

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2019

Pennsylvania Announces America250PA Commission

Harrisburg, PA – Pennsylvania officially recognized the members of the America250PA commission at a swearing-in ceremony held this evening at the Governor's Residence. Pennsylvania will play a pivotal role in this 250th, or semiquincentennial, celebration in 2026.

Governor Tom Wolf, First Lady Frances Wolf, former governors Tom Corbett and Mark Schweiker, members of the commission and other invited guests joined in the swearing-in ceremony. Gov. Wolf signed legislation to create the commission in November 2018. The new commission includes 20 private citizens, four legislators in a voting capacity, and 11 state officials in non-voting ex-officio roles.

"Thank you all for your commitment to helping ensure Pennsylvania is recognized for its role in founding the United States of America," Gov. Wolf said. "Our nation will be celebrating a milestone birthday in 2026: 250 years, and it was right here in Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia's Independence Hall where our founders gathered on July 4, 1776 and voted to adopt the Declaration of Independence.

"With your help on July 4, 2026, we will return to Philadelphia to celebrate and honor the people who had the dream to envision a country by the people, for the people. This event will put Philadelphia on the national stage and has the potential to draw millions of visitors to Pennsylvania for the celebration."

"I am looking forward to all the impactful things this Commission plans to do to leave a legacy in the Commonwealth," said Patrick J. Burns, America250PA, Chairman. "This is not a partisan or political project. It's an opportunity to commemorate our state's contributions to this country, celebrate our diversity and elevate our talented and unique communities."

"The Semiquincentennial represents a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate the American spirit and our common bonds as Americans," said Dan DiLella, Chair of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission. "Our mission is to inspire greater civic education and involvement while engaging state and local leaders together with their constituents in a mutual examination of the themes and values that make this country unique. State-level participation is a top priority for the Commission, and we are thrilled at the initiative Pat Burns and the Pennsylvania Commission have taken as one of the first states to begin their 2026 planning efforts."

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