



December 29, 2023

Dear Governor Holcomb, Senate President Crouch, Speaker Huston, and all Members of the Indiana General Assembly:

We are pleased to share with you this annual report of the Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission activities for the U.S. Semiquincentennial, as required by IC 4-23-34.

As you may recall, the mission of the Commission is to:

“Plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate an overall program in 2026 commemorating the history of the United States leading up to the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Encourage and assist state agencies (as defined in [IC 4-13-1-1](#)), counties, municipalities, townships, and private organizations in coordinating, organizing, and participating in activities that commemorate the Semiquincentennial of the United States. Plan and promote an event to occur on July 4, 2026, at the World War Memorial in Indianapolis. To give consideration, in developing the plans for ISC programs, to any related plans and programs developed by federal, state, local, and private groups. Coordinate the commission's activities and projects with the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, community organizations, local municipalities, and other entities that the commission determines to be appropriate. Create a logo that incorporates the America250 logo used by the America250 Foundation, Inc., and adds a design component specific to Indiana.”

The Commission has been meeting quarterly since its inception. We are pleased to have a full complement of Commission members from across the state with a wide variety of backgrounds, perspectives and expertise that should serve Indiana well as we prepare plans for the nation’s 250th anniversary in 2026. You can find our list of Commission members online at <https://www.USA250.IN.gov>.

Additionally, six ISC Committees were formed both to plan activities that Hoosiers may engage in during 2026 and to establish the necessary structure to allow the Commission to achieve these goals. Our committees (in no particular order) are as follows:

- Communication/Website
- Fund Raising
- Finance Committee
- Education/History
- State Events
- County Outreach

We anticipate a great deal of collaboration between our Indiana Commission and other states and the national America250 Commission in Washington, D.C. The Commission has a trademarked logo which you see at the top of this letterhead. We have obtained IRS Non-Profit 501(c)3 approval for ISC, Inc., and developed a web site (<https://www.USA250.IN.gov>) that went live on Dec. 16, 2023 - the Anniversary of the Boston Tea party - and have begun to initiate private philanthropic support.

We often remind our stakeholders that we are not waiting for 2026 to happen – it is important that we make plans now to build momentum toward 2026 and ensure Indiana is among the states leading the way. We thank Governor Holcomb and the Indiana General Assembly for supporting the work of our Commission with \$50,000 in support for FY 2024.

In April 2023, the ISC also received \$10,000 (same amount as other states that formed a 250<sup>th</sup> commission) from the America 250 Foundation. Thus, our **revenue/credits for 2023 totaled \$60,000.** Below is a snapshot of our expenses through the end of the year (halfway through the fiscal year). Please also note that the ISC is in the process of finalizing a Service Contract with a ‘Contract Agency’ who can provide ‘administrative services’ support for the ISC:

Chase Bank – Expense for Account Opening	\$ 60.00
Printing/publications:	\$ 133.83
IRS Non-Profit Application:	\$ 600.00
Accounting Expenses Non-Profit Application:	\$ 312.50
ISC Website Webmaster Fees (monthly):	\$1,125.00
Cincinnati insurance policy for general Liability (Annual expense 10-23-2023 through 10-23-2024)	\$1,329.00

Expense total thru December 2023:	\$3,560.33
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\$60,000 - \$3,560.33 = **\$56,439.67 Current Balance going forward as of Jan. 1, 2024**

Looking ahead, we will need to staff the Commission appropriately, as we move from ideation to implementation in 2024. Many of the ideas will require funding and leadership both from the Commission and our state government partners. We look forward to the journey ahead with your cooperation and support. Be sure to let us know what questions you have in the next legislative session.

Sincerely,

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Tom Whiteman

Commission Co-Chair

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Charlotte Blair

Commission Co-Chair