



The State of Maryland

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER

01.01.2021.03

Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission

- WHEREAS, The 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America will occur on July 4, 2026;
- WHEREAS, The United States Congress established the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to coordinate the commemoration and observance of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Revolutionary War, founding of the United States, and related events;
- WHEREAS, Maryland played host to the “Annapolis Tea Party” in October 1774, when the cargo ship Peggy Stewart was burned to the waterline after a tax dispute involving the Tea Act;
- WHEREAS, Marylanders began to call for American independence in 1775 with the issuance of the Bush Declaration — considered the first “declaration of independence” in the colonies — and the Annapolis Convention declaration that the Association of Freemen of Maryland must prepare for the colony’s defense;
- WHEREAS, Four prominent Marylanders signed the Declaration of Independence: Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, and Charles Carroll, the only Roman Catholic among the 56 members of the Second Continental Congress;
- WHEREAS, Maryland made significant contributions to the Revolutionary War by supplying material, resources, ships, and soldiers;

- WHEREAS, The courage and sacrifice of the First Maryland Regiment, known as the Maryland Old Line and Maryland 400, at the Battle of Brooklyn in 1776 helped save the Continental Army;
- WHEREAS, Baltimore served as a temporary capital for the colonies during the Continental Congress in 1776 and 1777;
- WHEREAS, The Maryland State House, the oldest state capitol in continuous legislative use, hosted the Continental Congress in 1783 and 1784, and is where George Washington came before Congress to resign his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army;
- WHEREAS, The Maryland State House was the site of the ratification of the Treaty of Paris on January 14, 1784, which formally ended the Revolutionary War;
- WHEREAS, In September 1786, Maryland played host to the Annapolis Convention, where delegates discussed amendments to the Articles of Confederation and resolved to organize a Constitutional Convention; and
- WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the State to recognize Maryland's unique role in the American Revolution by undertaking commemorative activities that honor all Marylanders, and enhance our collective understanding of the past, present, and future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- I. There is a Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission (the "Commission").
- II. Membership.
 - A. The Commission shall consist of the following members:
 - i. The Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;
 - ii. The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;

- iii. The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
- iv. The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;
- v. The Maryland Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee;
- vi. The Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary's designee;
- vii. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;
- viii. The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, or the Director's designee; and
- ix. Up to six members of the general public with related or relevant background, expertise, or interest, appointed by the Governor.

B. The following are invited to be, and shall be upon acceptance, members of the Commission:

- i. Two members appointed by the President of the Maryland Senate;
- ii. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates;
- iii. The State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;
- iv. The State Archivist, or the Archivist's designee;
- v. The State Historic Preservation Officer, or the Officer's designee;
- vi. The Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, or the Chair's designee;
- vii. The Chair of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, or the Chair's designee;
- viii. The Chair of the Maryland Commission for Women, or the Chair's designee;

- ix. The Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties, or the Director's designee;
 - x. The Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League, or the Director's designee;
 - xi. A representative of the Judiciary, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland; and
 - xii. Up to three members from the nonprofit community, selected from the Maryland Center for History and Culture, the Maryland Humanities Council, Preservation Maryland, or other similar organizations.
 - C. The Governor shall appoint a chair from among the members of the Commission.
 - D. Members serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
 - E. The Commission shall be reflective and representative of the diverse communities, peoples, and regions of the State.
 - F. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
- III. The Maryland Department of Planning and Governor's Coordinating Offices shall provide the Commission with resources and staff as feasible and necessary for administering and facilitating the work of the Commission.
- IV. Members of the Commission may not receive any compensation for their services, but may be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of duties in accordance with the State Standard Travel Regulations and as provided in the State budget.
- V. The Commission shall:
- A. Adopt administrative and financial procedures for the transaction of business, including, but not limited to, the establishment of advisory groups, committees, or work groups;

- B. Consider entering into a partnership with a tax-exempt entity to support the purpose and work of the Commission;
- C. Coordinate, engage, and liaise with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, and other local, county, and state commissions, and private and public organizations and partners, including, but not limited to, the America 250 Foundation and the American Battlefield Trust;
- D. Develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive celebration, commemoration, and observance 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, events, and programming;
- E. Hold at least semi-annual meetings:
 - i. At times and places to be determined by the Chair; and
 - ii. That are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act;
- F. Promote the documentation, identification, and preservation of cultural and historical resources, including archives, buildings, landscapes, objects, and sites related to the Semiquincentennial;
- G. Create a model curriculum about the Revolutionary War period, its impact on Maryland, and the diverse people who supported and participated in the country's fight for independence;
- H. Serve as the State of Maryland's official representative for the Semiquincentennial, and all related activities, communications, and events; and
- I. Solicit, accept, use, and dispose of donations, funds, and gifts, in conformance with the Public Ethics Law, to support the goals and purposes of the Commission.

VI. The Commission shall further:

- A. Submit an Action Plan to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2021, that outlines the Commission's goals, mission, and recommendations; and
- B. Produce, by December 31 of each year, an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly that includes an update on the Action Plan, implementation benchmarks, related deadlines and schedules, and an accounting and enumeration of all contracts, donations, and gifts.

VII. The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2027.

Given Under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 14th Day of January, 2021.



Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

John C. Wobensmith

John C. Wobensmith
Secretary of State