

**Concurrent Resolution Celebrating the 250th
Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution celebrates the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026;
- declares the first week of July 2025 and July 2026 as Independence Week;
- recognizes the work of Utah's America250 Commission (Commission);
- supports the Commission's vision to educate, engage, and unite Utahns through programing and events that celebrate and honor the anniversary; and
- encourages participation in programs and events overseen by the Commission and the Department of Cultural and Community Engagement.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, July 4, 2026, is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence;

WHEREAS, in 2023, Governor Cox and the Legislature created Utah's America250 Commission (Commission) with the charge to create opportunities for Utahns to celebrate during the years leading up to and including the anniversary year;

WHEREAS, the Commission is committed to honor the signing of the Declaration of Independence as a pivotal moment in American history through the unique and rich lens of

30 Utah's heritage;

31 WHEREAS, the Commission endeavors to spark education, engagement, and unity across
32 Utah, bringing together individuals from all walks of life in a shared journey of historical
33 discovery and reflection;

34 WHEREAS, the statewide kick-off and programing for America250 Utah starts July 1,
35 2025, and will culminate in July 2026;

36 WHEREAS, America250 Utah's programming will address education, engagement, and
37 unity;

38 WHEREAS, America250 Utah's vision to increase civics education among all Utahns
39 includes:

40 • every school and each classroom finding ways to commemorate the anniversary
41 throughout the 2025-2026 school year;

42 • each university and institution of higher education commemorating through
43 themed-speakers, organized volunteering, and campus-wide activities that connect the
44 Founding to Utah's heritage and history;

45 • all citizens engaging with and studying the history of the Founding through local and state
46 historical exhibits and resources, national programs and competitions, local library books and
47 programming for youth and adults, and educational speaker events and panel discussions; and

48 • members of the Legislature working with teachers in local schools;

49 WHEREAS, America250 Utah's vision for local communities to engage Utahns of all ages
50 and backgrounds includes:

51 • every county and as many cities as possible becoming Utah250 Communities and
52 partnering with the Commission;

53 • individuals and communities finding ways to share stories of hard work, doing their part,
54 innovation, and entrepreneurship;

55 • all Utahns taking steps to improve their communities, state, and nation through
56 volunteerism and service;

57 • local celebrations honoring the U.S. Armed Forces and veterans; and

58 • celebrating Utah's physical landscape by walking, hiking, or otherwise engaging in the
59 natural environment of Utah; and

60 WHEREAS, America250 Utah's vision to unite and create connection includes all Utahns
61 participating in America's Potluck on Sunday, July 5, 2026, for a shared meal and connection:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
63 Governor concurring therein, declares the first week of July 2025 and July 2026 as

64 Independence Week, marking the start and the culmination of the America250 Utah
65 celebration season.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor emphasize the
67 importance of celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of
68 Independence.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor support the programs
70 and events overseen by the Commission and the Department of Cultural and Community
71 Engagement, including statewide service initiatives, civics education for teachers, speaker
72 series, touring exhibitions, and community gatherings.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage counties
74 and cities to engage with the state's initiative as Utah250 Communities and organize their own
75 celebrations and programming.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor direct Utah's local
77 schools and higher education institutions to incorporate the anniversary into their curriculum
78 and events during the 2025-2026 school year.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage its
80 members to directly participate in the schools and communities within their districts during
81 Constitution Week in September, 2025, and throughout the 2025-2026 school year.