

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people, to declare the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as shall seem to them best for their safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience must be admitted, that no good Government has ever perished for these ends; — Yet when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Tyranny, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such a new and glorious example doth this day, to all the united Brethren of America.

But even the history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in view the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. — To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

We have repeated this effort to draw the most eloquent and necessary for the public good.

We have provided, his government to keep close to us in much

He has refused his aid to Texas. He most sincerely and anxiously for the public good.
He has provided no greenbacks except those of an unimpaired
and fitting importance; until suspended in its operation. His aid should be obtained, and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend thereto.
He has refused
just other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, until those people would obstruct the right of representation in the legislature, a right inseparable from them, and permitted
to remain only.
He has called together legislative bodies at places unsanctioned, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their State Records, for the purpose of evading from him all
complaints with his measures.
He has dissolved Legislative Bodies repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his encroachments on the rights of the people.
He has refused to

accordance with his majesty. He has been observed Resistible House repeatedly, for opposing with manly genius the measures on the side of the North. He has visited by
 along time after which deposition, to cause these to be dated, especially for Legislative bodies, members of Parliament, have attended to the North at large for their service. He has shown
 ing in the same time appeared for the dangers of reason without, and convulsions within. He has endeavored to prevent the repudiation of those states for the purpose of
 ting the Law for Naturalization of strangers, issuing his laws close to encourage their migration hither, and raising the condition of new Apprenticeship of London. He has established the
 Administration of Justice, by requiring his Grant to Law for establishing judicial bodies. He has made Judges dependent on no other than for the tenure of their office, and the amount
 and payment of their salaries. He has created a multitude of New Offices, and sent active persons of Office to manage our North, and cut out their providence. He has kept open
 us, in case of loss, standing armies without the consent of our Legislature. He has agreed to send the Midway indemnity of warfare to the West Indies. He has overseen

[illegible][illegible]

we ought to be the mark of a free people. Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have assured them from time to time of our sympathy for their liberties, and we have encouraged the generation over us. We have warned them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have begged them, by the ties of our common kindred to disavow false accusations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of equity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in blood, and hostile in their aims. We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress assembled, according to the supreme justice of the world for the welfare of our in- habitants, do in the Name, and by the authority of the good People of these Colonies solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that these are United from this day forth, British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that

States; that they are absorbed from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to lay War, conclude Peace, contract Alliance, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

John Hancock

Joshua Bartlett

[illegible]

Commemorating RI's Role in the American Revolution

Erin Stevenson

Deputy Director of Civic Education

RI Department of State



Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State



**Rhode Island
Department of State**



ABOUT RI250

The RI250 Commission consists of 30 appointed members. The Commission, created in 2021, acts as a clearing house and facilitates American Revolution-related activities throughout the State leading up to 2026.

Encouraging Civic
Pride

Supporting
Economic
Development

Sharing RI History in
Person and Online



ABOUT RI250

The work of the RI250 Commission centers around three major pillars—which together guide our efforts to honor Rhode Island's revolutionary past while inspiring a more informed and connected future.

Education & Public
Engagement

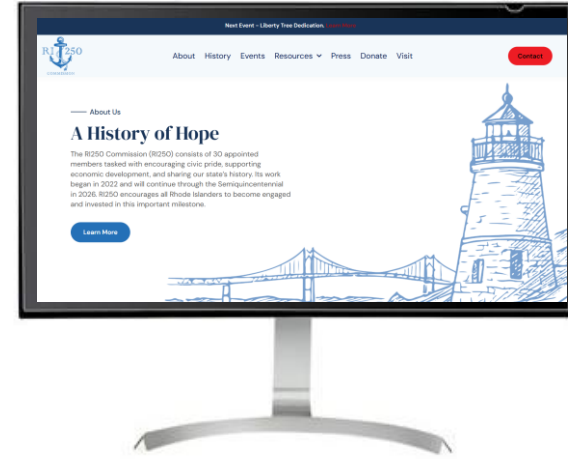
Statewide &
Community
Collaboration

Visibility, Legacy &
National Integration



WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Rhodelsland250.org** - recently revamped
- Central hub for news, events, and resources
 - “Tell Us About Your Event” feature for grassroots participation
- Active social media presence



ENGAGING OUR CITIES & TOWNS

- **All 39 cities and towns** in Rhode Island have formed **local 250th Commissions**
- **Community-driven events** are happening statewide
- **Municipalities are planning** commemorations that reflect **local history and identity**

Liberty Tree Plantings – Launching September 2025



NOTABLE EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- **Brave Men As Ever Fought** portrait featured at the **Rhode Island State House**, in partnership with the **Museum of the American Revolution**
- **Gaspee Days Parade** participation
- Public programming including **book talks** and **history workshops**
- **Traveling exhibits** in partnership with the **RI State Archives**, including *Revolutionary Communities* and *Key Figures*



EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- **Collaborate** with educators
- Create **educational resources**
- Make history and **local heritage** learning available to students

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

- **Offer training sessions** to educators and professionals
- Encourage **visitor engagement**
- Support and provide **high-quality educational experiences**



COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Partnerships with Local Institutions:

By working with local museums, historical societies, educational institutions, civic and municipal leaders, the Rhode Island 250 Commission fosters collaboration that enriches the historical narrative and expands resource availability.

Shared Resources:

Collaborative projects might include shared educational materials, joint exhibitions, and coordinated public programming that maximize the impact of historical presentations



NOTABLE EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- **Major statewide activations** planned for **July 4, 2026**
- Continued support for:
 - Grassroots commemorations
 - Civic education initiatives
 - Traveling exhibits and public art
- Launching **Educator Resource Hub** and building online resources



LONG TERM IMPACT AND LEGACY

- The efforts of the Rhode Island 250 Commission set the stage for **ongoing engagement with history** long after the Semiquincentennial and connects organizations across communities.

Why It Matters

- Builds **civic pride and awareness** of RI's revolutionary roots
- Promotes **tourism, economic development**, and education
- Creates opportunities for **diverse voices** to shape the narrative
- Leaves a lasting legacy for the next generation



The Semiquincentennial milestone is a catalyst for these improvements. It provides:

- A focused occasion to enhance historical accessibility and community engagement.*
- Collaborative efforts with various stakeholders and targeted initiatives.*

The Rhode Island 250 Commission is making Rhode Island's rich history more accessible and engaging for everyone.



THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY



Department Of State Public Records

RI Department of State Public Records Request Portal

In addition to this online portal, records can be requested in the following ways:

- In-person at the RI Department of State's Public Information Division
- Via phone – 401-222-3983
- Via mail to the address below
- Via email to opengov@sos.ri.gov

[APRA Request Form](#)

RI Department of State

Public Information Division

82 Smith St, State House, Room 38

Providence, RI 02903

NextRequest: A Public Records Request Management Tool

Erin Stevenson

August 2025



Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State



All records requests in one easy-to-manage location

- **Main function:** Central repository for all requests, regardless of how they were received
- Requests can be visible to the entire agency, department, or only assigned people
- Requests can be assigned and reassigned as necessary.



Simple set-up

- Site is streamlined and well-organized
- Simple to set up (took about 10 hours)
- Allows for multiple individuals to have administrator roles
- Able to add all divisions/departments to the site



Easy to use

- Due dates can be changed
- Templates can be added to each of the points of communication
- All actions and communications are timestamped
- Invoice system for payments
- Several people from each division can be added, as well as one-off staff members



Benefits

- Large data files can be uploaded.
- Permanent redactions.
- A public search option for older requests.
- Can choose which requests are visible to the public.
- Fully web-based.
- Continuous and automatic application and security updates.



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