



# *Township Officials of Illinois*

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Craig Paulek  
*President*

## AMERICA



September 4, 2025

Dear Township Official:

As outlined in the September *Township Perspective* magazine (2025) you are encouraged to adopt the attached resolution at your next Township board meeting. The Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) are encouraging you to promote and celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our great country.

We have suggestions on our website at [toi.org](http://toi.org) for ways your township can take part in the celebration. Our goal is to have all townships across Illinois celebrating on July 4, 2026.

Please send pictures of your celebrations to our office for inclusion in upcoming editions of *Perspective*.

On behalf of the TOI Board of Directors and staff, we hope you take part in and promote the celebration in your individual townships.

All the best!

  
**Jerry B. Crabtree**  
Executive Director

Enclosure

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF \_\_\_\_\_ IN SUPPORT OF THE  
ILLINOIS AMERICA250 COMMEMORATION**

WHEREAS, the United States of America will commemorate its 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026, marking a historic milestone in the nation's history; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, asserting the American colonies' freedom from British rule and laying the foundation for the principles of democracy and self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, known as the America250 Commission ([america250.org](http://america250.org)) was established by Congress in 2016 to plan and orchestrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, aiming to engage all Americans in commemorating this historic event through educational initiatives.

WHEREAS, the Illinois America250 Commission ([IL250.org](http://IL250.org)) was established to develop, encourage and execute an inclusive commemoration and observance of the founding of the United States of America, and Illinois' imperative role in the nation's history; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois America250 Commission encourages communities, libraries, schools, local governments (townships), historical societies, cultural institutions and individuals of all ages to develop inclusive commemorations that reflect on Illinois' role in the nation's history and development; and

WHEREAS, recognizing and supporting the Illinois America250 Commission will help ensure a meaningful and educational commemoration for all residents and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the commemoration provides an opportunity to reflect on the state's historical significance, honor the achievements of its people and inspire civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the township of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ county, hereby formally supports the Illinois America250 Commission and its mission to commemorate our nation's 250th anniversary.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the of the Township of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ county, expresses its support for the Illinois America250 Commission, and encourages all Illinois township communities to organize and participate in local events leading up to and culminating on July 4, 2026, to celebrate America's 250th anniversary.

PASSED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTENTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor, \_\_\_\_\_ Township



# AMERICA ILLINOIS

**Be part of the journey to 250!**

***Join the statewide commemoration of  
the 250th anniversary of the signing of the  
Declaration of Independence, July 4, 2026.***

## **The Vision**

All people who call Illinois home — in every part of the State, and of all ages, abilities and backgrounds — will have the opportunity to see themselves in the complex history of the nation's 250th Anniversary and to imagine together the future for Illinois we want to transpire over the next 250 years.

***Themes: We the People • Power of Place • Doing History***

Visit [www.IL250.org](http://www.IL250.org) to learn more.



# AMERICA **250** ILLINOIS

The Illinois America 250 Commission has identified four priorities that will ensure all Illinoisans can commemorate this anniversary in their own unique way:

**1**

***Engaging Youth***

**2**

***Promoting Local  
Commemorations***

**3**

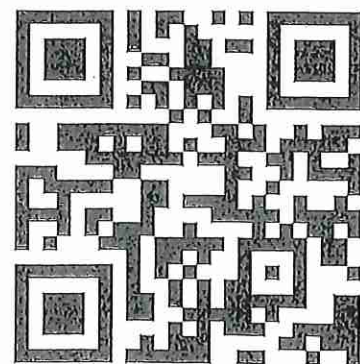
***Uplifting Local  
Stories and Places***

**4**

***Recognizing Service***

At **IL250.org**, individuals and organizations can sign up to become a promotional partner, establish an IL250 Community, submit events to the local and national calendar, and access resources. **Stay tuned for more information and program announcements in summer 2025!**

**Questions? Email [IL250@ilhumanities.org](mailto:IL250@ilhumanities.org)**







**Step 1:** Adopt the sample resolution we have provided in this issue of Perspective and also available for download at [toi.org](http://toi.org). If wanted, townships can create their own resolution and provide individual historical information and unique township characteristics and facts.

**Step2:** Discuss with your township way to commemorate the occasion. Ask for public input. Involve schools and civic organizations in deterring what can be done

- Create a township history hub that documents local history through township documents and photos, news clips etc. from residents, schools and organizations.
  - Establish a community art exhibit themed around the semi quincentennial celebration. Involve all elementary, middle and high schools.
  - Invite guest speakers, local historians , veterans and other community leaders to provide presentations about Colonial and Revolutionary periods. Encourage history recognition.
  - Adapt preexisting events, such as community days in the part, festivals or fun runs to align with the Celebrate 250!
  - Provide local historical tours and advertise them to create interest in learning how your township contributed to the historical creation of this celebration.
  - Work with local schools to create interactive presentations, art contests, or essay competition to get students of all ages involved about the celebration. Help them learn the significance of local government among the state of Illinois and the country.
  - Create a TOWNSHIP TIME CAPSULE to mark the celebration. Mark the events by preserving a historical recording of what the township did to celebrate the event.
- TO developed a model resolution ([available via this link](#)) that TOWNSHIPS may adopt in support of the Illinois America250 Commemoration.
  - TOI is also sharing America250-related posts and spotlights about municipal participation through our social media. You're welcome to reference or repost this content as it becomes available.

Additional helpful resources are available from:

- Illinois America250 Commission's website (<https://www.il250.org/resources>).
- National America250 Commission: [america250.org](http://america250.org) ([available via this link](#)).

[Illinois America 250.](#)

The Township Officials of Illinois Board of Directors encourages Townships across ILLINOIS to prepare for the celebration of AMERICA's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

### **What is America 250? How can you become part of the history in the making?**

America 250 is a celebration where townships events commemorate next year's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026. Recommendations include passing commemorative resolutions to becoming official partners to planning community celebrations with your township and neighboring local governments. There is much to celebrate with the nation's semi quincentennial in 2026!

The countdown began in July of this year. The Illinois America 250 Commission has identified three themes they are encouraging participants to use: **Power of Place; We the People; and Doing History**. The planning of a celebration provides an opportunity for townships and local governments to be part of a large event. We encourage you to reach out to your neighboring municipalities and townships to see if joint celebrations are achievable. The key is to get everyone in your community involved. Utilize this as an opportunity to work together on a common goal and show just how powerful local government is in your community. Reach out to your county, tourism bureau and other local organizations, the press and make it a memorable documented event.

In a press release from January 17, 2025, Governor JB Pritzker stated "Illinois is integral to telling our nation's story from our rich agricultural and manufacturing roots to our roll in the fight for freedom and justice. As we commemorate 250 years of independence, the Illinois America 250 Commission will help ensure every Illinoisian has a voice and a place in this historic moment". "The 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary is not just a celebration of our past. It is an opportunity to examine how we ended up where we are today and an invitation to consider the future we want to build" said Gabrielle Lyon, Chair of the Illinois America 250 Commissioner.

### **SOME SUGGESTIONS TO ASSIST IN YOUR PLANNING EFFORTS**

We have 1426 Township in Illinois. I would like to publish a listing of participating townships in upcoming issues of *Perspective*. We will complete a reporting mechanism and provide updates in issues of *Perspective* as we move from September 2025 through July, 2026. Start planning now how your TOWNSHIP can participate in this historical event to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our great nation.