

# AMERICA 250

## CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission  
Governance Subcommittee Meeting  
Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom  
Minutes

Watch Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTx2lZ6bmVY>

### Attendees

#### Subcommittee

Arienne Orozco  
Denise Merrill  
Jason Mancini  
Deborah Schander

#### CTH Staff

Cyndi Tolosa  
Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at 10:01 AM.

1. Minutes Approval
  - a. [November 17, 2025](#)

Motion: Denise Merrill, Second: Jason Mancini, Vote: Yes - 4, No - 0, Abstain - 0

2. Affiliate Program Discussion & Approvals
  - a. Discussion on any flagged applications
    - i. [Application Review Form](#)
    - ii. [Application Cover Sheets](#)
    - iii. [Full Applications](#)
  - b. Vote on applications

There was a brief discussion on the Manchester Republican Town Committee's application, with potential concern about partisanship or competition with the town's committee. It was noted that the application indicated their work would be non-partisan, and that it in a similar situation as a town's library and historical society competition would not be a concern. The subcommittee agreed to vote on all 10 applications in one slate.

Motion to approve all 10 applications: Arienne Orozco, Second: Denise Merrill, Vote: Yes - 4, No - 0, Abstain - 0

This brings the total number of approved affiliates to 180.

3. Annual Report [Draft](#) & Demographic Reporting

The annual report draft has been started. A. Orozco will follow up with subcommittee heads as a reminder to submit their edits to the workplan. Rachel Gonzalez will continue working on the draft and will update a report on the demographic survey, which can be added to the annual report to the governor. The draft will be finalized by December 19, 2025, and shared for

feedback, due January 12, 2026. CTH staff will finalize the draft prior to the January 14 Governance meeting so it can be reviewed prior to the commission meeting on January 21.

A. Orozco noted that January 14 is an orientation for legislators at the LOB, and the Secretary of the State's office will be tabling for that. J. Mancini suggested that the commission look into hosting its own table. D. Merrill agreed, and noted that if the commission cannot have its own table, commission representatives could share with the SOTS office. The orientation is from 10:00 - 2:00 that day. All subcommittee members were in agreement that commission representation in any capacity would be positive.

#### 4. Other Business as Needed

D. Merrill raised the topic of commission membership. Steve Armstrong is the Department of Education's representative, and is now retired. Cyndi Tolosa has reached out to the governor's office for guidance on whether he is still eligible to represent the department and has not received confirmation either way, so S. Armstrong will continue to serve as the representative.

The January meeting may be rescheduled or held in person at the LOB depending on the schedule for January 14.

The meeting ended at 10:29 AM.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 10:00-10:30 AM**