

MINUTES
Approved by Council
America250 in Idaho Advisory Council
Wednesday, June 24, 2026
10:00 A.M.
Room WW55
Boise, Idaho

Members in attendance: Cochair Senator Adams, Cochair Representative Mitchell (attended via Zoom); Representative Bruce, Senator Guthrie (attended via Zoom); Julie Ellsworth, State Treasurer; Janet Gallimore, Executive Director, Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS); Phil McGrane, Secretary of State. Absent/excused: Representative Galaviz, Jeff Newgard, President/CEO, Bank of Idaho. Legislative Services Office (LSO) staff: Terri Kondeff, Elaine Conroy, 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 a.m. A silent roll call was taken. Cochair Adams welcomed everyone to the committee. Cochair Mitchell thanked everyone for their hard work.

Representative Bruce made a motion to approve the minutes from June 10, 2026. ISHS Executive Director Janet Gallimore seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

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 touched on the importance of the fiscal year end as it relates to funds remaining. 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. She went over the "Acts of Service" number: as of June 24, 2026, at 8:00 a.m., it was 318,491. She discussed the Quarter Drive fundraiser to bring the Liberty Bell around to the entire state before having it reinstalled at the Idaho Capitol with Spudjamin Franklin. As she concluded her comments, Cochair Adams requested that the Liberty Bell come to Nampa, not just the Canyon County seat Caldwell. Treasurer Ellsworth stated that the travel through the state will have more stops than just the county seat or main city. She then concluded her comments.

Subcommittee Update

Secretary of State Phil McGrane gave an update on the Capitol Celebration. He discussed the weather forecast so far for the July 4 and the three back-up plans in place for unforeseen conditions or weather. He discussed the decorations that will be hung up outside of the Capitol building for the celebration. There was a press release last week for the event. Representative Galaviz is doing an interview as the committee meeting is taking place about the event with KTVB. The Governor's office put out a press release with the event, and there will be an email sent to all State employees about the event and asking for volunteers. Jeff Tucker and his team at Idaho Public Television are promoting the event at their station and others, along with the live broadcast of the event. Secretary McGrane discussed the America250.idaho.gov website, updates, and how to get the most up-to-date information. On the website it shows all the events that are taking place around the

state funded by the grants that were approved. In addition to the celebration taking place in front of the Capitol, there will be materials in the rotundas inside the building for the public to see. He then concluded his comments.

Governor's Task Force Report

Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) Executive Director Janet Gallimore updated the committee on highlights from the Idaho State Agency Task Force Report, June 10, 2026.

- America's Block Party
 - Part of the America250 100 days to July 4 countdown, this nationwide event brings the spirit of America250 initiatives to life through large-scale celebrations and viewing parties in major cities, paired with community gatherings across the country. The party will be anchored by a live broadcast event and amplified by major city activations and grassroots events across all states and territories. Idaho has submitted events in both Boise and Lewiston which have been accepted. There is a new app to share the events taking place all over on the Fourth of July.
- Giving 4th
 - Movement to transform Independence Day into the largest single day of charitable giving in U.S. history. The goal is to make July 4 a permanent fixture on the American giving calendar, a tradition that begins this year and grows stronger each July 4 following.
- Great American State Fair
 - The event is being held from June 25 to July 10 on the National Mall. The Governor's Office, ISHS, the State Department of Commerce, and the State Department of Agriculture are collaborating to curate the content, interactives, and materials for the 30' x 30' pavilion space dedicated to Idaho. The White House anticipates approximately 2 million visitors during the fair.
- The Presidential 1776 Award
 - Sponsored in part by the U.S. Department of Education and CBS will air on June 30, 2026, showcasing the national finals of the three-round civics competition that began in February, with regional semifinals in May, and has drawn more than 8,000 high school participants from all 50 states, six territories, and Washington D.C. Twenty finalists will compete live in Washington D.C., answering questions on the Constitution, founding principles, and key moments in U.S. history for scholarships of up to \$150,000 with all questions developed by the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.
- Move250 Activation and Collaboration
 - "Move250" health and engagement has been live since January. The Idaho Transportation Department and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation collaborated to develop toolkit materials for partners, and the America250 task force is printing two stickers (one adult and one child) as participant incentives.
- Education and Media
 - The America250 website continues to accept event submissions across the state. HannaLore Hein uploads the events weekly to the America250 federal event map. Task Force agencies are communicating information about America250 related events, activities, and programs across the state through newsletters and social media.
- Liberty Bell Restoration and Statewide Engagement Initiative

- The Liberty Bell arrived back in Boise yesterday, June 23, 2026, and is almost ready to make its trek around the State of Idaho. Executive Director Gallimore discussed a brief overview of the history of the bell and how it traveled around the State after we first received it. She went over the next steps of getting it ready for public presentation, transportation and statewide travel.
- June 17-21 – Idaho Cowgirl Congress Public Exhibition
 - The Idaho Commission on the Arts is organizing Idaho Cowgirl Congress, a five-day exhibition of Western women artists and craftswomen from across the state at the Sun Valley Museum of Art in Ketchum.
- June 25-27 – Blackfoot Ranch Rodeo
 - The 2026 Blackfoot Ranch Rodeo is being advanced as a major Idaho America250 Signature Event as part of Of the People: The Smithsonian Festival of Festivals. The rodeo is framed as a family friendly celebration of ranch skills, teamwork, and perseverance.
- June 27 - Twin Peaks Ranch State Park Grand Opening, Salmon Idaho
 - Twin Peaks Ranch State Park gives Idaho its first new state park in nearly 30 years. It sits about 20 miles south of Salmon on 677 acres of high-country land above the Main Salmon River. The park now serves as a gateway to more than 2,000 miles of motorized and non-motorized trails and offers visitors access to rugged mountain scenery, wildlife habitat, and broad public lands in the Lemhi County backcountry. Reservations are open for stays beginning July 1, 2026.
- July 8 - “Sharing the Spirit of America” Reading
 - The campaign is a coordinated public reading of the Declaration of Independence scheduled for Wednesday, July 8. The goal is to stage simultaneous readings at sites across Idaho that naturally serve as community gathering points. The event is being planned in partnership with the Twin Falls Bureau of Land Management office to host a reading at Shoshone Falls Overlook.

After going over each event, Executive Director Gallimore concluded her comments.

Miscellaneous Business

The committee discussed the next meeting date and proposed Tuesday, July 14, 2026, with the time to be determined. Secretary McGrane asked who will be present at the Capitol Celebration. Treasurer Ellsworth and Executive Director Gallimore will be driving the Liberty Bell in the parade. Cochair Adams, Representative Bruce, and Cochair Mitchell will all be present for the event.

The committee adjourned at 10:30 a.m.