

Flat Roger Sherman

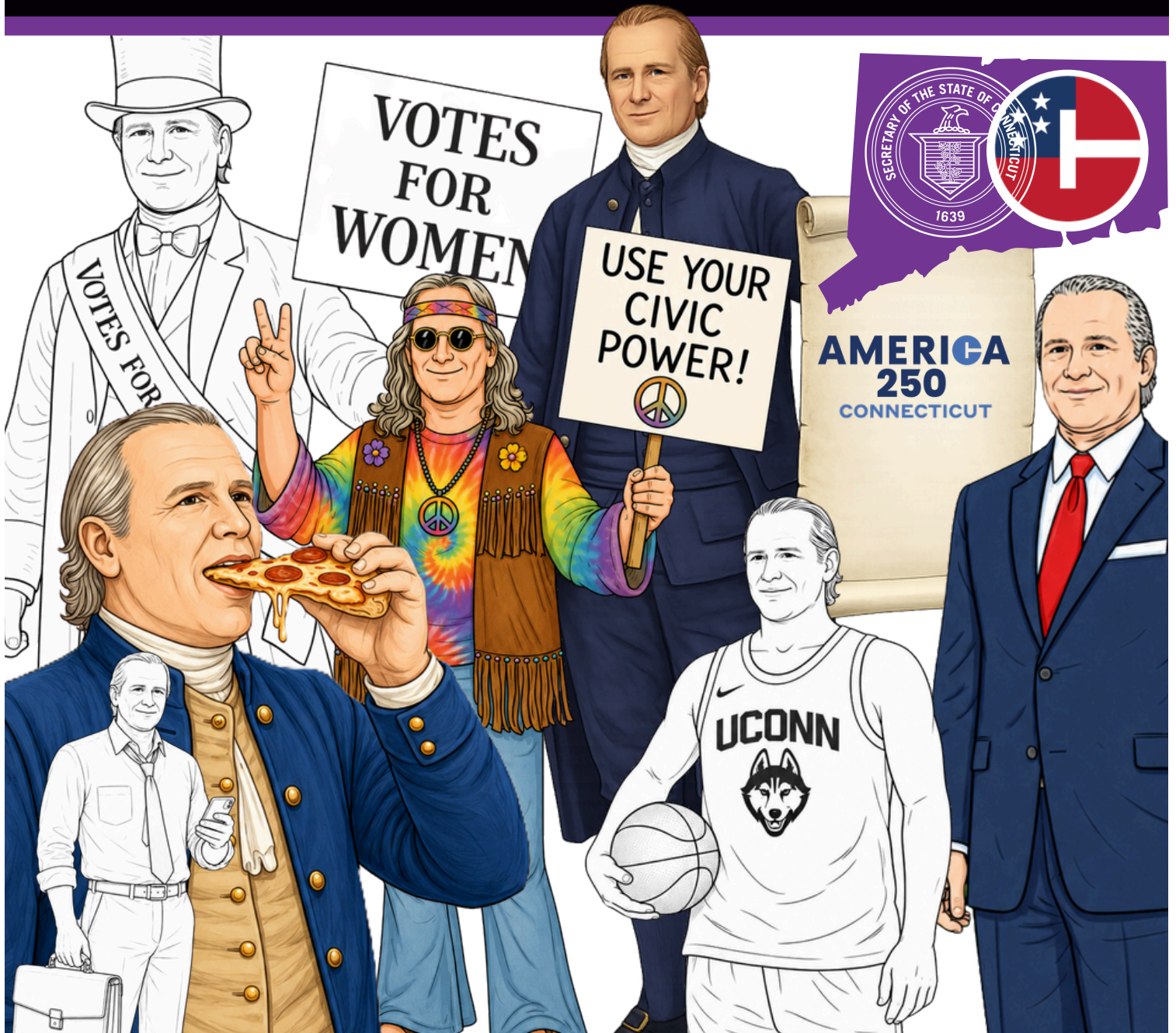
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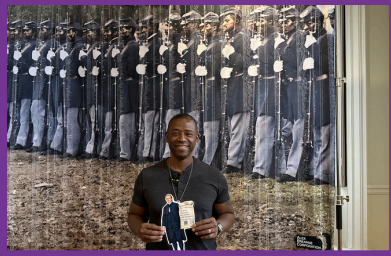
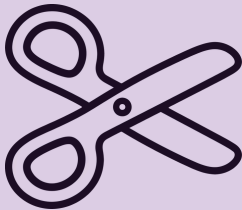
A project of the Connecticut Secretary of the State
In celebration of America's 250th

Whether You're a Student or an Adult ...

Use Flat Roger to Explore Civic Life
& Your Place in it!



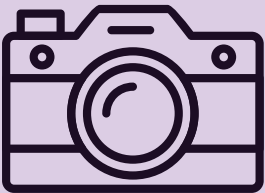
1. Print and color your Flat Roger Sherman. Or, use one of the versions already in color!



2. Cut him out.



3. Take him to a place in your community where civic life is happening. **(Read on for ideas!)**



4. Snap a photo of Flat Roger out and about!



5. Share on social media, using #CTFlatRoger, #CTSOTS, and #CT250.



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Introduction from Secretary of the State Thomas

Dear Connecticut Residents:

In 2026, America turns 250. It's a big moment, and a great time to remember that our system of government isn't just something we learn about. It's something we live every day.

Flat Fact from Secretary Thomas

Civic engagement isn't something that happens somewhere else. It happens all around you, every day.

Civics shows up all around us: in our communities, our conversations, and the decisions that shape our daily lives. And when you understand how it works, you're better prepared to speak up for the issues that matter to you.

That's why in honor of our state's America 250th celebrations, our office created the **Flat Roger Sherman Project**, inspired by one of Connecticut's own Founding Fathers. Roger Sherman was the only person in American history to sign all four of the nation's founding documents: the Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution.

Sherman wasn't flashy. He didn't seek attention. But he was respected for his integrity, his practicality, and his ability to bring people together. He believed in strong communities, thoughtful governance, and **the idea that everyday citizens should have a voice in how they are governed.**

Roger Sherman reminds us that you don't have to be famous, wealthy, or extraordinary to make a difference. Flat Roger is for everyone, because we can all help shape history.



Within this packet, you'll find everything you need to take your personalized version of Flat Roger on an adventure. Be sure to use the hashtags **#CTFlatRoger**, **#CTSOTS**, and **#CT250** when you post on social media. We can't wait to see where you take him!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Thomas
Connecticut Secretary of the State



Who was Roger Sherman?

Roger Sherman wasn't born into wealth or privilege.

He didn't attend elite schools, and he wasn't known for fiery speeches or larger-than-life charisma.

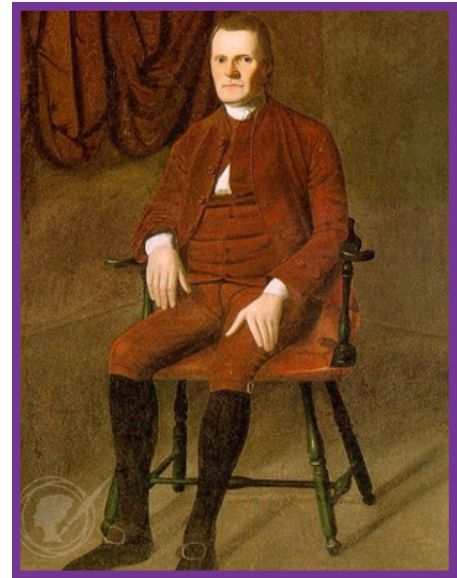
In fact, in many ways, he was just an everyday person — someone who worked hard, learned as he went, and cared deeply about his community.

And yet, his impact on American history is extraordinary.

Sherman was born in 1721 in Massachusetts and grew up in a modest family. When his father died, Sherman helped support his family by working as a shoemaker. He had little formal education, but he was determined to learn.

With the help of a local minister, who became his mentor, he began educating himself: reading everything he could get his hands on, studying law, and developing the knowledge that would shape his future.

That self-made path defined Sherman's life. He moved to New Milford, Connecticut, opened a store, became a surveyor, and eventually a lawyer, despite never attending



April 19, 1721 – July 23, 1793

Flat Fact from Secretary Thomas

Small actions like asking a question, attending a meeting, or learning something new are how civic engagement begins.

Choose the version of Flat Roger Sherman that appeals most to you, and then:

- Color or cut
- Do a civic action
- Post a photo of Flat Roger on social media using the hashtags **#CTFlatRoger**, **#CTSOTS**, and **#CT250**. You can also tag us using **@CTSOTS**!



Who was Roger Sherman, continued

law school. From there, he stepped into public service, not for recognition, but because he believed in doing his part.

And he did more than his part.

Roger Sherman is the only person in American history to sign all four of the nation's founding documents:

- The Continental Association
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Articles of Confederation
- The U.S. Constitution

These weren't just signatures. They were the result of years of steady, thoughtful work behind the scenes.

While others like Hamilton, Franklin, and Jefferson often took center stage, Sherman was known as a problem-solver. In 1787, when disagreements at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia between large and small states threatened to derail the process

of creating a new framework of government for the United States, it was Sherman who helped craft what became known as the "Great Compromise." His idea created a two-part legislature — one based on population (the U.S. House of Representatives) and one with equal representation (the U.S. Senate) — balancing power in a way that still defines our government today.

Sherman wasn't flashy. He didn't seek attention. But he was respected for his integrity, his practicality, and his ability to bring people together. He believed in strong communities, thoughtful governance, and the idea that everyday citizens should have a voice in how they are governed.

That's what makes his story so powerful and so relatable.

Roger Sherman reminds us that you don't have to be famous, wealthy, or extraordinary to make a difference. With curiosity, hard work, and a commitment to others, an "everyday" person can help shape history.

That's what Roger Sherman did, and what you can do, too!



Flat Fact from Secretary Thomas

Sometimes history can feel a little "ho, hum." But this isn't that kind of project. This is your chance to get out, look around, and see how civic life is happening all around you—no textbook required.



10 Fun Facts About Roger Sherman

- 1** He's the only person to sign all four founding documents.

That's the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, U.S. Constitution, and Continental Association.

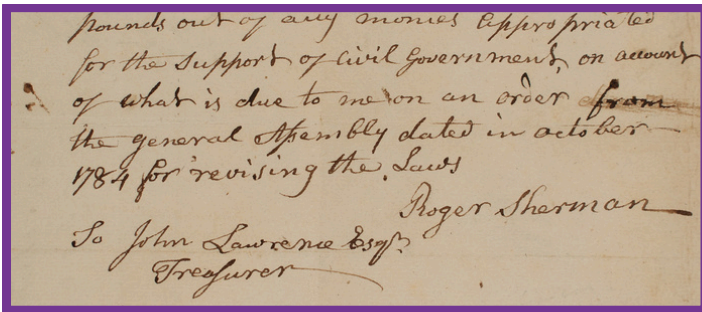


- 2** He didn't go to college.

Roger Sherman was largely self-taught. He learned by reading books, often late at night, while working full-time.

- 3** He started out as a shoemaker.

Before shaping a nation, he was literally making shoes. He later became a surveyor, merchant, lawyer, and judge.



- 4** He helped solve one of the biggest arguments in U.S. history.

At the Constitutional Convention, large and small states were fighting. Sherman helped create the "Great Compromise," which gave us the U.S. House and Senate.

- 5** He wasn't flashy, but people trusted him.

He wasn't known for big speeches like some other Founding Fathers. He was known for being practical, thoughtful, and steady. And people listened.

Flat Fact from Secretary Thomas

History is more than dates and documents. It's also the choices people made. Unlike many in the 1700s, including some Founding Fathers, Roger Sherman did not support slavery, offering insight into the values he brought to public life.

- 6** He held a LOT of jobs in government.

He served as a judge, state legislator, congressman, and New Haven's first mayor.

- 7** He believed everyday people should have a voice.

Sherman strongly supported representative government, meaning leaders should reflect the people they serve.

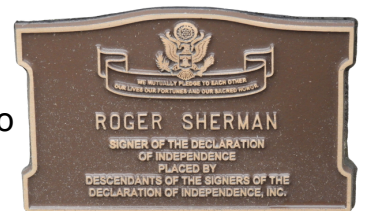


- 8** He helped shape how elections work today.

He believed states, and not the federal government, should run their elections, which became part of the U.S. Constitution.

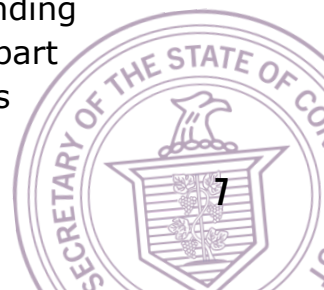
- 9** He raised a big family.

He had 15 children, so he understood busy, everyday life. But he still made civic engagement a priority.



- 10** He proved you don't have to be famous to make history.

He's not the best-known Founding Father, but his ideas are still part of how our government works every single day.





One of the most famous paintings of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, which hangs in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda and is shown on the back of the \$2 bill. See the arrow pointing to Roger Sherman. The oil on canvas was painted by Connecticut artist John Trumbull of Lebanon. A smaller version can be viewed at the Yale University Art Gallery in New Haven.

**A PROJECT CREATED BY THE
CONNECTICUT SECRETARY OF THE
STATE, FLAT ROGER SHERMAN IS
inspired by the Flat Stanley Project,**

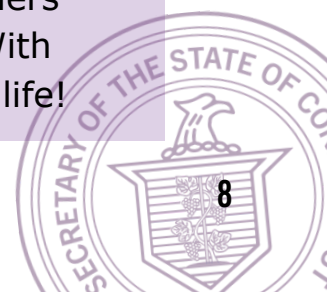
which was started in 1995 by a 3rd-grade teacher to encourage letter-writing between students as they shared where Flat Stanley accompanied them. Unlike Flat Stanley, who was originally a book character, Flat Roger Sherman is based on a real person: one of the nation's most important (and often overlooked) Founding Fathers, who grew up and lived in Connecticut.



**Flat Stanley, the inspiration for
Flat Roger Sherman**

Roger Sherman was the only person to sign all four of America's founding documents. He believed in participation, compromise, and making sure different voices were heard.

The system he helped shape — where people choose their leaders and have a say in decisions — still guides our country today. With Flat Roger, you can explore how that system shows up in your life!



Flat Fact from Secretary Thomas

There's no one way to connect with civic life. The version of Flat Roger you choose reflects what matters to you.

Meet Flat Roger Sherman!

14 versions
for you to choose from



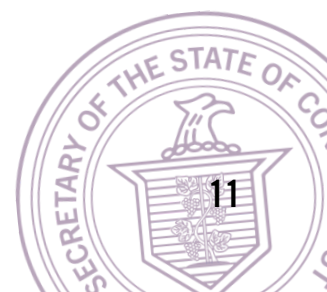
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Use the hashtags #CTFlatRoger,
#CTSOTS, #CT250 or tag us
using @CTSOTS!



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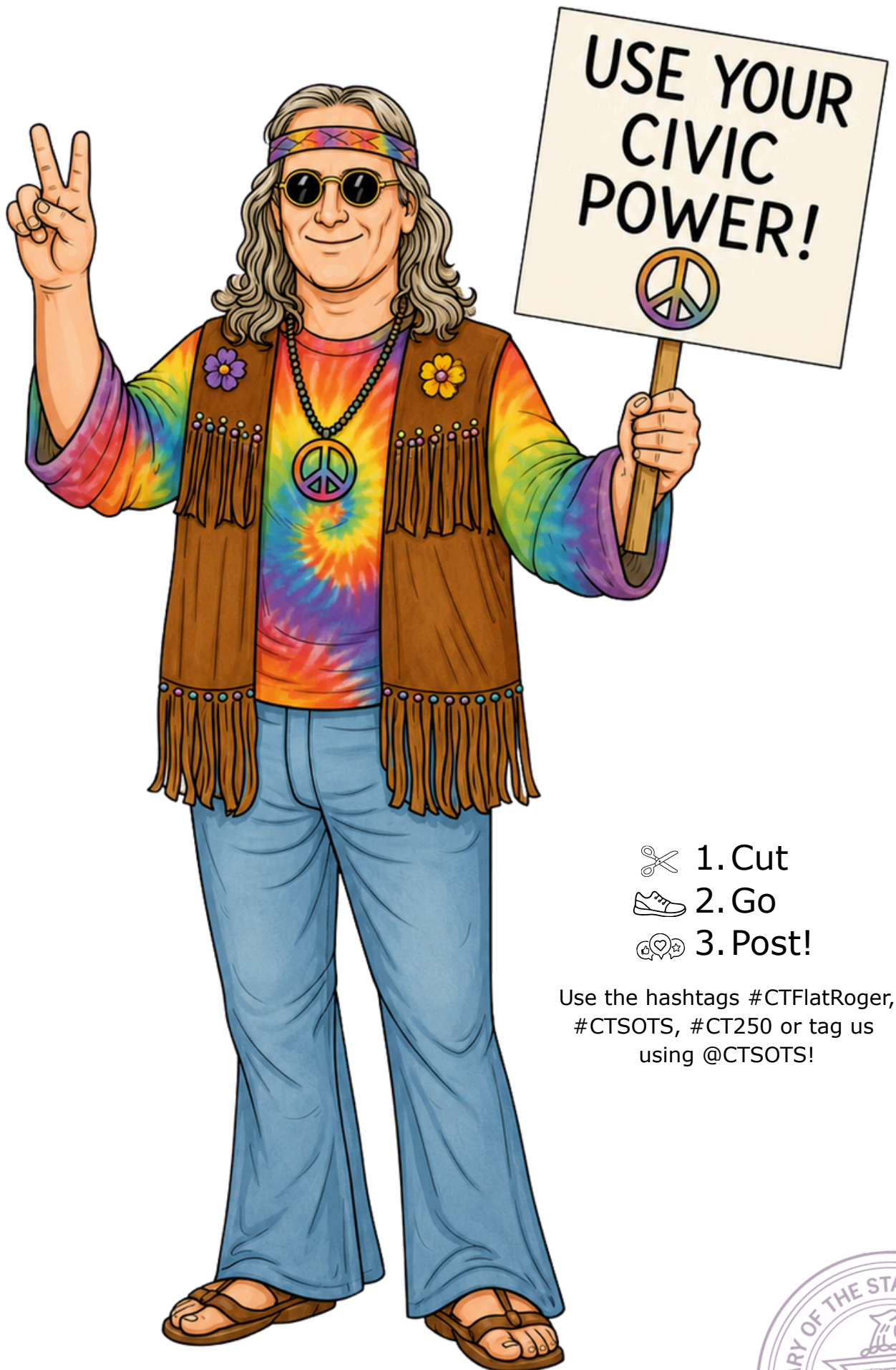
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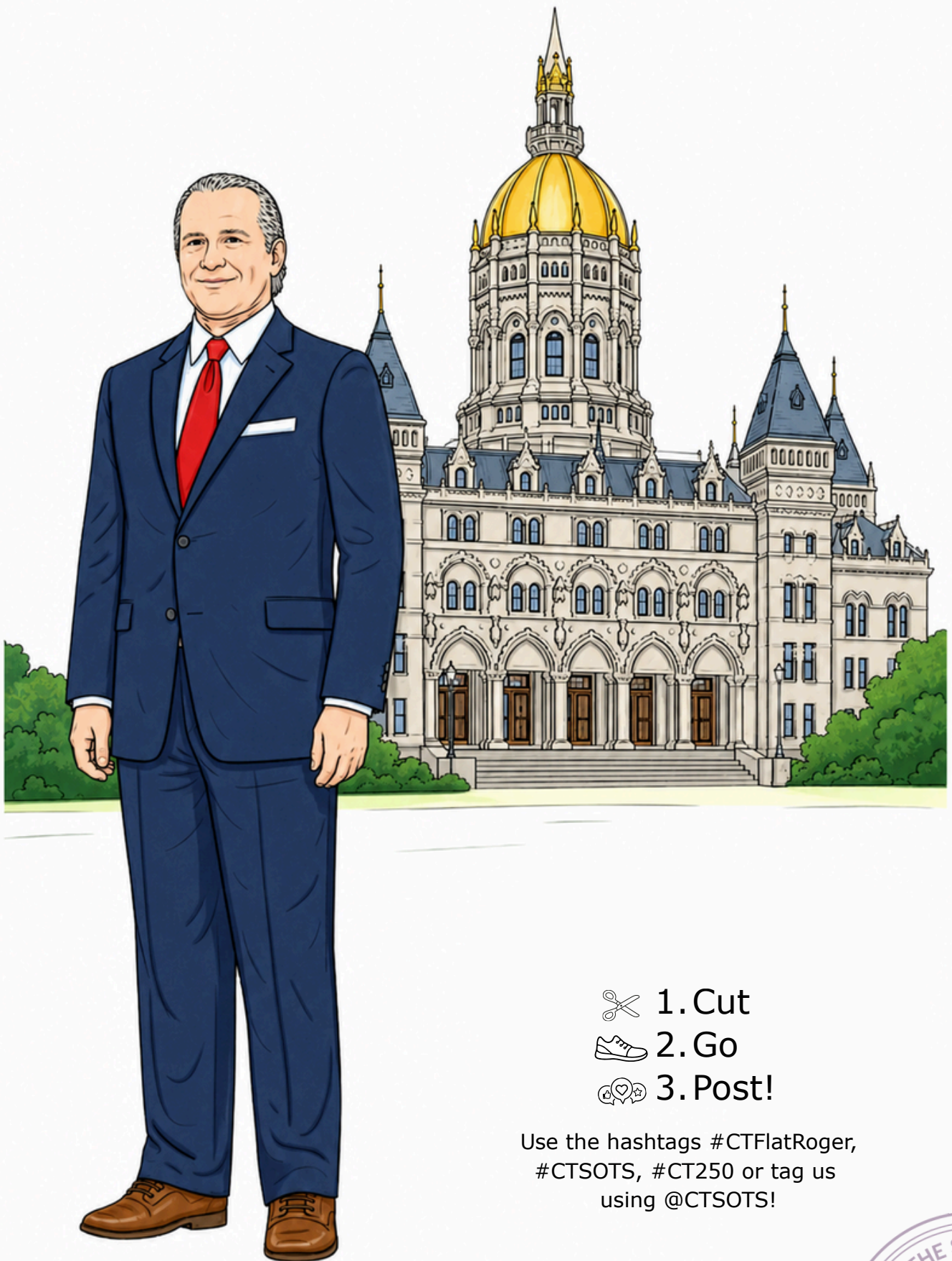
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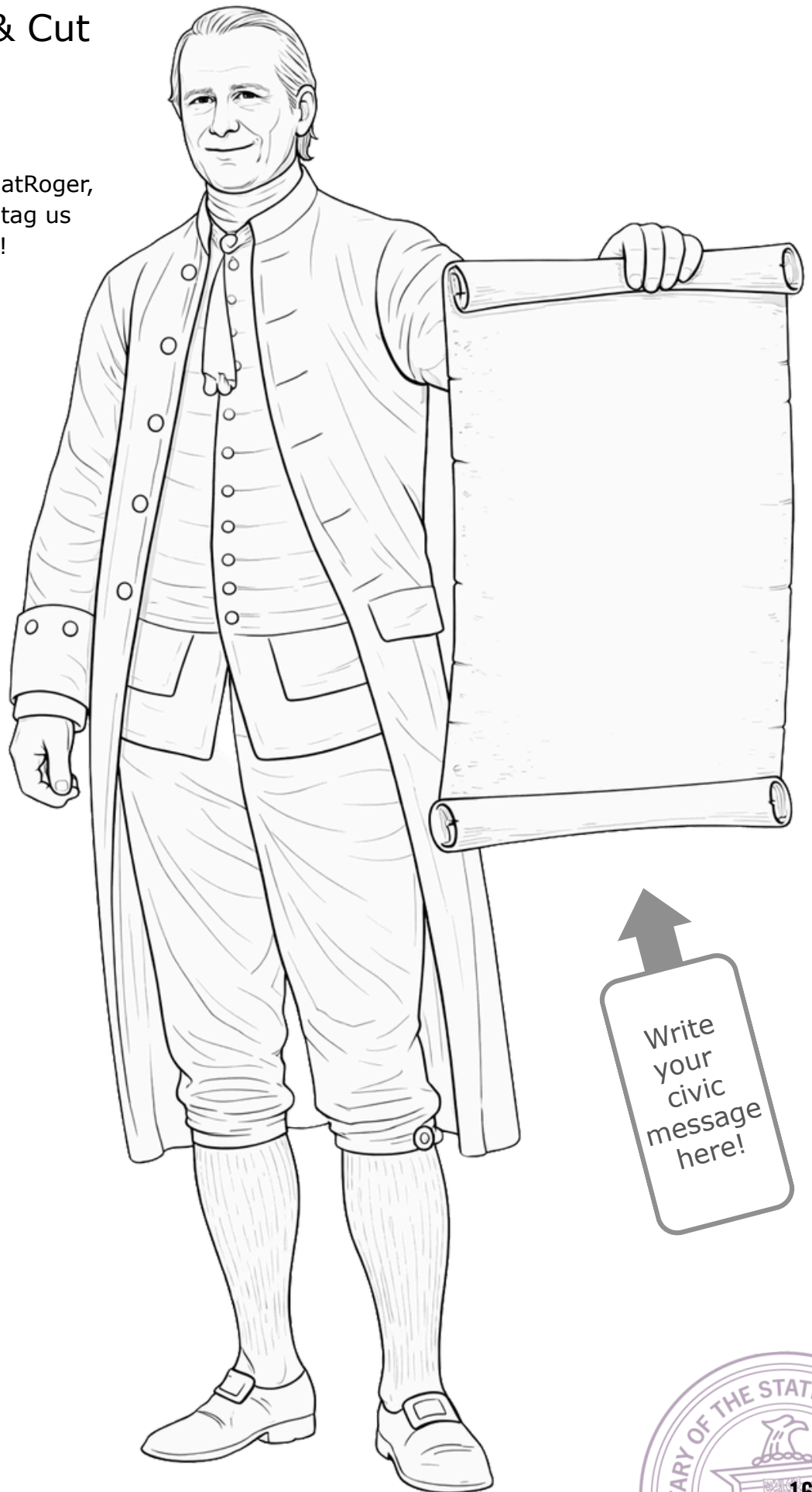


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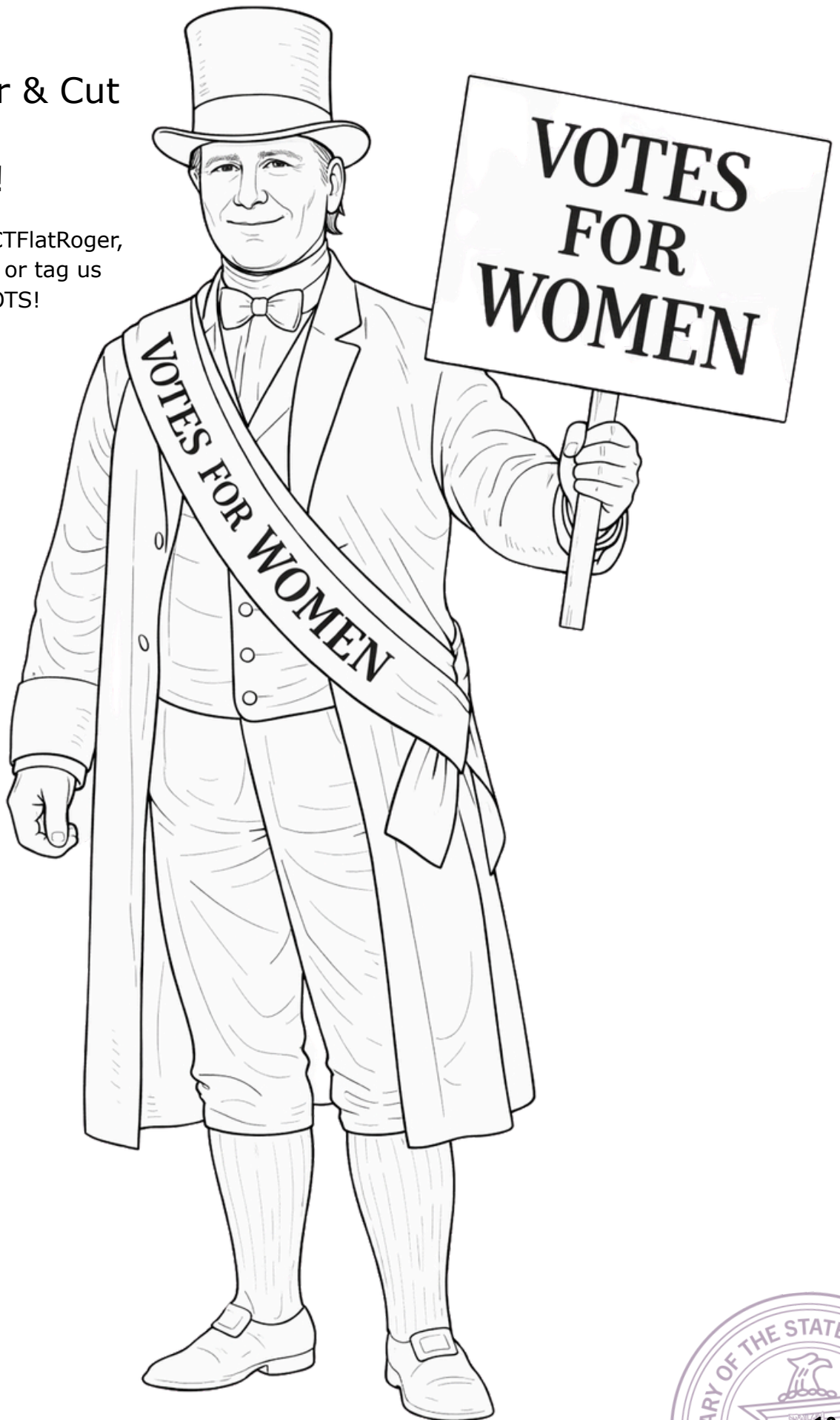


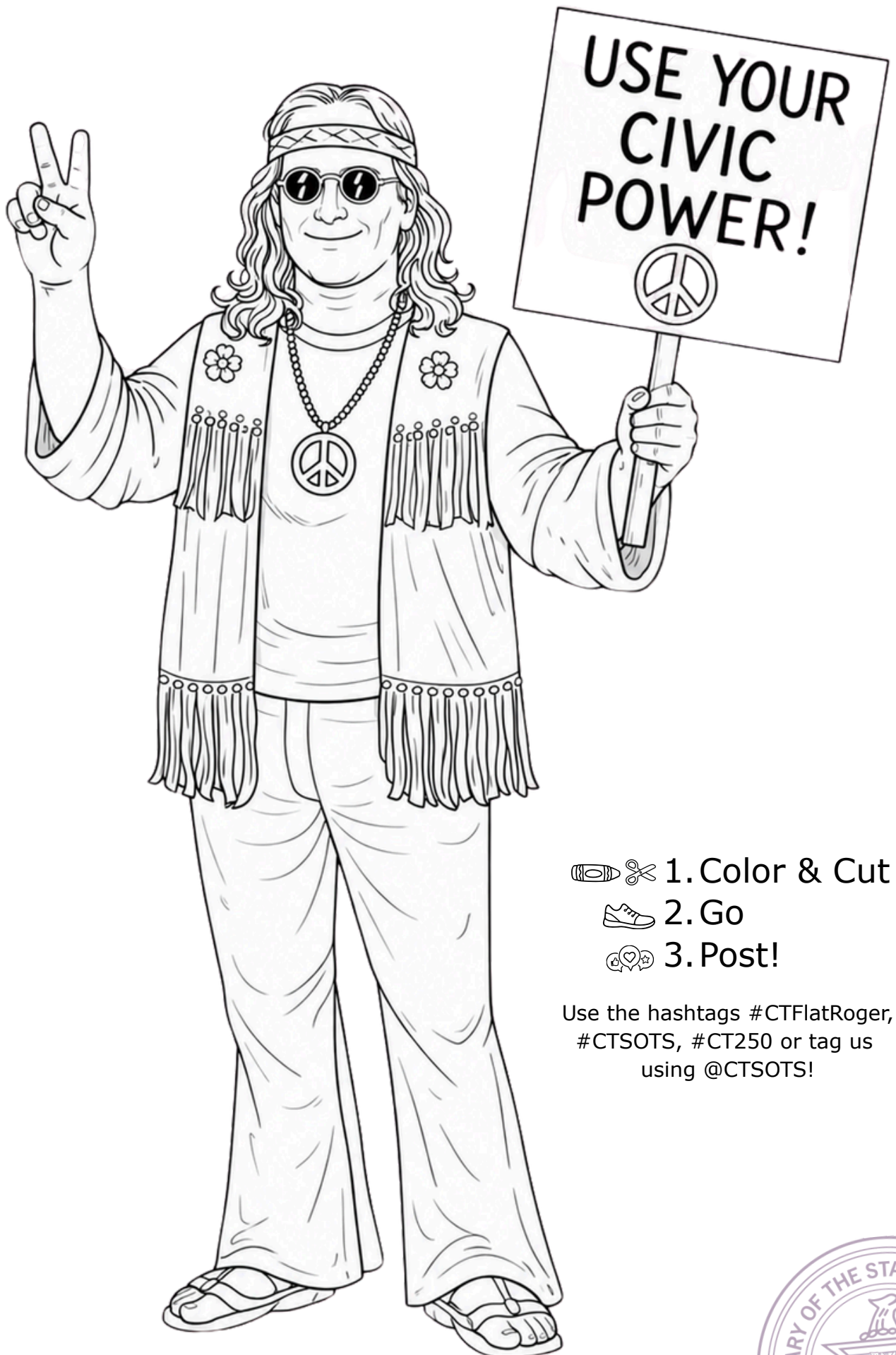
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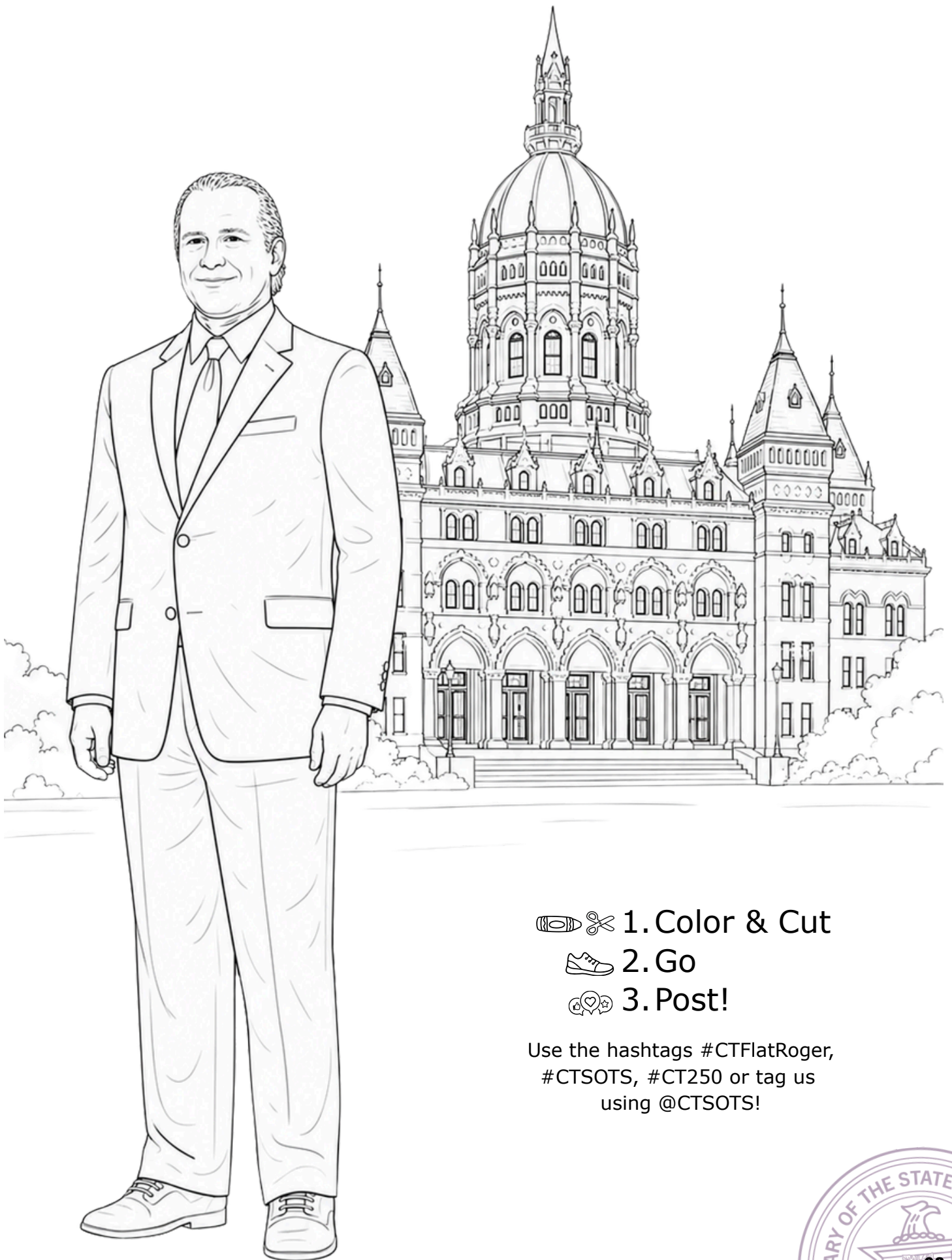
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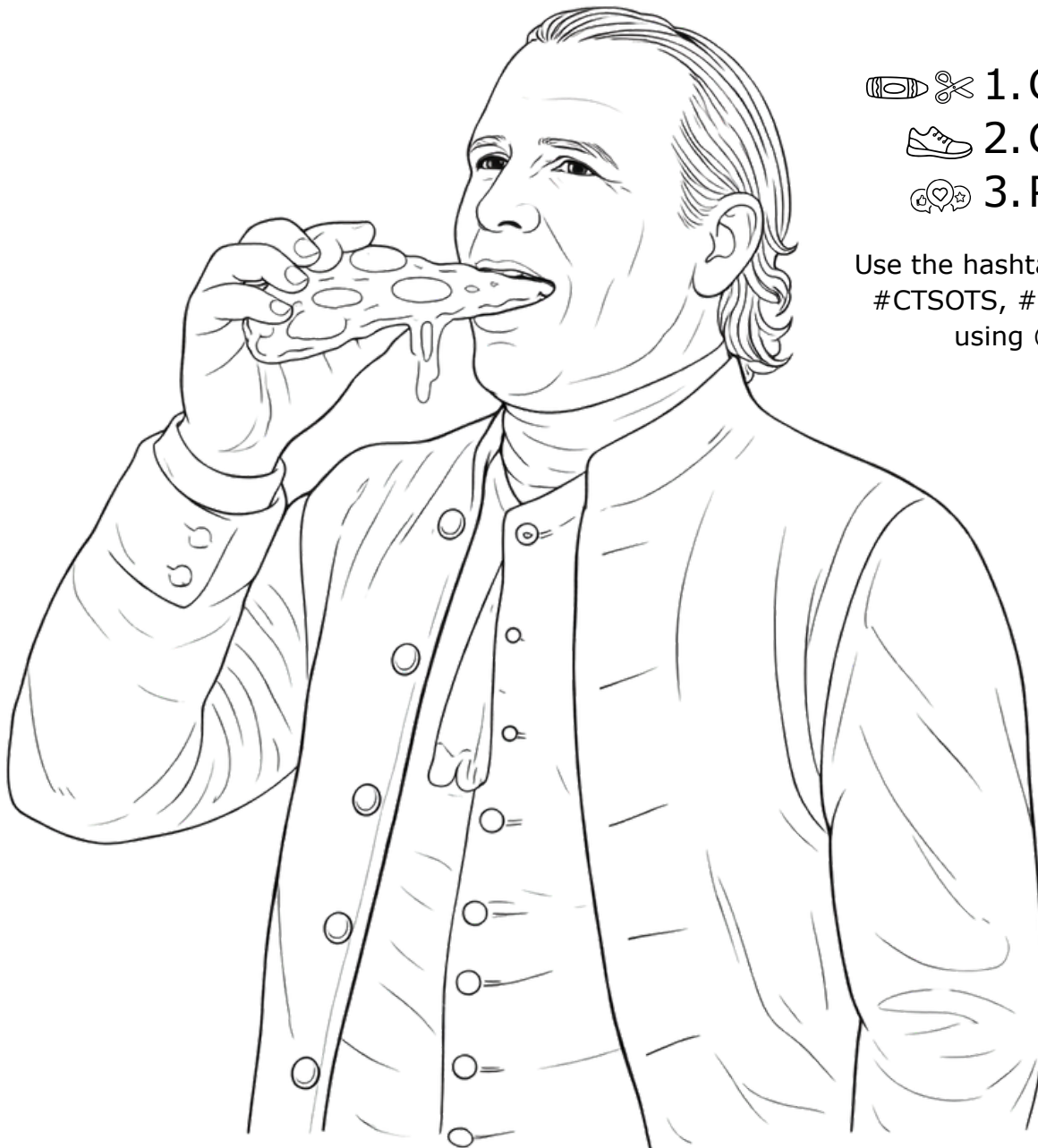


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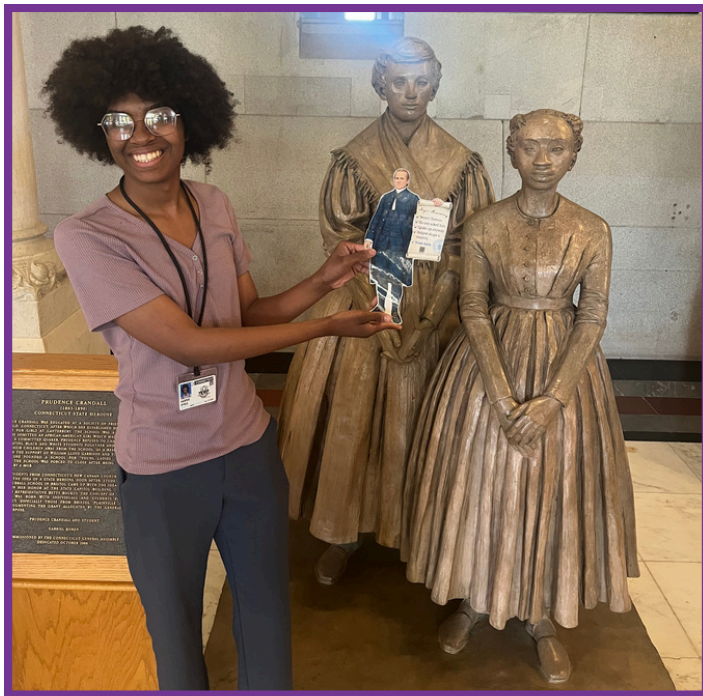
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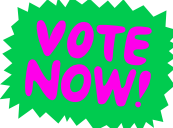


50 Ways to Explore Civics with Flat Roger

At Home

- 1 Write a letter or email to an elected official about an issue you care about.
- 2 Register to vote or check your voter registration, using MyVote.CT.gov. 
- 3 Take Flat Roger on a tour of your town or neighborhood.
- 4 Snap a shot of Flat Roger catching up on the local news.
- 5 Share a civic fact or resource on social media.    



- 6 Create a "Get Out the Vote" postcard. 
- 7 Make a Civic To-do List and take a photo of it with Flat Roger.
- 8 Take Flat Roger while you help a neighbor do yardwork.

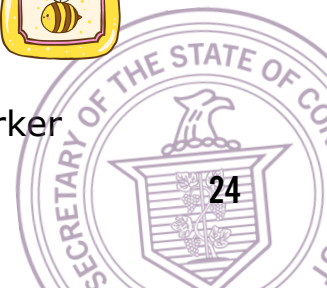
Flat Fact from Secretary Thomas

The people who shape government aren't always the loudest. They're the ones who show up, learn how things work, and get involved.

- 9 Include Flat Roger in a conversation with family about issues you care about. 
- 10 Read a book with Flat Roger about someone from history who fought for others.

Out and About in Your Community

- 11 Visit your town hall to show Flat Roger how government works.
- 12 Attend a city council, town meeting, or school board meeting.
- 13 Visit your local library and get a library card. 
- 14 Explore a local museum or historical site.
- 15 Visit a Connecticut town green or public square.
- 16 Take Flat Roger shopping and support a local business.
- 17 Shop at a farmers' market. 
- 18 Visit a historical marker and learn its story.



50 Ways to Explore Civics with Flat Roger, continued

- 19 Participate in a local event or public forum.
- 20 Educate others about a historic place in your community.



One of the historic places you might want to visit is Roger Sherman's grave at Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven.

While Traveling or on Vacation

- 21 Visit another town's city hall or civic building.
- 22 Explore a historic or cultural site in a new place.
- 23 Photograph Flat Roger exploring another community and what makes it unique.



Know the process. Know your **power**.



Like Roger Sherman, you can harness the power of civics — in this case through our free, self-paced Power of Civics online learning program — to advocate for the issues that matter to you. Learn more at PowerOfCivics.CT.gov.

Flat Fact from Secretary Thomas

The more you understand how your community works, the more confident you'll feel taking part in it.

- 24 Visit a state or national park and learn how it's maintained.
- 25 Take a photo of Flat Roger with someone from another town, state, or country.
- 26 Learn one new civic fact about the place you're visiting.
- 27 Take Flat Roger to a landmark and learn its civic significance.



50 Ways to Explore Civics with Flat Roger, continued

28

Attend a special event, including one of the many happening in the U.S. on July 4th!



Events celebrating America's 250th will take place across the state throughout the year, including a huge, **all-day Hartford Bonanza 2026 + America 250 Capitol Commemoration** on July 4 that will include fireworks in Bushnell Park over the Capitol starting at 9:30 p.m., with a free headlining 250th Commemorative Concert co-presented with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and guest artists at 7:30 p.m. Visit ctvisit.com/ct250 to learn more about this full day of activities, plus everything else going on!

While Helping Others

29

Volunteer for an organization you care about.

30

Bring Flat Roger to donate clothing, food, or other items.

31

Bring Flat Roger to help organize a local food drive.



32

Pick up roadside trash and snap a photo of Flat Roger helping.

Don't forget to take photos!

After going out with Flat Roger, share what you discovered! Ask yourself:

- What did I learn?
- Why does this action or place matter?
- How does this connect to my community?

If it made you think (or smile!) it's worth sharing!

Post your photos or videos using: **#CTFlatRoger**, **#CTSOTS**, and **#CT250**. We can't wait to see where you and Flat Roger go!

33

Offer tutoring or teach a skill.

34

Contribute to a local charity.

35

Donate blood or sign up to be an organ donor.

36

Walk dogs for your local animal shelter.

37

Photograph Flat Roger with a public servant you want to thank.

38

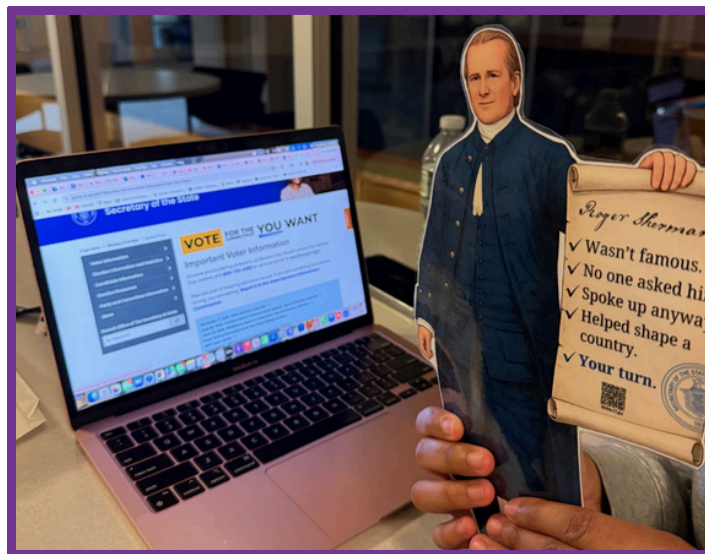
Help clean up your favorite park or beach.



50 Ways to Explore Civics with Flat Roger, continued

As You Interact with Others

- 39 Talk to someone who has a different viewpoint and listen to what they have to say.
- 40 Include Flat Roger in a community conversation about an issue that matters to you.
- 41 Interview a local leader about how decisions are made.
- 42 Write a letter to the editor and snap a photo of Flat Roger with it.
- 43 Join or start a community group or organization.



- 44 Tell someone about the voting resources available online at MyVote.CT.gov.
- 45 Include Flat Roger in a short video about why voting matters to you, and post it online.

Flat Fact from Secretary Thomas

Roger Sherman didn't start with power or influence. He built both by staying informed, speaking up, and doing the work.

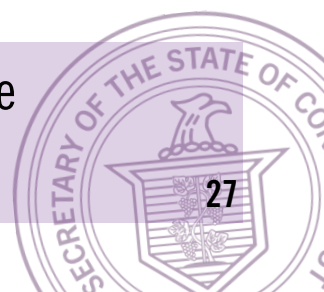
- 46 Host a community storytelling or discussion night.
- 47 Bring Flat Roger as you involve yourself in a civic activity.

As You Care for Your Environment

- 48 Plant a tree, garden, or pollinator space.
- 49 Advocate for safer streets, cleaner spaces, or better local resources.
- 50 Snap a photo of you and Flat Roger using a reusable bottle.



There are several versions of Flat Roger in this packet. Because just like civic life, there's more than one way to get involved!



You can also take Flat Roger Sherman to one of the many places in Connecticut that honor him:



Fairfield: Roger Sherman Elementary School.



Fairfield: Sherman Green.



Hartford: East side of the Capitol building.



Meriden: Roger Sherman Elementary School.



New Canaan: Roger Sherman Inn.



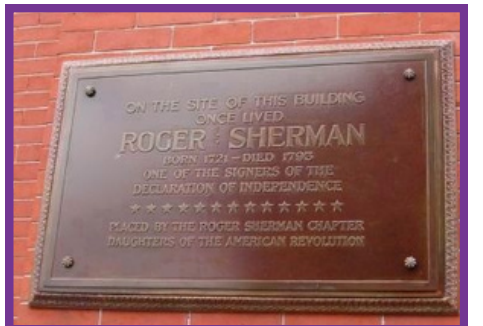
New Haven: Inside City Hall.



New Haven: Sherman Building.



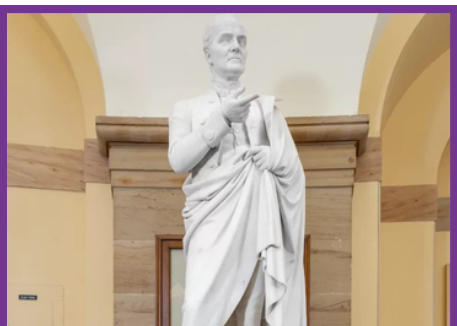
New Milford: House where he lived.



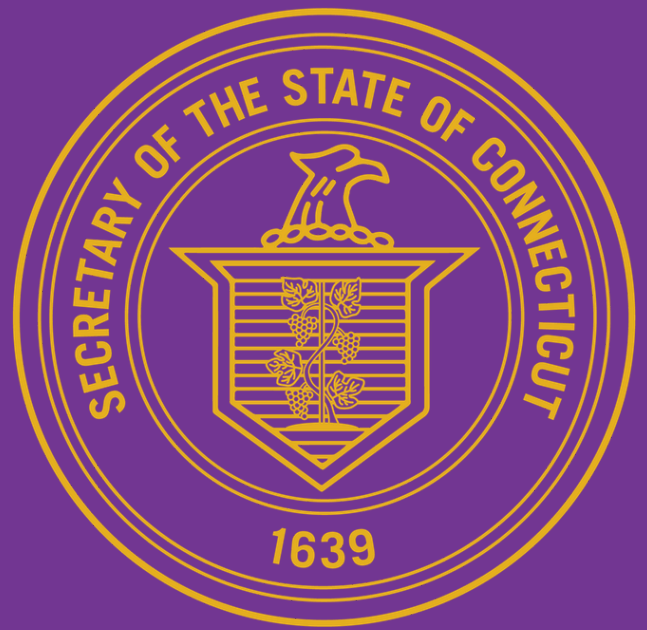
New Milford: Marker on the front of Town Hall.



Sherman: Town incorporated in 1802.



Washington, D.C.: In the Capitol Rotunda.



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