

Hon. Denise W. Merrill
Chair

Jason R. Mancini, Ph.D.
Vice Chair

Membership

Nicolas Angeli
Connecticut's Old State House –
Youth Leader

Stephen Armstrong
Connecticut State Department of
Education*

Anthony Champalimaud
Member of the Public

Melvette Hill
Commission on Women, Children,
Seniors, Equity & Opportunity*

Andrew Horowitz, Ph.D.
Connecticut State Historian

Michael Johnson
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal
Nation*

Margaret Khan
Connecticut Library Association

Robert Kret
Connecticut Museum of Culture
and History

Catherine Labadia
State Historic Preservation Office

Merle McGee
Member of the Public

Arienne Orozco
Secretary of the State*

Tom Scanlon
Office of the Governor*

Deborah Schander, MLIS, JD
Connecticut State Librarian

Elizabeth Shapiro
Department of Economic and
Community Development*

Jonathan Slifka
Department of Aging and Disability
Services

Joe Smith
Mohegan Tribe*

Maisa Tisdale
Mary and Eliza Freeman Center for
History and Community

Sally Whipple
Connecticut Democracy Center

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

**designee*

January 30, 2026

To the Honorable Governor Ned Lamont and Members of the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 22-2, signed on July 1, 2022, the chair and vice-chair planned for and convened the membership of Connecticut's Semiquincentennial Commission. Four commission meetings were held in 2025, as well as numerous subcommittee meetings.

Commission Members

Chair, Hon. Denise W. Merrill, Member of the Public
Vice-Chair, Jason R. Mancini, Ph.D., CT Humanities

Nicolas Angeli, Connecticut Democracy Center – Youth Leader
Stephen Armstrong, Connecticut State Department of Education
(designee)

Anthony Champalimaud, Troutbeck – Member of the Public
Melvette Hill, The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity &
Opportunity (CWCSEO)

Andrew Horowitz, Ph.D., Connecticut State Historian

Michael Johnson, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation (designee)

Margaret Khan, Connecticut Library Association (CLA)

Robert Kret, Connecticut Museum of Culture and History (CMCH)

Catherine Labadia, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) (designee)

Merle McGee, Everyday Democracy – Member of the Public

Arienne Orozco, Secretary of the State (designee)

Tom Scanlon, Governor of the State of Connecticut (designee)

Deborah Schander, MLIS, JD, Connecticut State Librarian

Elizabeth Shapiro, Department of Economic & Community Development
(DECD) (designee)

Jonathan Slifka, Department of Aging and Disability Services

Joe Smith, Mohegan Tribe (designee)

Maisa Tisdale, Mary and Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community

Sally Whipple, Connecticut Democracy Center

Amrys O. Williams, Ph.D., Connecticut League of Museums (CLM)

America 250 | CT Action Plan

Goal 1

Uncover and share stories that represent all the people of Connecticut, past and present.

Action Step 1: Promote the commission, its themes, and resources around the state.

2025 Updates

Benchmark 1: Participate, or facilitate the participation of a local committee or affiliate organization, in at least 10 festivals and fairs around the state

Benchmark 2: Conduct interviews and participate in conversations in local media outlets

Benchmark 3: Have organizations use commission website to promote local events

Progress: In 2025, CT Humanities developed two tabling kits that it loans to local committees to increase our ability to promote the commission, its themes, and resources. In total, commission members, CT Humanities staff, and local 250th committees hosted tables at nineteen community events throughout the state. The commission's parade banner was used at three parades. In addition to community events, staff hosted tables at seven conferences and summits to promote the commission on an organizational level. At all events, the question was posed: "In one word, how do you wish to feel after the 250th?" A total of 124 responses were collected in 2025. (See Appendix A.)

In 2025, media coverage of the commission included a radio interview with WILI's Wayne Norman, an episode of WNPR's *Where We Live* which featured one of the sessions from the commission's March conference, and many stories on local participation in a national event, *Two Lights for Tomorrow*, in April. Media outlets have also been reporting with much greater frequency on 250th programming hosted by local committees, commission affiliates, and others around the state. (See Appendix C.)

The commission's [community events calendar](#) is publicly available at CT250.org, and has grown substantially with 192 events featured in 2025.

2026 Plans

Schedule: Ongoing

Benchmark 1: Participate, or facilitate the participation of a local committee or affiliate organization, in at least 15 festivals and fairs around the state

Benchmark 2: Conduct interviews and participate in conversations in local media outlets

Benchmark 3: List at least 250 events on commission calendar in 2026

Benchmark 4: Collect data on 250th programming from partner organizations and municipalities

Action Step 2: Build on and share the [resource library](#) for CT history, featuring the four themes that the commission has established for CT's commemoration.

2025 Updates

Benchmark 1: Add to list of books and online resources on CT250.org website, particularly focusing on teacher resources

Benchmark 2: Share resource recommendations with CT libraries, community liaisons, youth leaders, and educators

Progress: The CT250.org website continues to be built out, with both a general resources page and specific pages for local committees, affiliates, and educators. In addition to resources curated from other organizations and state or national commissions, the America 250 | CT Commission's education subcommittee, in collaboration with CT Humanities staff, developed and published a variety of materials. Notably, this includes a curriculum packet for third, fifth, eighth, and high school grades, tied both to the commission's four themes and Connecticut's social studies standards, with full lesson plans and additional curated resources. Resources for students to participate in a local history project were also developed, and information on how to work with students were shared with educators, local committees, and local historical societies.

Efforts to share these resources with Connecticut libraries and other community liaisons were expanded this year, including tabling at the Connecticut Library Association's annual conference and hosting a virtual information session on the 250th with its members, monthly calls with local committee members, quarterly calls with affiliate organizations, and increased outreach via mailing lists.

2026 Plans

Schedule: Ongoing

Benchmark 1: Add to list of books and online resources on CT250.org website, particularly focusing on teacher resources

Benchmark 2: Share resource recommendations with CT libraries, community liaisons, youth leaders, and educators

Goal 2

Create a community-based structure that will be used for commission work moving forward.

Action Step 1: Identify an [America 250 | CT liaison](#) in each town and city and encourage participation in at least one commemorative activity.

2025 Updates

Benchmark 1: Identify 169 liaisons across the state, working with Councils of Government as able

Benchmark 2: Engage municipalities in signing on to a recommitment to the ideals of the Declaration of Independence on or around July 4, 2025

Progress: To date, 133 municipalities have identified a liaison. All confirmed contacts are listed on the Commission's website and depicted on an interactive map of the state. In 2025, outreach to municipalities included print and mass emails tailored depending on whether the municipality had designated a contact, as well as targeted phone and email messaging to municipalities that had not yet indicated their participation. Outreach will continue into 2026 to ensure all municipalities are aware of the initiative.

CT Humanities staff communicated with the municipal committee network regularly throughout 2025, including via monthly Zoom calls which were recorded for those unable to attend live and email follow up.

In early 2025, the commission published a template proclamation announcing participation in the 250th for municipalities, and encouraged adoption on or around July 4, 2025. To date, 9 proclamations have been received and posted on the website and 2 municipal ceremonies have been shared on the calendar. It was not a requirement for municipalities to send proclamations, so we anticipate that more have been signed. This proclamation will serve as a template for a recommitment ceremony open to representatives of all municipalities in Hartford on July 4, 2026.

2026 Plans

Schedule: January 1 – July 4, 2026

Benchmark 1: Identify 169 liaisons across the state, working with Councils of Government as able

Benchmark 2: Engage municipalities in signing on to a recommitment to the ideals of the Declaration of Independence on or around July 4, 2025

Action Step 2: Continue to build and amplify a network of [affiliate organizations](#) and engage them in increasing public awareness of the 250th and planning programming aligned with the commission's four themes.

2025 Updates

Benchmark 1: Solicit additional affiliate applications on a monthly basis through regular commission newsletters and word of mouth

Benchmark 2: Identify organizations in underrepresented communities and fields and conduct direct outreach

Benchmark 3: List at least 60 events on commission calendar in 2025

Progress: The commission made substantial progress in building the affiliate program in 2025, ending the year with 180 approved organizations. Organizations in the affiliate network have agreed to align any of their 250th programs to the four themes of the commission, and are approved to use commission branding. There is

a wide range of organizations represented in this group, including town committees, museums, historical societies, civics organizations, community groups, libraries, arts organizations, service organizations, and various businesses. A flyer advertising the program was shared widely, including at appropriate in-person events, via the commission's e-news and social media channels, and via the existing affiliate network.

The commission worked to identify organizations in underrepresented communities and fields to send targeted invitations to apply. Additionally, CT Humanities staff hosted virtual information sessions on the affiliate program with various groups, including the CT Freedom Trail and CT Library Association.

The commission's calendar has grown substantially, with 192 events listed in 2025. All events listed on the calendar have been identified by the organizer as aligning with one or more of the commission's themes.

2026 Plans

Schedule: Ongoing

Benchmark 1: Solicit additional affiliate applications on a monthly basis through June 2026

Benchmark 2: Identify organizations in underrepresented communities and fields and conduct direct outreach

Action Step 3: Encourage collaboration and inclusion in each municipality with participation from elected officials, community leaders, libraries, schools, community centers, local museums, and historic sites.

2025 Updates

Benchmark 1: Have conveners (Connecticut League of History Organizations, Connecticut Humanities, Connecticut Library Association, Designated Regional Service Organizations, etc.) encourage collaboration and meetings between organizations

Benchmark 2: Engage Tribal leaders, members of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, church leaders, and other community leaders in underrepresented groups

Benchmark 3: Encourage commission members to participate in these events, showing commission support for local organizations and events

Progress: The Connecticut League of Museums (formerly the Connecticut League of History Organizations) has encouraged its members to collaborate on 250th-related projects through their annual conference, as well as through workshops held in conjunction with other organizations. In 2025, the commission hosted a table at their annual conference, and CT Humanities staff presented a well-attended session on the available resources for 250th planning. Through the Connecticut Library Association, the Commission is encouraging local libraries and librarians to plan programming related to the 250th and to engage with their local committees.

Engagement included a table at their annual conference and a virtual information session. Additional outreach via Designated Regional Service Organizations included a table and presentation at the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council's Creative Economy Summit.

Efforts to engage with community leaders of underrepresented groups continued through 2025, including invitations to participate as presenters in the commission's March conference and information sessions. CT Humanities staff participate in the CT Freedom Trail meetings and will be participating in By the People: Conversations Beyond 250 to bring underrepresented stories to Connecticut libraries.

Commission members and CT Humanities staff attended events to show support whenever possible, including planning meetings for the local Hartford organizations, exhibit openings, and others.

2026 Plans

Schedule: Ongoing

Benchmark 1: Have conveners (Connecticut League of Museums, Connecticut Humanities, Connecticut Library Association, Designated Regional Service Organizations, etc.) encourage collaboration and meetings between organizations

Benchmark 2: Engage Tribal leaders, members of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, church leaders, and other community leaders in underrepresented groups to host, participate in, and shape 250th activities in their communities

Benchmark 3: Encourage commission members to participate in these events, showing commission support for local organizations and events

Action Step 4: Host sessions to share the America 250 | CT Planning Guide and other resources, and encourage alignment with commission themes on projects.

2025 Updates

Benchmark 1: Update planning guide quarterly with new ideas and information

Benchmark 2: Host at least one session quarterly with partner organizations

Benchmark 3: Host [conference](#) with sessions aimed towards helping individuals, organizations, and municipalities plan programming and events aligned with commission themes

Progress: Updates to planning resources were made throughout the year, including a virtual 250th planning workshop in February which was recorded and published along with a variety of resources, updates to the planning guide offering recommendations for using the commission's themes, additional classroom materials for educators, and continual updates to a resource database including funding opportunities, commission-published materials, and nationally available toolkits.

In addition to monthly calls with municipal planners and quarterly calls with affiliate organizations, staff participated in information sessions to share resources with the Connecticut Veterans Coalition, Conservation ConneCTion, the Connecticut Freedom Trail, the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Mystic Seaport Museum, the Hartford local planning group, and others.

In March 2025, the commission hosted Shaping a Commemoration Rooted in Belonging for 250th planners from around the state. The 250 attendees included scholars, various non-profit and for-profit organizations, educators, and municipalities. Programming was guided by the themes of the commission, and included two keynote addresses and seventeen breakout sessions across six tracks tied to the themes of the commemoration. Sessions included content for a wide range of audiences, including museum professionals, educators, and municipal planners. One session, moderated by WNPR's Catherine Shen, was recorded for an episode of "Where We Live." Survey feedback indicated that an overwhelming majority of participants found that the day was successful, and that they walked away with new ideas of how to commemorate the 250th.

2026 Plans

Schedule: January 1 - July 4, 2026

Benchmark 1: Update resource list quarterly with new ideas and information

Benchmark 2: Host at least six virtual sessions with partner organizations to aid planning of programs aligned with commission themes

Benchmark 3: Host at least six in-person convenings for partner organizations to collaborate and learn from one another's experiences

Goal 3

Invite the public to engage with America 250 | CT themes.

Action Step 1: Identify historic events, sites, trails, buildings, and stories relevant to CT History that can be used to boost tourism in the state.

2025 Updates

Benchmark 1: Identify at least one event, site, trail, and building per county that can be used as a starting point for research and activities

Benchmark 2: Share information with the public via website, including a timeline

Benchmark 3: Encourage scholarly research on underrepresented CT stories

Progress: This project has been tabled for completion in 2025.

A parallel project was started in 2025 with the CT State Department of Transportation and will carry into early 2026. Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto encouraged DOT staff to develop historical signage for rest stops and train stations throughout the state to encourage tourism, particularly during the World Cup. This project is moving forward

in collaboration with commission representatives and will be tied to Connecticut stories during the Revolution.

2026 Plans

Schedule: January 1 – April 30, 2026

Benchmark 1: Identify at least one event, site, trail, and building per county that can be used as a starting point for research and activities

Benchmark 2: Share information with the public via website, including history trails for tourism, a timeline of revolutionary war events, and attractions

Benchmark 3: Encourage scholarly research on underrepresented CT stories and make these accessible for residents and tourists

Action Step 2: Using information collected, work with a curatorial team to develop an inclusive exhibition exploring Connecticut's role in the Revolutionary War that can be shared with all municipalities.

2025 Updates

Benchmark 1: With commission affiliates and local committees, identify sites statewide that can help tell the story of Connecticut

Benchmark 2: Create panels to feature at sites to identify them as part of this project and highlight the role of Connecticut in the founding and building of the United States, with fabrication in 2025 for distribution in 2026

Progress: This project has been adjusted to meet certain constraints, and will now take the form of a four-panel traveling exhibition to be loaned out to municipalities and affiliate organizations around the state. Each panel will explore Connecticut's role in the American Revolution with regard to one of the commission's four themes. Panels will be finalized and produced in the first weeks of 2026, and will travel throughout the year to reach the largest possible audience.

2026 Plans

Schedule: Ongoing through 2026

Benchmark 1: Identify 250th stories in communities throughout Connecticut and promote sites tied to those stories

Benchmark 2: Coordinate schedule for traveling exhibition exploring Connecticut's role in the American Revolution

Action Step 3: Encourage organizations around the state to engage with public history and civic literacy.

2025 Updates

Benchmark 1: Host at least one capacity-building workshop around community-centric history practices

Benchmark 2: Partner with the Secretary of the State's office to support civic engagement efforts

Progress: The Commission has joined the Secretary of the State’s Civically-Engaged Organization program to stay up to date on messaging and materials, and is promoting civic engagement via its social media channels by amplifying messaging from the Secretary of the State’s office (SOTS). In addition to work sharing civics messaging from the SOTS, staff and commission members are involved in Red, White & Blue Schools, a recognition program for Connecticut K-12 schools who choose to go above and beyond in their delivery of civics education. In the 2025-26 school year, the program theme is “For the Common Good,” one of the commission’s themes.

In addition, the commission has published a local history project recognition program that can be completed by any student, and developed resources for educators, local historical societies, and local committees to assist students. This recognition program encourages students and educators to engage with their community in completing a project, and recommends programs such as Red, White & Blue Schools or Connecticut History Day as a means to participate.

2026 Plans

Schedule: Ongoing

Benchmark 1: Promote local history initiatives by highlighting people, places, and events in communities throughout Connecticut and encouraging broad participation in local history initiatives

Benchmark 2: Partner with the Secretary of the State’s office to support civic engagement efforts

2025 Commission Progress

As outlined in the action plan, in 2025 the Commission worked to increase awareness of the Semiquincentennial amongst the public, municipalities, and organizations statewide. Additionally, it endeavored to create a strong database of resources for Connecticut organizations to draw upon in their work connected to the 250th. Other progress includes:

Coordination with National and Regional Organizations

In 2025, commission members and their representatives participated in the following regional and national convenings:

- > Zoom calls hosted by America250
- > Zoom calls hosted by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)
- > A virtual conference hosted by AASLH, 250 Con - February 27-28
- > A Common Cause for All in Virginia - March 24-26
- > A northeast states gathering in Providence - June 1
- > America250 Convening of States & Territories in Washington, D.C. - July 28-30
- > The American Association for State and Local History conference - September 11-13

The commission also collaborated with planners in Hartford, Vermont, and New York on an event commemorating the Fort Ticonderoga expedition and participated in a nation-wide commemoration of Paul Revere's ride, [Two Lights for Tomorrow](#), in April 2025.

In 2026, the commission will host the Northeastern Regional Planners group for a day-long meeting in Ridgefield.

Outreach and Fundraising

Beginning in 2024, the commission worked to hold meetings throughout the state to increase accessibility to Connecticut residents beyond the Capitol area. In 2025, meetings were held in Hartford, Waterbury, Manchester, and Old Lyme.

Commission members and representatives have conducted interviews with media outlets, engaged in public outreach, and participated in planning meetings throughout the state. A representative list includes:

- > Radio coverage on WILL and WNPR
- > Extensive media coverage of Connecticut's participation in Two Lights for Tomorrow and of the Give 250 Connecticut campaign
- > Expanding coverage of 250th events and programming planned by municipalities and commission affiliates
- > Public outreach via tabling at community festivals by commission representatives and partner organizations, including Hartford Bonanza, Thinking

and Doing Days in Hartford, and a variety of community events including Memorial Day, July Fourth, and Veterans Day celebrations, fall fairs and festivals, and 250th proclamation ceremonies

A comprehensive listing of media coverage of the commission and work done around the state may be found in Appendix C.

CT Humanities is the non-profit organization recognized by the State of Connecticut to coordinate and lead the state's plans for commemorative, educational, and civics-based initiatives leading up to and during 2026. Therefore, CTH will serve as the administrative agent and act as the nonprofit fiduciary for America 250 | CT with the support and guidance of the commission.

Commission members and Connecticut Humanities have conducted additional outreach to a variety of organizations to expand knowledge of the commission's work and available resources. In 2025, Chair Denise Merrill, Vice Chair Jason Mancini, additional commissioners, and Connecticut Humanities staff attended or presented at the following gatherings around the state:

- > Council of Small Towns Conference - January 29, 2025
- > Connecticut Library Association Conference - April 28-29, 2025
- > Arts, Culture, & Tourism Day - May 7, 2025
- > Connecticut League of Museums Conference - June 1, 2025
- > Creative Economy Summit - September 11, 2025
- > Placemaking Summit - October 8, 2025
- > Connecticut Council for the Social Studies Conference - October 17, 2025
- > Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Meeting - November 7, 2025

Other outreach efforts that have been overseen by CT Humanities in 2025 and will continue through 2026 include:

- > Manage a calendar and website to raise awareness, build excitement, and encourage civic participation in activities around the semiquincentennial
- > Bring together organizations across Connecticut to celebrate the history of all residents, to be managed through CT Humanities granting programs
- > Collaborate with community-level committees in towns across the state to direct programming from the grassroots level

To date, CT Humanities has secured the following support for America 250 | CT:

- > \$22,682.95 from private donors
- > \$150,000 from 3 private foundations
- > \$8,085.50 from a fundraiser at Mohegan Sun arena

In July and October 2025, CT Humanities hosted a crowdfunding campaign, Give 250 Connecticut. This campaign allowed municipalities and non-profit affiliate organizations (October event only) to fundraise a total of \$36,092.73 for their 250th programming and raised awareness of the 250th around the state.

CT Humanities will continue to solicit support from corporations, foundations, and other private donors in 2025.

CT Humanities has made the 250th a funding priority, and as such has awarded grants through the CTH Fund, Museum Makeover, and Good to Great to organizations across the state which are working on projects tied to the themes of the Commission. To date, CTH has awarded 62 grants for a total of \$2,714,432. In addition to granting from its own funds, CTH is encouraging grant-making organizations around the state to prioritize the 250th.

Commission & Subcommittee Demographics

The commission conducted a demographic survey of commissioners and subcommittee members (see Appendix D for full report). In the survey conducted in 2024, a noted demographic that was underrepresented was youth under 18. In 2025, the education subcommittee engaged in a number of activities to increase youth involvement, including publishing curriculum resources for educators and launching a recognition program for K-12 students who complete a project related to the 250th. Additionally, the commission has engaged with university professors to involve undergraduate and graduate students in a white oak tree planting initiative.

2026 Subcommittee Goals

Community & Organizational Engagement Subcommittee: The Engagement Subcommittee will promote an expansive and inclusive sense of America 250 | CT, identifying ways to engage a broad array of Connecticut residents in the commission's activities. This will require particular attention to finding ways to engage underrepresented groups that may not see themselves in this anniversary. The subcommittee will also encourage community-based activities, identifying community groups that may want to get involved, ensuring they are aware of the anniversary, and encouraging them to be as collaborative and inclusive as possible in their events. In 2026, the subcommittee will continue to take the lead on expanding the network of municipalities.

Education Subcommittee: The Education Subcommittee will engage teachers, educators, and administrators in order to gather resources for teaching and studying the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, working to ensure that multiple perspectives are shared to encourage analysis and critical thinking. It will share events and curriculum resources with teachers in order to spread the work to students and their families about events that are happening. It will also look for opportunities to allow students to participate in the commemoration, including promotion of the local history project recognition program.

Governance Subcommittee: The Governance Subcommittee will continue to review affiliate applications and begin to identify where more direct outreach is needed to build an inclusive network of affiliates. The subcommittee will also lead the demographic make-up survey in tandem with the Secretary of the State and manage the annual report to the Governor's office. Governance subcommittee members will continue to offer support and assistance to other subcommittees as needs arise.

Marketing & Tourism Subcommittee: In partnership with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development's Office of Marketing, the Marketing & Tourism Subcommittee will encourage and inspire the whole Connecticut tourism industry to create and offer America 250 | CT experiences. In 2026, the subcommittee will revamp the commission's website and collaborate with state entities for 250th activities and promotion.

Appendix B: 2026 Commission Meeting Dates

Commission

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wednesday, January 20, 2027 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Community & Organizational Engagement Subcommittee

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 – 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 – 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 – 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 – 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 – 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Education Subcommittee

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 PM

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 PM

Tuesday, July 28, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 PM

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 PM

Governance Subcommittee

Thursday, January 15, 2026 – 9:00 to 9:30 AM

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 – 10:00 to 10:30 AM

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 10:00 to 10:30 AM

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 – 10:00 to 10:30 AM

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 – 10:00 to 10:30 AM

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – 10:00 to 10:30 AM

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 – 10:00 to 10:30 AM

Wednesday, December 9, 2026 – 10:00 to 10:30 AM

Marketing & Tourism Subcommittee

Thursday, June 11, 2026 – 10:00 to 11:00 AM

Appendix C: America 250 | CT in the Press – 2025

The Commission

December 31, 2025

[Connecticut's new history curriculum ties in with America's 250th anniversary](#)

December 30, 2025

[Melissa in the Morning: 250th Anniversary](#)

[Connecticut's new history curriculum ties in with America's 250th anniversary](#)

December 28, 2025

[CT organizers warn of 'missing a huge opportunity' with little funding to celebrate nation's 250th](#)

December 18, 2025

[Connecticut's Restoration of State Capitol Building Will Wait Until After Next Fourth of July](#)

July 11, 2025

[I-Team Stream: Connecticut prepares for America 250 with limited investment](#)

July 3, 2025

[With a year to go, Connecticut may see a "grassroots" celebration of America's 250th with low funds](#)

June 26, 2025

[Connecticut prepares for America250 with limited state investment](#)

[Towns and cities get ready to celebrate America's 250th birthday](#)

Give 250 Connecticut

[Press Release June 18, 2025](#)

Two Lights for Tomorrow: April 2025

[Cromwell Historical Society marks 250th anniversary of American Revolution](#)

[Willimantic recreates the War for Independence beginning](#)

[Honoring The Past While Looking Toward The Future: Two Lights For Tomorrow](#)

[Vernon Residents Encouraged To Ride With Paul Revere](#)

[New Canaan honors Paul Revere's midnight ride with 'Two Lights' displays and other community news](#)

[Bethlehem Hosts Inaugural Event to Commemorate America's 250th Birthday](#)

[Old Lyme Residents Invited to Join 'Two Lights for Tomorrow'](#)

April 1, 2025

[Commemorating America 250 with inclusive stories](#)

February 13, 2025

[Connecticut Celebrates America's 250th Birthday in 2026](#)

October 23, 2024

[America 250 | CT Commission Launches Affiliate Program](#)

July 4, 2024

[CT historian looks back at 1976 bicentennial as the U.S. prepares to celebrate 250 years](#)

July 12, 2023

[Connecticut planning more than a parade on America's 250th](#)

July 11, 2023

[America's 250th birthday is an economic and educational opportunity, CT commission says](#)

July 10, 2023

[Arts and culture check-in in Connecticut, plus a preview of 'America 250'](#)

The 250th in Connecticut

December 30, 2025

[Nancy Meinke Invites Clinton To Celebrate America 250](#)

December 29, 2025

[Connecticut Welcomes 2026 with First Day Hikes on January 1](#)

[Milford Announces Kickoff Event For America's 250th Anniversary: Here's What To Know](#)

December 24, 2025

[Coming Soon In Glastonbury: Joint Celebration Of MLK'S Birthday And America's 250th
Branford's First Night 2026 Celebration: Music, Ice Carving, Bonfire and S'mores. Need We
Say S'more?](#)

December 23, 2025

[Historic home showcases Connecticut's role in America's founding as state prepares for
nation's 250th birthday](#)

December 22, 2025

[This CT inn opened the year the nation was born. Why that's 250 years of history still being
made.](#)

December 19, 2025

[Hartford Symphony to play 4th of July concert in Bushnell Park for 250th anniversary of USA](#)

December 16, 2025

[Connecticut's toy legacy: From Silly Putty to Cabbage Patch Kids](#)

December 14, 2025

[\\$50M rehab of CT's state Capitol will be delayed until after nation's 250th celebrations](#)

December 11, 2025

[Inside the CT factory behind some of the world's most famous bells](#)

December 10, 2025

[Opinion: Chanukah's timeless message illuminates America's 250th year – CT Insider](#)

December 9, 2025

[America250 Semiquincentennial Celebrations & The Middletown/Portland America 250 Committee](#)

[Middletown, Portland, Teaming Up To Celebrate Nation's Semiquincentennial](#)

December 5, 2025

[Avon To Host America 250 Planning Forum Next Week](#)

December 2, 2025

[New Haven's sweet history: How Connecticut invented the lollipop](#)

November 28, 2025

[Learn About Role Of Woman During American Revolution At Avon Library Event](#)

[Thomaston button fanatic's 20,000-piece collection is full of history](#)

[CCSU to host Latino Identity and Self Expression conference](#)

November 26, 2025

[Griswold Inn "Share Your Stories" Campaign](#)

November 25, 2025

[Researcher restores forgotten Black military family to Connecticut history](#)

November 21, 2025

[Norwich Free Academy celebrates Polaroid camera inventor Edwin Land](#)

November 20, 2025

[Meet Connecticut's newest kid governor who wants to 'stand up for students with disabilities'](#)

November 14, 2025

[Still Here: Native American Resilience in New England](#)

November 10, 2025

[From WWII to Operation Enduring Freedom, these Connecticut veterans served their country](#)

October 31, 2025

[Griswold Inn in Essex draws visitors with nearly 250-year historic charm and ghost stories](#)

October 29, 2025

[Plymouth hosting 'Salute to Veterans' concert](#)

[Connecticut contributes to America's Tapestry](#)

October 24, 2025

[Canton Library Hosting Historical Concert For America 250](#)

October 19, 2025

[Monroe commemorates 250th anniversary of Declaration of Independence](#)

October 16, 2025

[Town Of Glastonbury: Celebration Efforts Commence For America's 250th Anniversary](#)

October 14, 2025

[Mark Twain House offers ghost tours exploring spiritualism in Gilded Age](#)

August 12, 2025

[Middletown's plans for America 250 could include 15-town parade, lighting up Arrigoni Bridge](#)

August 13, 2025

[Berlin seeks original logo design for America 250 celebration](#)

July 25, 2024

[Norwich wants to play big part in state's celebration of nation's 250th birthday](#)

Appendix D: 2025 Gender & Racial Composition of the America 250 | CT Commission & Subcommittees

For over 25 years, Connecticut law (Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-9b) has required state boards, commissions, committees and councils (“boards and commissions”), which have at least one member appointed by the Governor or a member of the General Assembly, to report the gender and racial composition of their appointed membership.¹

Included in this report are the gender and racial composition tables required by the state, as well as additional data collected to track progress towards inclusion, diversity, equity, and access for commission purposes.

Findings

Thirteen of 21 Commission members and 14 of 44 subcommittee members responded to the survey, with a total of 27 responses collected. To ensure the privacy of all respondents, the data in this report has been aggregated to include all Commission and Subcommittee (hereafter referred to as “the Commission”) respondents in one data set. It should be noted that, with a response rate of 41%, the data from this survey may not be truly representative of the Commission as a whole.

Comparative data for the majority of categories has been sourced from the most recent census estimates available (2024) on the Connecticut Department of Public Health’s website. Where comparative data for the state of Connecticut was unavailable, U.S. Census Bureau data for the United States population as a whole was used.

Based on respondent data, some key points are as follows:

- The Commission includes a higher percentage of White participants than the state as a whole (78% vs 62%)
- The Commission includes a significantly lower proportion of those who identified as Hispanic/Latino than the state as a whole (7% vs 19%).
- The percentage of respondents who identified as Black/African American was proportionally similar to the demographics of the state as a whole (both 11%).
- Age distribution of the Commission is concentrated between 35-65 (78% of respondents vs 39% of the state population). Only one respondent fell in the 19-34 bracket (4% vs 19% of the state population).

¹ From the 2023 Gender and Racial Composition of Connecticut State Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Councils Report, Office of the Secretary of the State, https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sots/education/diversityreport/2023_gender_race_board_report.pdf

- Based on 2024 Gallup polling, the proportion of the Commission who identify as LGBTQ+ roughly mirrors the U.S. population (7% vs 9%).²
- Those on the Commission self-identified as having a disability at a significantly lower rate than the U.S. population as a whole (0% vs 14%).

Gender Representation

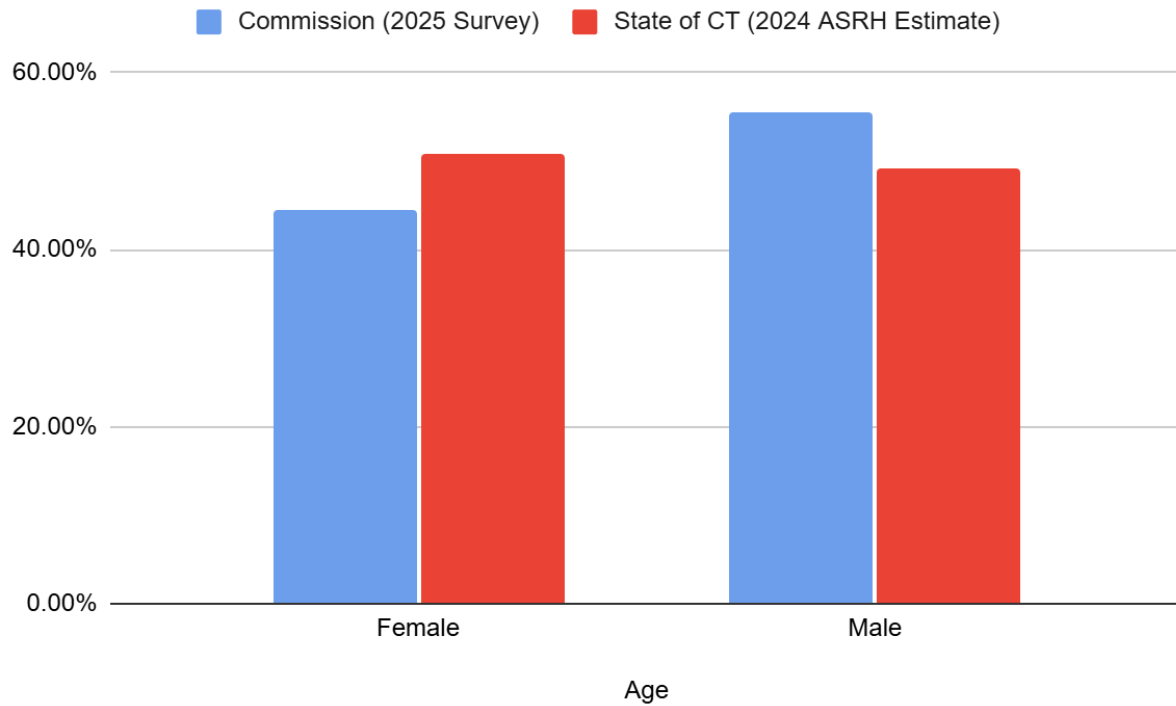
Respondents were given the option to select “Female,” “Male,” “Non-Binary,” or “Prefer not to say.” All respondents selected either “Female” or “Male.” Those identifying as female made up 44% of the Commission, compared to 51% of the population of the state of Connecticut. Those identifying as male comprise 56% of the Commission, as compared to 49% of the state’s population.

Table 1. Gender Representation of America 250 | CT Commission & Subcommittee Members versus State of Connecticut

Sex/Gender	Commission (2025 Survey)	State of CT (2024 ASRH Estimate)
Female	44.44%	50.92%
Male	55.56%	49.08%
Non-Binary	0.00%	-
Prefer not to say	0.00%	-

² Data from Gallup, “LGBTQ+ Identification in U.S. Rises to 9.3%,” February 20, 2025, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/656708/lgbtq-identification-rises.aspx>

Chart 1. Gender Representation of America 250 | CT Commission & Subcommittee Members versus State of Connecticut



Racial Diversity

The racial/ethnic groups which were most notably divergent from the proportion of the state's population were Hispanic/Latino of any race and White (not Hispanic/Latino). Those identified as Hispanic/Latino only comprised 7% of the Commission versus 19% of the state as a whole. In contrast, those who identified as White (not Hispanic/Latino) comprised 78% of the Commission versus 62% of the state as a whole. The percentage of Commission members identifying as Black/African American is roughly equivalent to the percentage of the state as a whole at 11%. The percentage identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native was higher than the state as a whole, however, it should be noted that due to the small sample size, only one individual was represented. No Commission members identified as Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or two or more races (not Hispanic or Latino).

When broken out by gender, the only notable difference is the proportion of those identifying as a White female on the Commission is closely correlated to the state population as a whole (33% vs 32%).

Table 2. Racial Diversity of America 250 | CT Commission & Subcommittee Members versus State of Connecticut

Race/Ethnicity	Commission (2025 Survey)	State of CT (2024 ASRH Estimate)
Hispanic/Latino, of any race	7.41%	19.23%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3.70%	0.22%
Asian	0.00%	5.33%
Black/African American (not Hispanic/Latino)	11.11%	10.99%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0.04%
White (not Hispanic/Latino)	77.78%	62.18%
Two or more races (not Hispanic/Latino)	0.00%	2.01%
Preferred not to answer regarding race	0.00%	-

Chart 2. Racial Diversity of America 250 | CT Commission & Subcommittee Members versus State of Connecticut

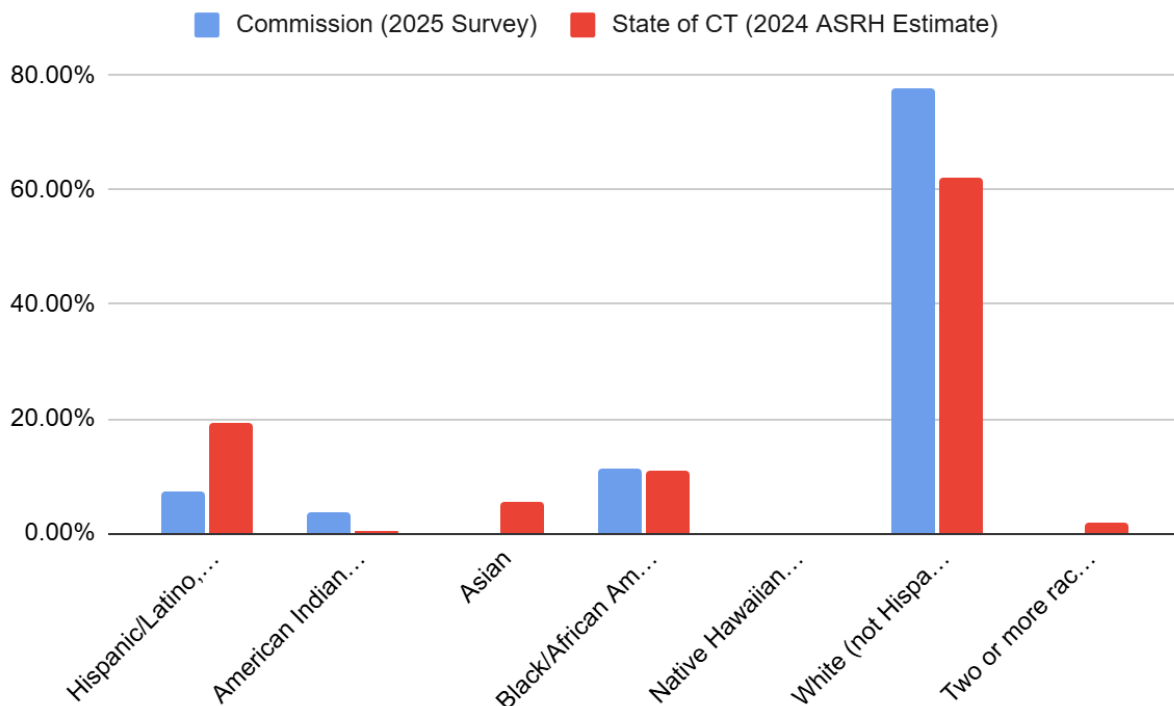


Table 3. Female Racial Diversity of America 250 | CT Commission & Subcommittee Members versus State of Connecticut

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage of Commission (2025 Survey)	Percentage of State of CT Population ³ (2024 ASRH Estimate)
Hispanic/Latino, of any race	3.70%	9.67%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3.70%	0.11%
Asian	0.00%	2.74%
Black/African American (not Hispanic/Latino)	3.70%	5.73%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0.02%
White (not Hispanic/Latino)	33.33%	31.63%
Two or more races (not Hispanic/Latino)	0.00%	1.02%
Preferred not to answer regarding race	0.00%	-

³ Data from Connecticut State Department of Public Health, Annual State & County Population with Demographics

Table 4. Male Racial Diversity of America 250 | CT Commission & Subcommittee Members versus State of Connecticut

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage of Commission (2025 Survey)	Percentage of State of CT Population ⁴ (2024 ASRH Estimate)
Hispanic/Latino, of any race	3.70%	9.56%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.00%	0.11%
Asian	0.00%	2.58%
Black/African American (not Hispanic/Latino)	7.41%	5.26%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0.02%
White (not Hispanic/Latino)	44.44%	30.55%
Two or more races (not Hispanic/Latino)	0.00%	0.99%
Preferred not to answer regarding race	0.00%	-

Age Representation

Respondents were asked to select one of five age brackets or were given the option to select “prefer not to say.” The state of Connecticut population as a whole are roughly evenly divided amongst the five given age brackets, with approximately 20% of the total population in each group. Amongst the Commission, youth under age 18 are not represented, and only one respondent fell into the 19–34 age bracket. The over 65 age bracket roughly mirrors the demographics of the state as a whole. A significantly higher percentage of the Commission falls within the 35–50 and 51–65 age brackets.

⁴ Data from Connecticut State Department of Public Health, Annual State & County Population with Demographics

Table 5. Age Diversity of America 250 | CT Commission & Subcommittee Members versus State of Connecticut

Age	Commission (2025 Survey)	State of CT ⁵ (2024 ASRH Estimate)
Under 18	0%	22.88%
19-34	3.07%	19.26%
35-50	33.33%	18.87%
51-65	44.44%	19.82%
Over 65	18.52%	19.43%
Prefer not to say	0.00%	-

Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity

Question: Are you a member of the LGBTQ+ community?

Two respondents selected “yes,” 24 respondents selected “no,” and one selected “prefer not to say.” This equates to just over 7% of the Commission self-identifying as members of the LGBTQ+ community. For comparison, a recent Gallup poll of U.S. adults posed the question: “Which of the following do you consider yourself to be? You can select as many as apply. Straight or heterosexual, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender.” In this poll, 9.3% of respondents self-identified as LGBTQ+, indicating that the Commission includes a roughly equivalent proportion of members of this community to the country at large.

Table 6. Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity of America 250 | CT Commission & Subcommittee Members

LGBTQ+	Percentage of Commission (2025 Survey)
Yes	7.41%
No	88.89%
Prefer not to say	3.70%

⁵ Data from Connecticut State Department of Public Health, Annual State & County Population with Demographics

Disability Characteristics

Question: "Are you a member of the disability community?"

Zero respondents selected "yes," 26 selected "no," and one selected "prefer not to say." This is in contrast with almost 14% of the United States population identified as having disability characteristics.

Table 7. Disability Characteristics of America 250 | CT Commission & Subcommittee Members versus U.S. Population

Disability Community	Percentage of Commission (2025 Survey)	Percentage of U.S. Population⁶ (2024 U.S. Census Bureau)
Yes	0.00%	13.70%
No	96.30%	86.30%
Prefer not to say	3.70%	N/A

Conclusions

The America 250 | CT Commission's stated Mission and Vision prioritizes an inclusive commemoration in which all Connecticut residents may see themselves reflected. The results of this survey indicate many areas of strength in that regard, as well as some notable areas of weakness. Where gaps have been identified, there is room for reflection on the appropriate actions to close these gaps.

⁶ Data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Disability Characteristics 1-Year Estimate Tables, 2024, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2024.S1810?q=disability>