



**Designing America250 for Mississippi:  
Educate, Engage, and Unite**



# What is America250?

- celebrating 250 years of independence
- semiquincentennial or “semiquin” for short
- a broad flexible multi-year commemoration
- the largest and most inclusive celebration in our country's history
- The commemoration period began in 2020, culminates on July 4, 2026, and officially concludes in 2027



# A cobranded public-private partnership

- **U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission**
  - Public Law 114-196
  - 16 private citizens as Commissioners, along with four U.S Representatives and four U.S. Senators
- **America 250 Foundation, Inc.**
  - 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)
  - a Type II – 509(a)(3) supporting organization supervised or controlled by the Commission through majority board representation



# State partners support

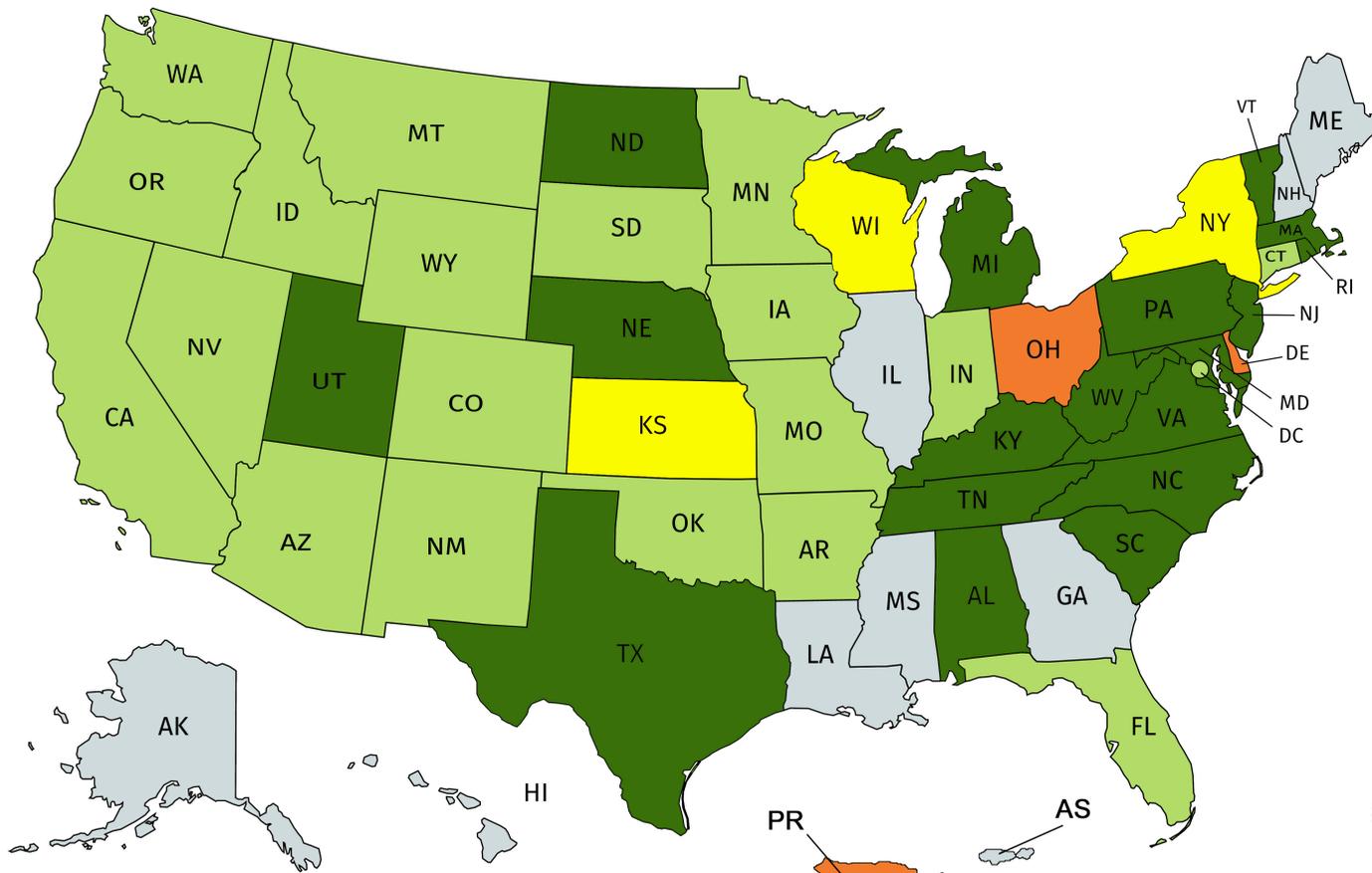
- **America250 Foundation support for official ‘state partners:’**
  - **America250 brand marks;**
  - **Organizational support;**
  - **National convenings to share best practices and strategy;**
  - **Grants of \$10,000 to support states and territories in the early stages of their commission buildout.**



# Progress in 2021 towards 2023

- Eighteen states have created commissions:
- Alabama, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- Three states – Kansas, New York, and Wisconsin – are in the process of commission formation.





- ENTITY CREATED
- LEGISLATION ACTIVE TO CREATE ENTITY
- SIGNIFICANT INTEREST IN CREATING ENTITY
- DISCUSSION HELD REGARDING 250th
- INITIAL CONTACT MADE

# Celebrate America250 Mississippi style!

- Governor's Proclamations and Joint Resolutions to designate America250 events and personalities
- Celebrate our state's heroes, groups, artists, industries, agriculture, historic sites and more with local accolades and America250 brand marks



# First Steps

- Enabling proclamation or legislation
- Selection of appointees
- Committee formation
- Possible creation of supporting non-profit organization
- MOUs with agencies, industries and NGOs
- Plan and design America250 activities
- Plan and design fundraising



# • Enabling legislation

- Model legislation -- 2017 bicentennial legislation  
2009 Miss. Laws Ch. 418 (S.B. 2875)

- Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House
- Each to have designee and three appointees each of the Mississippi Supreme Court districts
- Lt. Governor—one appointee from the industrial community
- Speaker—one Native American appointee
- Plus two members appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History
- Plus the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History



# •Enabling legislation

## Issues to consider with the 2017 model:

- additional at-large appointees for Governor, Lt. Governor & Speaker
- creation of special fund in state treasury
- include Mississippi Development Authority Tourism Division
- per diem compensation rate for legislators, state officials or state employees
- non-legislative member compensation
- “check the box” Mississippi Bicentennial Celebration Fund



# •Committee formation

- Executive Committee
- Audit and Finance
- Development
- Governance
- Government Relations
- Marketing and Communications
- Planning and Program Development.



# • Additional considerations

- **Advisory committees/task forces:**
  - **Art**
  - **Culture**
  - **Sports & Entertainment**
  - **Civics & Civic Engagement**
  - **History & Education**
  - **Innovation, Science & Entrepreneurism**
  - **Parks, Preservation & Public Places**
  - **Veterans**
  - **Youth**



# • Supporting non-profit organization

- Cobranded public-private partnership on national organization model (501(c)(3)/Type II 509(a) majority control)
- Legislative or executive endorsement
- Will enlarge public and NGO participation
- Create a pool volunteers and orgs
- Better flexible solution to special funds and “check the box”



**It's not just about the  
American Revolution, it's  
celebrating and promoting  
Mississippi and America**



**For more information:**

**Shawn McBurney, Senior Manager of State Outreach  
America250 Foundation**

**Direct: (202) 478-3883 Main: (202) 871-1776  
smcburney@america250.org**

**Ben Jones, President**

**Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution  
Direct: (601) 927-8479 bejonesii@bellsouth.net**

