MINUTES
Approved by Council
America250 in Idaho Advisory Council
Monday, April 20, 2026
10:00 A.M.
Room WW53
Boise, Idaho

Members in attendance: Cochair Senator Adams, Cochair Representative Mitchell (attended via Zoom), Representative Bruce, Julie Ellsworth, State Treasurer; Janet Gallimore, Executive Director, Idaho State Historical Society; Phil McGrane, Secretary of State (attended via Zoom). Absent/excused: Senator Guthrie; Representative Galaviz; Jeff Newgard, President/CEO, Bank of Idaho. 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 brought the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A silent roll was taken. Cochair Adams welcomed everyone to the committee.

Representative Bruce made a motion to approve the minutes from April 6, 2026. Executive Director Gallimore seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Grant Approvals

Representative Bruce motioned to approve the disbursal of grant reward amounts requested by:

- **City of Eden**
- **Elmore County**

Treasurer Ellsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Cochair Adams mentioned that there is a complete list of all grant projects and events in everyone's packet and it is now a part of the record. Ninety-seven grants were approved.

America250 Financial Update

LSO staff Hayley Kaae-Domgaard briefly overviewed the 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.

Ambassador Program Update

State Treasurer Julie Ellsworth provided an update on the ambassador program, highlighting activities and events that are scheduled across Idaho and showing photographs of events that have taken place already. After event updates, she discussed the Quarter Drive to fundraise for bringing the Liberty Bell home. She is working with banks and credit unions around the state and linking the donations to bring the Liberty Bell home after restoration. It will travel throughout different communities before being installed at the Idaho Capitol. She showed how many "Acts of Service" Idaho has completed already this year. At the time of the meeting, the "Acts of Service" in Idaho had reached 165,755.

Treasurer Ellsworth explained that in collaboration with Representative Galaviz, they have assembled "to-go" bags for when the Revolutionary Spuds are traveling, which were received very well at their unveiling in Moscow. The spuds travel with all the accessories also placed on display in the

Capitol. Feedback included a suggestion that their banners be added to the bag has been done in preparation for their travel event.

Treasurer Ellsworth requested a vote to extend the approved $30,000 spending authority for the ambassador. Representative Bruce made the motion to extend the spending authority for $30,000. Executive Director Gallimore seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer Ellsworth added that the Liberty Bell contract for the frame has been finalized by Representative Mitchell with the vendor. Kendall Ford has also donated the entire truck that will bring the Bell home and it will be designed to look like the Liberty Bell carriage.

America250 Task Force & National Report

Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) Executive Director Janet Gallimore updated the committee on the America250 in Idaho State Agency Task Force Report, April 20, 2026.

- Boise Meridian Initial Point Celebration: Surveying the Past, Mapping the Future

  Happening May 1-2, 2026, exploring how the ideals of the American Revolution were translated onto the land through surveying, settlement, and stewardship. The first day is at Idaho's Initial Point and the second day is at the Old Idaho Penitentiary

- MY AMERICA: From Ground Zero to Common Ground

  o This is a free, nationwide, youth-driven art and civic engagement campaign that will honor our past, reflect on our present, and inspire our future. Students across the nation will create a large mosaic of an American flag made up of thousands of individual tiles with messages, drawings and poems. So far Idaho teachers have requested over 1,500 tiles.

- Website and Communications Update

  o ISHS has updated the A250 in Idaho website to include the story of the Liberty Bell's restoration and a robust new calendar. They have added links to the Ambassador Program's Volunteer Challenge and built out additional toolkits and resources, with help from the Idaho transportation Department for Move250, including a mileage tracker. They have also coordinated with the federal commission to add existing events on the national America250.org website, which is now live

Ms. Gallimore then highlighted a couple of items from the Federal and National America250 report written by State Historian, HannaLore Hein. Under the White House American250 Task Force and Freedom250, she touched on the Freedom Trucks and Great American State Fair. ISHS has requested a Freedom Truck come to Idaho to take part in our July 4 event in Cecil Andrus Park. We are awaiting the truck's availability. The other event was Great American State Fair, which will be held June 25 through July 10 on the national mall. The Governor's office is handling the collaboration.

Executive Director Gallimore did highlight an event currently taking place at the Idaho Historical Museum, Four Score and Seven Years Before. She also requested guidance from the council on the dates reserved by the committee on the front steps of the Idaho Capitol. Ms. Gallimore asked if we were able to firm up the reservations for that week, to potentially release any dates we no longer needed so they are available to the public. The agreement is to release the dates, then Treasurer Ellsworth's office will re-submit dates and times for events scheduled. She then concluded her comments.

Subcommittee Update

Secretary of State Phil McGrane gave an update on the Capitol celebration. He pointed out that they were 75 days away from the Fourth of July. To coordinate the Capitol Celebration his office is working with multiple stakeholders to coordinate the multiple events taking place that day. Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance is hosting a pancake breakfast that morning, as they hold the permit for Cecil Andrus Park that day, then the parade starts. After the parade ends at the Capitol and the floats are stationed around the park, the concert will start. Secretary McGrane shared the current layout of the plans and logistics for the day that his office is working on with the Department of Administration. Other decorations and exhibits will be in the Rotunda of the Capitol, inviting people inside.

Secretary McGrane discussed options for fundraising events and asked for guidance on how to start the process. Treasurer Ellsworth responded that the process is already set up through the committee foundation. When logging in and create a new "ask" the website will track everything that "ask". He then concluded his comments.

Institute for Advancing American Values Program Update

Director of the Institute for Advancing American Values Andrew Finstuen introduced himself and talked about the curriculum update at the colleges across Idaho. Each four-year and two-year college campus throughout the state of Idaho is working on legacy projects to be taught to students starting Fall 2026, and he gave a brief overview of them. He then concluded his comments.

Miscellaneous Business

The committee discussed the next meeting date and proposed the morning of Monday, May 4, 2026, tentatively at 10 a.m.

The committee adjourned at 10:50 a.m.