdown of the production costs versus the design costs. They also explored the idea of the counties covering the production costs that they would usually spend while approving funds for the design costs.

Cochair Mitchell called for a roll call vote. Cochair Adams, Senator Guthrie, and Director Gallimore voted aye, and Cochair Mitchell, Representative Bruce, and Treasurer Ellsworth voted nay. The motion failed.

Committee members expressed general support for the proposal but requested a more detailed breakdown of costs, along with information on additional funding needs for broader America250 efforts, before reconsidering. Representative Galaviz then continued her presentation with a brief update on the progress of the Capitol Steps Celebration. She provided an overview of the event's key components and their current status before concluding her presentation.

America250 Ambassadors Update

Treasurer Ellsworth provided an update on the ambassador program, highlighting various activities and events in different districts. She then gave an overview of upcoming events, including the Quilt Display on the fourth floor rotunda and the ongoing service challenge. At the time of the meeting, Idaho citizens had completed 96,630 acts of service with 250,000 as the goal. She encouraged members of the committee to take posters back to their district to promote more participation in the service challenge. She mentioned the transportation needed for the Liberty Bell and referred to Director Gallimore to give a more detailed update.

Director Gallimore presented on two related funding requests to support the statewide tour of the replica Liberty Bell, a priority initiative of the Ambassador Program and legislative leadership. The first request, not to exceed \$18,500, is for the design and construction of a steel transport stand. The stand will securely hold the bell in place, allowing it to be safely transported and rung without risk of damage. Due to timing constraints, schematics will be purchased from Kristoff Foundry, with local fabrication proposed through Yonkey. The request also includes a contingency amount.

The second request, not to exceed \$23,325, is for a custom 14-foot trailer to transport and display the bell. The trailer will include a protective Conestoga-style cover and is intended to be both functional for transport and visually appropriate for community display. The stand will be permanently affixed to the trailer to minimize handling costs and reduce the risk of damage.

Treasurer Ellsworth pointed out that \$25,000 had already been approved at the prior meeting for the purpose of transporting the bell throughout the state. The committee discussed details of the trailer, including its ability to be reused after the tour of the Liberty Bell. Director Gallimore also explained that they would be collaborating with the Idaho Transportation Department to get a truck to tow the bell throughout the state. Treasurer Ellsworth also shared that \$40,000 approved for the ambassador program for the use of the Capitol Celebration. This can also be used to cover the funds needed for the Liberty Bell transportation costs.

Director Gallimore also shared with the committee that the state had received a \$10,000 donation that will go towards the cost of the restoration of the bell. In response to a question, Director Gallimore also explained that they would be collaborating with the Idaho Transportation Department to get a truck to tow the bell throughout the state. Treasurer Ellsworth also explained that the costs associated with the gas and time to transport the bell is still being evaluated. Director Gallimore then concluded her comments on the Liberty Bell.

Governor's Taskforce Update & Federal Commission/Partnership Report

Director Gallimore updated the committee on the Governor's Task Force. The task force is working in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management on the initial point event occurring on May 1, 2026. They are also working on a social media toolkit to promote America250 events, Move 250, and the America's Potluck community event. The registration portal for America's Potluck will open in April, and the task force is coordinating with the White House Task Force. She thanked Cochair Mitchell for his comments at the *Four Score and Seven Years Before* kick off event and informed the committee that the exhibit is officially open to the public.

She then moved on to update the committee on national America250 efforts. The White House Task Force is encouraging states to submit requests for White House Freedom Truck visits. An art program supporting the National Garden of the American Heroes was officially launched on its website. America's Field Trip submissions close on March 30, 2026. The Governor's office is also

coordinating the Great American State Fair exhibition in Washington, D.C. She highlighted that the exhibition will focus on Idaho's history, commerce, and overall contributions to America. Director Gallimore then concluded her update.

Idaho Department of Lands – Liberty Groves

Idaho Department of Lands Director Dustin Miller updated the committee on the Liberty Grove project, a tree-planting initiative in commemoration of America 250. The project aims to plant trees in various locations, with a goal to plant either this spring or fall. The Department of Lands is considering three potential sites and plans to involve local community leaders, industry partners, and legislative members in the planting celebration. The project will be funded through existing funds, but because of budget constraints they will be selecting only one of three sites for the planting. The site will be on a parcel of endowment land that needs to be planted for harvesting activities. He then concluded his update.

Grant Approvals

Cochair Adams moved to approve the disbursal of grant reward amounts requested by:

- **Blaine County**
- **City of Dietrich**
- **City of Grace**
- **City of Nezperce**
- **City of Orofino**
- **City of Pierce**
- **City of Twin Falls**

Representative Bruce seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Miscellaneous Business

The committee discussed the next meeting date and proposed meeting in the afternoon on Monday, March 23, 2026, with the time to be determined. Cochair Adams commented that he was impressed by the number of grant applicants that came in before the end of February and appreciated that the committee agreed to extend the timeline for grant applications.

The committee adjourned at 1:55 pm.