

1                                   **Concurrent Resolution Celebrating the 250th**  
2                                   **Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**  
3                                   2026 GENERAL SESSION  
4                                   STATE OF UTAH  
5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox**  
6                                   Senate Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton

3   **LONG TITLE**

4   **General Description:**

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

7   **Highlighted Provisions:**

8       This resolution:

- 9       ▸ celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on  
10   July 4, 2026;
- 11      ▸ declares the first week of July 2026 as Independence Week;
- 12      ▸ recognizes the work of Utah's America250 Commission (Commission);
- 13      ▸ supports the Commission's vision to educate, engage, and unite Utahns through programs  
14   and events that celebrate and honor the anniversary;
- 15      ▸ encourages local participation in programs and events overseen by the Commission, the  
16   Department of Cultural and Community Engagement, and local Utah250 Communities;  
17   and
- 18      ▸ directs local school districts, charter schools, and institutions of higher education to  
19   instruct and engage students through educational programming recognizing the  
20   anniversary year.

21   **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

22       None

23   **Other Special Clauses:**

24       None

25  
26   *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

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

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

32 WHEREAS, the Commission is committed to honor the signing of the Declaration of  
33 Independence as a pivotal moment in American history through the unique and rich lens of  
34 Utah's heritage;

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

38 WHEREAS, the statewide kick-off for America250 Utah began on July 1, 2025, and will  
39 culminate in July 2026;

40 WHEREAS, America250 Utah's programming addresses education, engagement, and unity;

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

43 • every school and each classroom finding ways to commemorate the anniversary during the  
44 2026 calendar year;

45 • each university and institution of higher education commemorating through themed  
46 speeches, organized volunteering, and campus-wide activities that connect the Founding to  
47 Utah's heritage and history;

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

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

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

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

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

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

60 • local celebrations honoring the United States armed forces and veterans; and

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

63 WHEREAS, America250 Utah's vision to unite and create connection includes all Utahns  
64 participating in America's Potluck, a neighbor-led celebration on Sunday, July 5, 2026, for a  
65 shared meal and connection:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
67 Governor concurring therein, declares the first week of July 2026 as Independence Week,  
68 marking the culmination of the America250 Utah celebration season.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor emphasize the  
70 importance of celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of  
71 Independence.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor express their support  
73 for the programs and events overseen by the Commission and the Department of Cultural and  
74 Community Engagement, including:

- 75 • civics education and resources for teachers;
- 76 • The Pen is Mightier: Writing a Revolution, an exhibit at the Utah State Capitol in 2026 and  
77 a traveling display visiting all 29 counties;
- 78 • Walk250 Utah, an initiative challenging all Utahns to walk or roll 250 miles;
- 79 • Serving A Common Cause, a campaign to honor our founding values together in acts of  
80 service and civic engagement; and
- 81 • the Exploring the Declaration of Independence at 250 speaker series.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage counties  
83 and cities to engage with the state's initiative as Utah250 Communities and to organize their  
84 own celebrations and programs.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor direct Utah's higher  
86 education institutions to incorporate the anniversary year into curriculum and events during the  
87 2026 calendar year, including instruction, programming, or scholarly engagement related to  
88 the founding principles of the nation.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor direct local school  
90 districts and charter schools, at the commencement of the 2026 - 2027 school year, and in  
91 conjunction with Constitution Week in September 2026, to instruct and engage students in the  
92 study of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the historical  
93 significance and lives of the signers of each.

94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage members

95 of the Legislature to directly participate in the schools and communities within their legislative  
96 districts throughout the 2026 calendar year to commemorate the anniversary year.