

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 22-2

WHEREAS, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the formation of the United States of America will occur on July 4, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut is embarking on a multi-year commemoration, celebration, and reflection on the 250th Anniversary of the American War for Independence; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to provide for the observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and related events through local, state, national, and international activities, planned, encouraged, developed, and coordinated by a national commission representative of appropriate public and private authorities and organizations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Semiquincentennial Commission encourages states to establish state-level commissions to plan and coordinate activities within each state celebrating the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Connecticut Semiquincentennial Commission will enhance tourism, economic development, historic education and preservation, and outdoor recreation within the state; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Semiquincentennial Commission will coordinate, engage, and liaise with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, and other local, county, and state commissions, as well as private and public organizations and partners, including, but not limited to, the America 250 Foundation and the American Battlefield Trust; and

WHEREAS, the Commission will develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive celebration, commemoration, and observance of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence through civic, cultural, and historical education events and programming; and

WHEREAS, the Commission will promote the documentation, identification, and preservation of cultural and historic resources, including archives, buildings, landscapes, objects, and sites related to the semiquincentennial period.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

- I. There is a Connecticut Semiquincentennial Commission (the “Commission”).
- II. Membership.
 - a. The Commission shall consist of the following members:
 - i. The Governor, or the Governor’s designee;
 - ii. The Commissioner of the Department of Education, or the Commissioner’s designee;
 - iii. The Commissioner of the Department of Aging and Disability Services, or the Commissioner’s designee;
 - iv. The Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, or the Commissioner's designee; and
 - v. Up to three members of the public appointed by the Governor.
 - b. The following are invited to be members of the Commission:
 - i. The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary’s designee;
 - ii. The State Historic Preservation Officer designated pursuant to 36 CFR 61.2, or the Officer's designee;
 - iii. The State Historian, or the State Historian’s designee;
 - iv. The State Librarian, or the State Librarian’s designee;
 - v. A representative of the Connecticut Humanities Council;
 - vi. A representative of the Connecticut Library Association;
 - vii. A representative of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity;

- viii. A representative of the Mohegan Tribe;
 - ix. A representative of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation;
 - x. A representative of the Connecticut Historical Society;
 - xi. A representative of the Connecticut Democracy Center;
 - xii. A representative of the Connecticut League of History Organizations;
 - xiii. A representative of the Mary and Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community; and
 - xiv. A student or youth leader recommended by the Executive Director of the Old State House.
- III. Members of the Commission shall not receive any compensation for their service.
- IV. Members of the Commission shall be subject to the Connecticut Codes of Ethics, which are found in Chapter 10 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- V. The Commission and members of the Commission shall be subject to the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, which are found in Chapter 14 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- VI. The Governor shall appoint a chair and vice-chair from among the members of the Commission.
- VII. The Commission shall:
- a. Assist in ensuring that any observance of the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution is inclusive and appropriately recognizes the experiences and points of view of all people affected by the events surrounding the American Revolution;
 - b. Encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, arts and other organizations throughout the state to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the American Revolution;

- c. Collaborate with state and local tourism agencies to promote the state as a prominent cultural and heritage tourism destination for American Revolution history;
- d. Encourage interdisciplinary and scholarly examination of the American Revolution;
- e. Explore the ways in which the ethos of the United States' national founding period and the two hundred fifty years that follow influence the United States' present and can shape its future;
- f. Develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Revolutionary War, and founding of the United States of America and all its people through civic cultural and historical education and programming;
- g. Coordinate, engage and liaise with the US Semiquincentennial Commission and other state and local commissions and private and public organizations and partners;
- h. Establish an advisory council, or other such entities as it deems necessary, composed of citizens at large who have knowledge of history and interest in its Semiquincentennial celebration to assist the Commission in its work;
- i. Have the administrative and technical support of the Department of Economic and Community Development; and
- j. Hold at least semi-annual meetings:
 - i. At times and places to be determined by the Chair; and
 - ii. That are open to the public in accordance with Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

VIII. The Commission shall further:

- a. Submit an action plan to the Governor and General Assembly by January 1, 2023, that outlines the Commission's goals, mission, and recommendations, and an annual report each subsequent

year that includes any update on the action plan, implementation benchmarks, and related deadlines and schedules;

- b. Commemorate the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution and Connecticut's participation and contributions to it, including, but not limited to, developing activities in recognition of the historic, social, legal, cultural, and political forces that caused the American Revolution and influenced its course and outcomes;
- c. Collaborate with and assist other state and national organizations with programs and activities for the observance of the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution in the state;
- d. Facilitate American Revolution-related activities throughout the state;
- e. Provide assistance to municipalities and nonprofit organizations for the development of programs, projects, and activities pertaining to the American Revolution that have lasting educational value within the state; and
- f. Support the creation of educational opportunities for students and all members of the public who wish to explore the intricacies of the founding period of the United States.

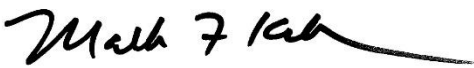
IX. The Commission shall terminate on June 30, 2028.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st day of July 2022



Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command



Mark Kohler
Secretary of the State

