

MINUTES
(Subject to Approval by the Council)
America250 in Idaho Advisory Council
Tuesday, July 21, 2026
10:30 A.M.
Room WW55
Boise, Idaho

Members in attendance: Cochair Senator Adams, Cochair Representative Mitchell, Representative Galaviz (attended via Zoom); Julie Ellsworth, State Treasurer; Janet Gallimore, Executive Director, Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS); Phil McGrane, Secretary of State. Absent/excused: Representative Bruce, Senator Guthrie, 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 via 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 10:32 a.m. A silent roll call was taken. He welcomed everyone to the committee and thanked the staff who assisted and everyone who participated to make the Capitol Celebration a success.

Secretary of State Phil McGrane made a motion to approve the minutes from June 24, 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 discussed being in the new fiscal year so the interest that has accumulated can now be counted as part of the available balance. 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 thanked Representative Galaviz for taking care of putting the To-Go packs together for when the spuds traveled. She went over the "Acts of Service" number: as of July 21, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., it was 432,086. She discussed working with communities to figure out the track the Liberty Bell will take when it travels before being installed at the Idaho Capitol again.

Cochair Adams made a motion that all funds not currently allocated are to be used in implementation of council approved ambassador projects and spent in accordance with the cochairs of the ambassadors, which are the Pro Tem and Speaker, with the approval of the council cochairs, for the Liberty Bell travel and the Fountain. Cochair Adams also moved to request that the Legislature look to move any leftover funds to be marked for the America300 fund. Treasurer Ellsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Before the committee recognized Secretary of State Phil McGrane for the Subcommittee update, Cochair Mitchell wanted to talk about the coloring books he and his wife paid to have made of The Revolutionary Spuds. They take them to all the events they attend. He stated if any businesses

would like to assist or make their own, hopefully they can help make it happen so the rest of the state can get them as well.

Subcommittee Update

Secretary of State Phil McGrane played a highlight reel from the Capitol Celebration from Idaho Public Television. He thanked all the people who contributed to every aspect of the Celebration, from the people everyone saw, to the people behind the cameras and behind the many hours of communication and strategy that took place to make sure the day was a success. He then concluded his comments. Cochair Mitchell said an additional thank you to the people working in the background of the event.

Governor's Task Force Report

Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) Executive Director Janet Gallimore updated the committee on the Idaho State Agency Task Force Report, July 21, 2026, touching on the below events in more detail.

- July 8 - "Sharing the Spirit of America" Reading
 - The campaign was a coordinated public reading of the Declaration of Independence scheduled on Wednesday, July 8. The goal is to stage simultaneous readings at sites across Idaho that naturally serve as community gathering points. The event was being planned in partnership with the Twin Falls Bureau of Land Management office to host a reading at Shoshone Falls Overlook.
- 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.
- 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.

After going over each event, Executive Director Gallimore thanked everyone who worked at the Idaho State book in Washington D.C., then she concluded her comments.

Miscellaneous Business

Cochair Mitchell suggested August 18, 2026, for the next meeting.

The committee adjourned at 11:27 a.m.