

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission
Governance Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
Minutes

Watch Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWB76Dnnq70>

Attendees

Subcommittee

Arienne Orozco
Denise Merrill
Jason Mancini

CTH Staff

Cyndi Tolosa
Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at 9:00 AM.

1. 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 of the applications, with no concerns among the subcommittee. All applications were voted on as a slate of 5.

Motion: Arienne Orozco, Vote: Yes - 3, No - 0, Abstain - 0

There was brief discussion on the new "Freedom250" initiative, which is tied to the White House Task Force 250's work.

2. Minutes Approval
 - a. [December 10, 2025](#)

Motion: Denise Merrill, Vote: Yes - 3, No - 0, Abstain - 0

3. Annual Report [Draft](#)

Subcommittee members reviewed the annual report and shared notes. There was discussion on the demographic reporting, which in 2024 indicated gaps in youth involvement and has the same gaps in 2025. Informally, there has been work done with educators and at universities. Language will be added to the report to formally document this.

Subcommittee members will review and make additional comments. The draft will be sent to the commission by end of day Friday, 1/16, with time for additional updates after the commission meeting next week.

4. Other Business as Needed

The meeting ended at 9:38 AM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 10:00-10:30 AM