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Sally Whipple
Connecticut Democracy Center

Amrys O. Williams, Ph.D.
Connecticut League of Museums

January 22, 2026

Myron Joslyn
First Selectman, Town of Sterling
1183 Plainfield Pike
Sterling, CT 06377

Dear First Selectman Joslyn,

The 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is July 4th, 2026. As we round the final stretch to this anniversary, we hope you will be involved. **To ensure the Town of Sterling is included in future updates, including the below initiatives, please let us know who your municipality's contact will be by emailing info@ct250.org.**

Some of the initiatives that we hope local committees and municipalities will participate in include:

Town Proclamations – Leading up to July 4, 2026

The commission has released a template for a proclamation that municipalities are invited to adopt, which recognizes the milestone and outlines the goals and vision of the 250th in Connecticut as laid out by the work of the America 250 | CT Commission. The template is available for download and may be customized to best align with your municipality's plans.

Recommitment Ceremony – July 4, 2026

On July 4th, the America 250 | CT Commission will hold a ceremony recommitting to the ideals of the Declaration of Independence in Hartford. Each municipality is asked to send a representative to participate in this ceremony. Additional details will follow. However, as we know this will be a busy day in many communities, we encourage you to consider now who may be able to attend this event.

Other commission plans include making an exhibit on Connecticut's role in the American Revolution available on loan and collaborating with state and university partners to distribute white oak tree seedlings for commemorative plantings. Municipalities also have access to currently available resources, including planning guides, resources for educators, and a student recognition program for local history projects. To illustrate some of the commission's work to date, enclosed is a copy of the 2025 annual report in brief.

We are invigorated by all the work and excitement that has gone into planning for this important anniversary throughout the state and look forward to sharing events, programs, exhibitions, and initiatives that you have planned. We will continue to update our website: www.ct250.org/local. As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at info@ct250.org or 860-986-6704.

Sincerely,



Cyndi Tolosa
America 250 | CT Project Manager

* designee

2025 Highlights:

180
America 250 | CT
Affiliates

180
America 250 | CT
Affiliates

129
local committees
formed

129
local committees
formed



192
events hosted in
Connecticut



192
events hosted in
Connecticut

420
people planning
statewide
activities

420
people planning
statewide
activities

\$589K
granted via
CT Humanities to
date

\$589K
granted via
CT Humanities to
date

54
projects funded
via CT Humanities
to date

54
projects funded
via CT Humanities
to date

4
nationwide state
commission
convenings

4
nationwide state
commission
convenings

53
CT Commission
meetings and
gatherings

53
CT Commission
meetings and
gatherings

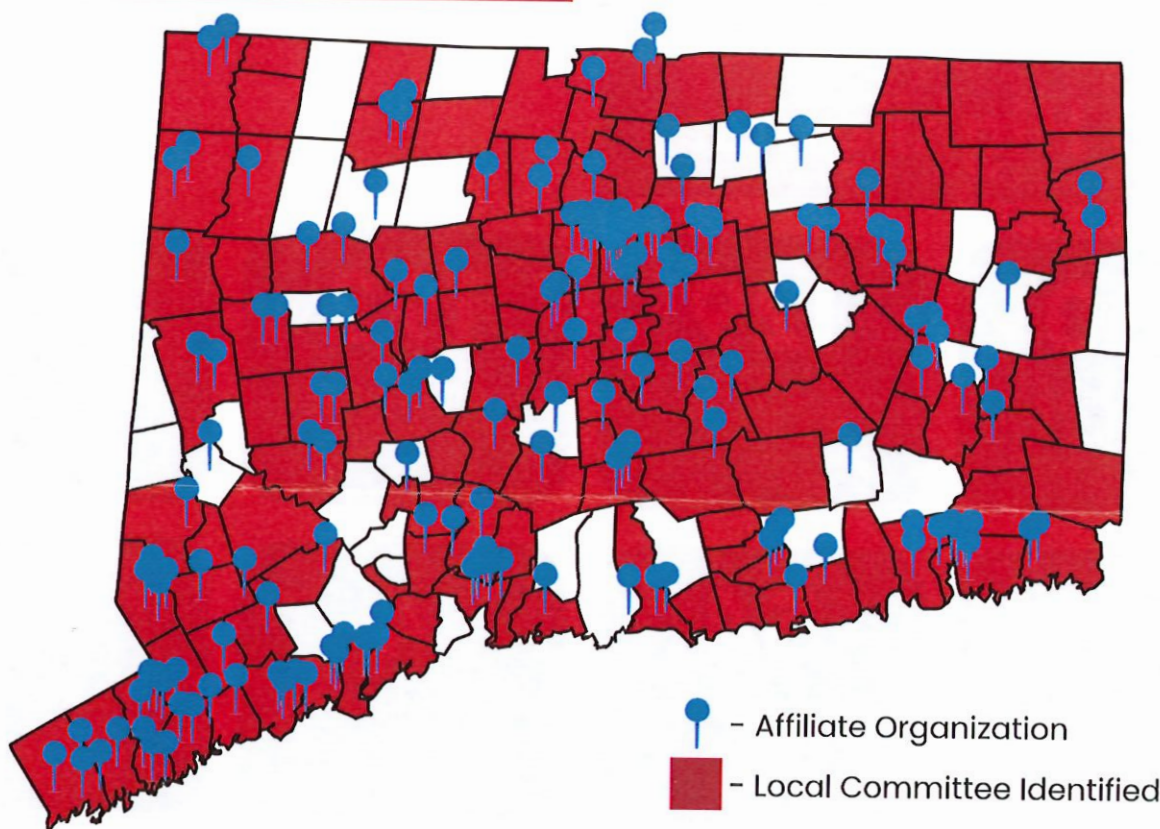
Public Feedback:



At festivals, convenings, and other gatherings, 124 individuals responded to the question, "In one word, how do you wish to feel after the 250th?"

Local Efforts:

(as of January 13, 2026)



Coming in 2026:

EDUCATE

- Workshops to support social studies educators
- Recognition program for students
- Statewide exhibition and related materials
- America's Field Trip and other national efforts

ENGAGE

- Local and state presence at festivals and events
- Regular coordination with local committees
- Statewide recommitment ceremony
- Activate affiliate network
- Encourage public service and volunteerism

EXCITE

- CT Visit website and visitation
- Marketing with partner organizations
- Host signature events on July 4, 2026
- Encourage other state grant funders to fund America 250 | CT projects

If you have any questions, please reach out to Cyndi Tolosa, America 250 | CT Project Manager, at ctolosa@cthumanities.org or (860) 986-6704.



CT250.org