



D 2024 001

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Directing the Development and Prioritization of Plans for Commemorating America's 250th and Colorado's 150th Anniversaries

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order directing executive branch agencies to develop and prioritize planning for the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America and the 150th anniversary of Colorado's statehood.

I. Background and Purpose

Colorado earned the nickname, "the Centennial State," after joining the United States in 1876 as the country celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Our State is known for many things: near constant sunshine, otherworldly landscape, world-class sports, booming economic opportunity, the outdoor economy, and diverse agricultural enterprises. And while Colorado is known for its enviable attractions, there exists an immeasurable, independent spirit within this State's history that truly defines what it means to be a Coloradan. Our State was the first to support women's suffrage by popular referendum and the first state to legalize recreational use of marijuana, contributing to a Colorado for All. Colorado's future is bright like our famous Rocky Mountain sunshine.

In 2026, the United States will celebrate its 250th birthday and the Centennial State will celebrate its 150th birthday. The overlap of these two momentous anniversaries is an opportunity for Colorado to shine a spotlight on our State's rich history and bright future. This Executive Order will further our State's work to honor Colorado's statehood and the founding of our nation.

In 2022, I signed SB 22-011, establishing the "America 250-Colorado 150 Commission" (Commission). The Commission is tasked with developing programs and planning for the official observance of the Semiquincentennial anniversary of the United States and the Sesquicentennial anniversary of Colorado's statehood. Because the Commission is served by volunteers, the cooperation and support of State executive branch agencies, community partners, and Tribal Nations will be paramount to the success of these celebrations. By directing all State

agencies and departments managed by governor-appointed executives (Agencies) to prioritize this celebration, we can live up to our legacy of being collaborative, bold, and inclusive.

II. Declarations and Directives

- A. I direct all Agencies to develop and implement plans that incorporate the Commission's goals in achieving a celebration that honors our State and its role in history. Agencies are encouraged to align with the Commission's signature initiatives in developing plans for engagement. All Agencies may rely on existing programs to support the goals of the Commission. These plans shall address how each Agency can contribute to the 250-150 celebration in 2026. All plans should also seek to incorporate the 250-150 logo where appropriate.
- B. I direct all Agencies to designate staff by April 1, 2024, within each office to serve as the liaison for the ongoing work of the Commission.
- C. I direct all Agencies to send their plans to the Commission by July 1, 2024.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire on December 31, 2026, unless extended further by Executive Order of the Governor.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this twenty-fourth
day of January, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor