



Illinois America 250 | Illinois Destinations Association

Commissioners

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Dorene Wiese

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Nikki Williams Rucker, M.Ed

Sr Director, Professional Learning and Partnerships, Mikva Challenge

Illinois America 250 Partners



It's official!



Vision

- An inclusive statewide commemoration that uplifts local stories, places and programs to build pride and showcase how Illinois brings the Declaration of Independence to life.

Themes

- Power of Place
- We the People
- Doing History

Adapted from the American Association of State and Local History

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Power of Place

- *Place is a powerful lens through which we can view the past. It challenges us to think beyond modern political boundaries to consider the full history of the what we call the United States, and Illinois in particular. This theme encourages us to reexamine ideas about our monuments, natural and built environments, and to find new ways to see connections between Illinois and our nation's story.*

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Doing History

- *We invite people of all ages to participate in the process of **doing** history, to learn about Illinois' unique contributions to our Nation's history, and to consider how these things illuminate present-day celebrations and challenges.*

We The People

- *For much of our history, the United States has excluded people—women, free and enslaved African Americans, Indigenous people, immigrants, people with disabilities, the poor, and many others—from full participation in the nation’s political, economic, and cultural life. And, as well, this country has incorporated people of widely different backgrounds and perspectives in the effort to become a more equitable nation. This theme allows us to explore ideas about who we are as a country, how far we’ve come in the pursuit of the ideals described in the Declaration of Independence, and where we’d like to head in the future.*

Priorities

- Engaging youth
- **Promoting local commemorations**
- **Uplifting local stories and places**
- Recognizing service

Projects

- Youth Voices: “What Does the Declaration of Independence Mean to You?”
- **Illinois Passport**
- Illinois Chronicles Publication
- Illinois in Service: Sept. 11, 2025 – Juneteenth 2026

2025 Benchmarks

January-June

- Outreach and Engagement
- Toolkits
- **Identify local places to highlight**

July

- **Launch statewide calendar and programs**

September

- Launch Illinois in Service

2026 Benchmarks

September 2025 – June 2026

- 250th Commemoration programs, exhibits, volunteer service period

Summer

- **Statewide celebrations and festivals**

Fall

- Partner and Community Appreciation
- Establishing Illinois 250 legacy pieces

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America250 National Initiatives

- Our American Story nominations
- America Gives
- Event map and toolkit for schools
- America's Field Trip contest AND destinations – *submit IL destinations by end of May 2025
- Activations starting 2026
- **www.america250.org**

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Underway in Illinois

- Educational website – one-stop shop for all materials, calendar of events, news, and more
- Partner toolkit and commemorations toolkit
- Info sessions (April, May) for interested organizations + municipalities
- Invitation from IML to sign 250 Community Resolutions

How to Partner

- Create an inclusive statewide commemoration showcasing stories, places and projects that build pride and showcase "unique to Illinois" efforts that have contributed to bringing the ideals of the Declaration of Independence to life

How to Get
Involved

PARTNERS

- Sign up to become a
promotional Partner



250 Communities

- Illinois America250 invites you to take part in the journey to 250 and pledge to become an Illinois America250 Community. Illinois America250 Communities will be featured on the IL America 250 website and will receive toolkits to help promote programs and events.

How to Get
Involved
COMMUNITIES

- Pledge to be an **Illinois
America 250 Community**



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How to Get
Involved

SUBMIT EVENTS

- Submit events that can be shared to the national map and the new educational site
- **COMING SOON!**

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How to Get
Involved

SUBMIT SITES

- Submit sites in Illinois that can align with at least one of the Commission's themes, or connects directly to the American Revolution
- **COMING SOON!**

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SNEAK PEEK

- **New site:** showcase for partners, IL Communities, and destinations



News

Updates from the Illinois Commission, America 250, Partners, and 250 Communities across Illinois.

In the News



WCIA: Illinois leaders call on residents for ideas on how to celebrate

Illinoisans can now help with preparations.



PRESS RELEASE: Commission

Illinois America 250 Commission invites all Illinoisans to celebrate nation's 250th anniversary leading up to July 4, 2026



WATCH: Press Announcement

January 17, 2025 news announcement about the Illinois America 250 State Commission, hosted by the Illinois State Library.



LATEST NEWS: America 250

Check out the latest news, events, and other updates from national commission, America 250 and its partners.



WCIA: Illinois leaders call on residents for ideas on how to celebrate

Illinoisans can now help with preparations.





Become a 250 Community

Illinois America250 invites you to take part in the journey to 250 and pledge to become an Illinois America250 Community. Illinois America250 Communities will be featured on the IL America 250 website and will receive toolkits to help promote programs and events.

Pledge (required)

My community pledges to become an Illinois America 250 Community by:

- 1) Promoting the 250th in Illinois and sharing information from the IL America 250 Commission; 2) Appointing an Illinois America 250 community contact; and 3) Committing to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 2026).

Mayor

First Name

Last Name



Upcoming Events

Browse upcoming events from individuals and organizations throughout Illinois.

Interested in hosting your own? View [available resources](#) and [contact us](#) to tell us about your event.

March 2025						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



ILAmerica 250 Commission Meeting

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM



Share your ideas.

We want to hear from you. [Contact the Commission](#) to share resources and ideas, ask questions, or request more information.

Become a 250 Partner.

Businesses, nonprofits, educational, cultural and civic organizations, and government agencies, are invited to [sign up to be promotional partners](#) using our [Partner form](#).

Connect your community.

[Submit the form](#) to pledge your municipality to become an official Illinois America 250 Community and join communities around the state.

Submit an event.

Every 250th event and program in Illinois can be represented on the national map. [Fill out the form](#) to submit your event.

Learn how to volunteer.

Fill out this brief [interest survey](#) to be connected with volunteer opportunities to support activities near you.

Follow and share on social.

Use the social links below to follow, share, and boost all things Illinois America 250.

Resources

AMERICA



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION *for STATE and LOCAL HISTORY*

Youth250
Resource

Stay in Touch

ILAmerica250.com

Will be updated soon, but this will redirect

IL250@ilhumanities.org

Follow on social media

@illinoisamerica250

