



A Look Back at 2025 - 2026

*Rhode Island Department of State Biannual Report
January 2025 - July 2026*

MISSION

The Department of State serves Rhode Islanders by promoting transparent government, supporting businesses, and strengthening our democracy through a commitment to civic engagement, secure elections, and empowering voters.



Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State



Primary Day September 9
Día de la Primaria 9 de septiembre



Vote by Mail
Vote por Correo



Early In-Person
Adelantado en Persona

Election Day November 3
Día de la Elección 3 de noviembre



On Election Day
El Día de la Elección

VOTE

vote.ri.gov



**Make a
 plan to vote**

vote.ri.gov



Rhode Island Department of State
Gregg M. Amore
 Secretary of State

A letter from Secretary Amore



To the RI Department of State team –

It's hard to believe four years together have nearly come and gone.

I am so proud of the team we have built and all we have achieved together.

Your efforts have helped us to maintain and grow our reputation as an effective and helpful State resource. I hear so often from members of the community about the excellent service they've received from our office across all of our Divisions and teams.

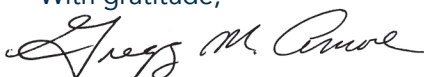
While excellent customer service is our baseline, I am especially proud of your efforts to expand our programming and events to attract new visitors and develop our offices as community spaces. From family history events at the State Archives, to an American Revolution-themed book club in the State Library, to receptions in the Lower Level Gallery, to office hours with our Business Services Division, and so many others – our staff are consistently going above and beyond to invite the public in and see how State government can work for them.

In 2026, our efforts over the past several years culminated in the State's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. So many individuals contributed to the success of these statewide events. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the members of the Rhode Island Semiquincentennial (250) Commission, as well as its dedicated staff person, Lauren Fogarty, and State Archivist Ashley Selima. Your hard work undoubtedly made Rhode Island's efforts some of the most impactful in the nation.

As we look ahead to the rest of 2026, we have much more still to come. Above all else, we will continue to work each and every day to advance our mission and serve Rhode Islanders by promoting transparent government, supporting businesses, and strengthening our democracy through a commitment to civic engagement, secure elections, and empowering voters.

Thank you for all you have accomplished.

With gratitude,



Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

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Secure Elections and Empowered Voters



Special Elections

In both 2025 and 2026, the RI Department of State supported special elections – more than 11 across the state, including a special election for State Senate District 4. While these were not statewide special elections, they still required significant work from the Elections Division to register voters, prepare ballots, and support voter education. In total, 13,533 voters participated in special elections in 2025 and 2026.

SPECIAL ELECTIONS 2025

- Central Falls
- Coventry
- Senate 4
(North Providence,
Providence)
- West Warwick
- Charlestown

2026

- Coventry
- North Smithfield
- Warwick

- Special Elections
- Preparing for
Midterms
- Voter List
Maintenance
- Professional
Development
- Voter Outreach
- 2026 Election
Education Campaign

2026 MIDTERM ELECTION AT A GLANCE

DECLARED CANDIDATES

3,278

VOTER TURNOUT

20.09%

PRIMARY
SOURCE: RI BOARD OF
ELECTIONS

MAIL BALLOTS SENT TO VOTERS

Over 15,800

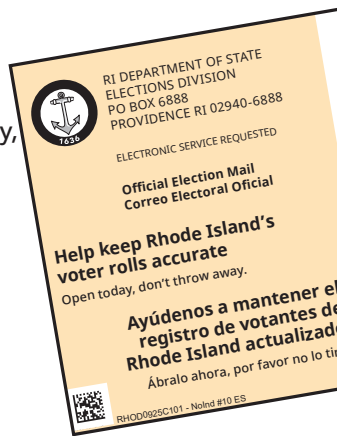
PRIMARY

The mailing was sent to 741,830 registered voters, likely resulting in over 55,000 changes of addresses or registration cancelations.



2025 Voter List Maintenance

One of the greatest responsibilities of the RI Department of State is maintaining the state's voter list, ensuring it is kept up-to-date as voters register, or move, pass away, or are removed from the state's voter rolls. Voter list maintenance is an everyday activity for the Elections Division, but in 2025, the RI Department of State also conducted the largest statewide mailing of its kind in more than a decade.



Voter List Maintenance in Rhode Island



Maintenance through Election Mailings

- 1 Election officials send mailings to voters at their residence address. If the mail is returned undeliverable by the United States Postal Service (USPS), it starts the confirmation process.**
Types of mailings:
 - An acknowledgment or change notice to ensure the voter lives at the address
 - An official mailing, from either the State Board of Elections, local board of canvassers (BOC), or the Department of State's Elections Division, which has been sent to at least a majority of the registered voters in a particular city or town
 - Notices to registered voters that have not voted or communicated with the local BOC in the past five years
 - Change-of-address mailings based on the USPS National Change of Address (NCOA) database, asking a voter to confirm whether or not they have moved
 - Jury notices
- 2 Initiating the confirmation process in the Central Voter Registration System (CVRS) after an undeliverable mailing**
 - The local board of canvassers changes the voter status in the CVRS to inactive. Inactive voters do not lose their right to vote, but must take the necessary steps to confirm their address before they are allowed to vote.
 - Making a voter record inactive generates a confirmation letter, which is sent to the voter with a blank voter registration form
- 3 Steps for voters to confirm their address upon receipt of a confirmation letter**
 - If the voter returns the voter registration form, their status will be reactivated
 - If the voter tries to vote, they will be required to complete an affirmation confirming their address
 - If the voter does not update/confirm their registration, and does not vote in one of the next two federal elections, then the registration record will be canceled

#TrustedInfo



Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State



Professional Development for Election Officials

Cybersecurity Summit

In 2025, the RI Department of State once again hosted its biannual Cybersecurity Summit. Nearly 150 attendees from across the state heard from the RI Fusion Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Pell Center at Salve Regina University, National Association of State Elections Directors (NASD), Oxford Internet Institute, RSM Election Solutions, The Elections Group, and APEX Technologies on topics such as AI in Elections, foreign influence, and cyber threats on operational and global levels. Cybersecurity continues to grow as critical elections infrastructure, and state and local officials in Rhode Island are ensuring cybersecurity is at the forefront of training and preparedness.



Election Training and Certification Program

In June 2026, the first class of graduates celebrated their completion of the Election Training and Certification Program, a professional development and certification program developed and administered jointly by the State's election agencies: the RI Department of State and the Rhode Island Board of Elections. The program included 13 classes and assessments and was completed by 67 election officials. This voluntary training program further developed election officials' skills in topics like election law, cybersecurity, public records requests, and other areas closely related to the successful administration of elections.



ELECTION TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM TOPICS

- Rhode Island election law and the roles of election administrators
- Cybersecurity practices
- Voter registration, mail ballots, and signature verification
- Election equipment use and maintenance
- Public records requests, records retention, and open meetings
- Selecting and setting up polling places and recruiting poll workers



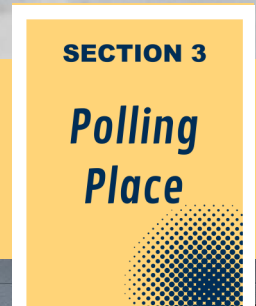
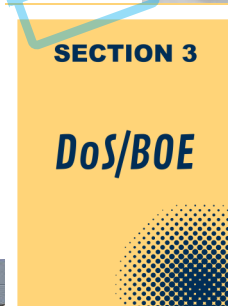
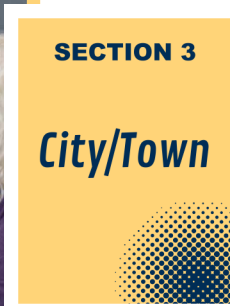
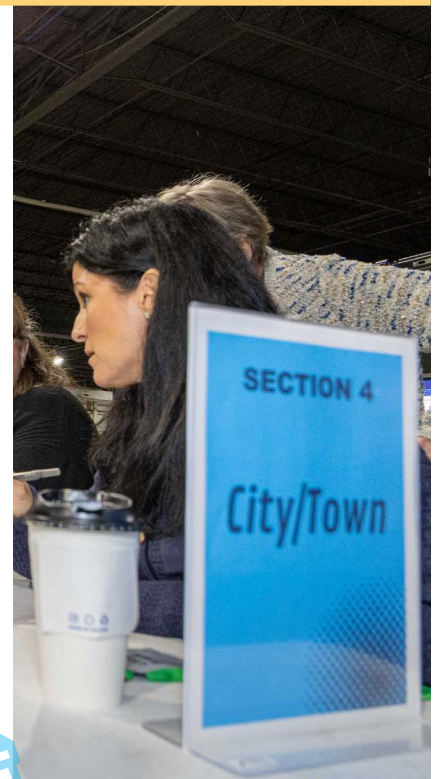


Statewide Tabletop Exercise

The RI Department of State and the RI Board of Elections jointly hosted an operational tabletop exercise (TTX) for local election officials and stakeholders on Friday, May 1, 2026.

Tabletop exercises enable participants to think through their proposed responses to realistic scenarios. Local election officials played roles such as polling place officials, city and town employees, Department of State and Board of Elections employees, members of the media, and voters. Participants were encouraged to work together to identify procedural

steps to respond to simulated crises, including emergencies, technical malfunctions, security threats, election misinformation, and other situational challenges. Other partners participating in the tabletop exercise included the Rhode Island State Police, the Rhode Island National Guard, Disability Rights Rhode Island, the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities, the Partnership for Large Election Jurisdictions, as well as several election officials from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.





Voter Outreach

The Elections Division has continued to prioritize voter education and outreach, building on the success of previous initiatives. The Division hosted 43 mock elections and 86 voter outreach events, and attended 12 naturalization ceremonies to help register newly-naturalized citizens to vote. In total, more than 3,450 students and community members participated in mock elections, getting the opportunity to experience what it's like to cast a ballot in an informative, educational setting.

Elections Education – Social Media Videos

The Department of State's Communications team collaborated with the Elections Division to produce a series of short, easy-to-follow videos designed to educate voters on the most important dates and deadlines in our election processes. The videos have been viewed over 45,000 times.

VOTE

Rhode Island Voters...
The Primary Election is Wednesday, September 9!

Eleitores e Rhode Island...
A Eleição Primária é na quarta-feira, 9 de setembro!

Register early until 4 p.m. on September 8 and your early voting location online.

Registre-se antecipadamente até às 16h de 8 de setembro junto ao seu local de voto antecipado online.

Register on Primary Day, September 9, and your polling place online.

Registre-se no Dia de Primária 9 de setembro junto ao seu local de voto online.

VOTE

Ways to Vote

By Mail Ballot

Early In-Person

On Primary Day

Learn more vote.ri.gov

VOTE

General Election
Register to vote by Oct. 4

Learn more vote.ri.gov

Ways to Vote

By Mail Ballot

Early In-Person

On Primary Day

Learn more vote.ri.gov

Ways to Vote

By Mail Ballot

Early In-Person

On Election Day

Learn more vote.ri.gov

VOTE

Primary Elections
Register to vote by Aug. 10

Learn more vote.ri.gov



VOTE

Primary Day September 9
Election Day November 3
vote.ri.gov



VOTE VOTE

Ways to Vote

VOTE VOTE



By Mail Ballot



Early In-Person



On Election Day



Important Dates *Fechas Importantes*



Aug. 10

Voter registration deadline
Fecha límite para inscribirse para votar



Aug. 19

Mail ballot application deadline
Fecha límite para solicitar una papeleta de votación por correo



**Aug. 20–
Sept. 8**

Early voting period
Periodo de votación por adelantado



Sept. 9

Primary Day
Día de las Primarias

Be a Voter *Sea Votante*

Ready to Vote

Keep your information up to date

Visit vote.ri.gov to update your information if you've recently moved or changed your name.

Have an acceptable photo ID

If you are voting in person, you must bring a valid photo ID to the polls.

Make a plan to vote

Decide if you'll vote by mail, early in person, or on Election Day.

Listo para votar

Mantenga su información actualizada

Si se ha mudado o ha cambiado su nombre recientemente, visite vota.ri.gov para actualizar su información.

Lleve una identificación con foto aceptable

Si va a votar en persona, necesitará llevar una identificación con foto válida a las urnas.

Haga un plan para votar

Decida si votará por correo, en persona por adelantado, o el Día de las Elecciones.

Get trusted elections information online at vote.ri.gov.

Obtenga información electoral confiable en línea en vota.ri.gov.





Civics

Rhode Island Civic Leadership Program

In 2025, the second cohort of the Rhode Island Civic Leadership Program (RICLP) completed their program, and the third cohort kicked off. The Civic Education & Engagement Division hosted the second and third Civic Leadership Summits. Each year, the Program has grown in student participation and city and town representation.

The 2026-2027 cohort met for its first session in June 2026 – welcoming 128 students to the largest cohort yet. It's clear that the experience makes a lasting impacting on students. Since the program started, the Division has hosted two alumni events focused on direct service with the RI Community Food Bank where alums sorted and packed hundreds of pounds of food.

- Rhode Island Civic Leadership Program
- Civic Education Teacher of the Year
- Classroom Visits: Declaration of Independence Lesson
- Civic Leadership Award





STUDENTS

SCHOOLS

TOWNS

**Rhode Island Civic
Leadership Program
2024 - 2025**

113

50

31

Program Highlights:

- October 21: Election integrity with Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows and Ken Block, as well as RI Department of State Elections Team, followed by a tour of the BOE
- November 18: Media & Politics – Ted Nesi (WPRI 12), Steph Machado (Boston Globe), Nancy Lavin (Rhode Island Current)
- December 12: *Hamilton* at the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC)
- February 21: Field trip to Edward M. Kennedy Institute

Students participated in meaningful Civic Action Projects. Projects included:

- In-school clothing collection built from donations and funds from student-organized fundraisers
- Hygiene Kit Drive for Amos House and other local shelters and centers
- Selling handmade jewelry to raise money for math tutoring in order to boost Rhode Island's standardized math scores

"The mission of the Board of Elections is to protect the integrity of the election process and to effectively and efficiently administer the provisions of the laws of the United States and the State of Rhode Island including, but not limited to, the governance and conduct of elections, voter registration, campaign public funding of campaigns and any other duties prescribed by law."

Connecting Rhode Islanders
to civic engagement opportunities



STUDENTS

SCHOOLS

TOWNS

**Rhode Island Civic
Leadership Program
2025 - 2026**

123

60

39

Program Highlights:

- September 29: Politics and the Media – Steph Machado (Boston Globe), Ethan Shorey (Valley Breeze), Ted Nesi (WPRI 12)
- October 16: Award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns offered a special preview of his landmark documentary miniseries, “THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.” Liaisons got to meet Ken Burns and ask him and his team questions!
- November 11: Veterans Day visit to WWII Museum in Wakefield, as well as historic sites in Newport
- January 22: *Suffs* at PPAC, a Tony Award-winning musical about the American women’s suffrage movement
- February 20: Field Trip to Edward M. Kennedy Institute

Students participated in meaningful Civic Action Projects. Projects included:

- Speech and debate club
- Mock election and voter registration drive
- Letters to and engagement with elected officials

**RI CIVIC
LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT**

**RI CIVIC
LEADERSHIP**



Rhode Island Civic Leadership Program Sponsors

Founding Sponsor: Rhode Island Foundation**

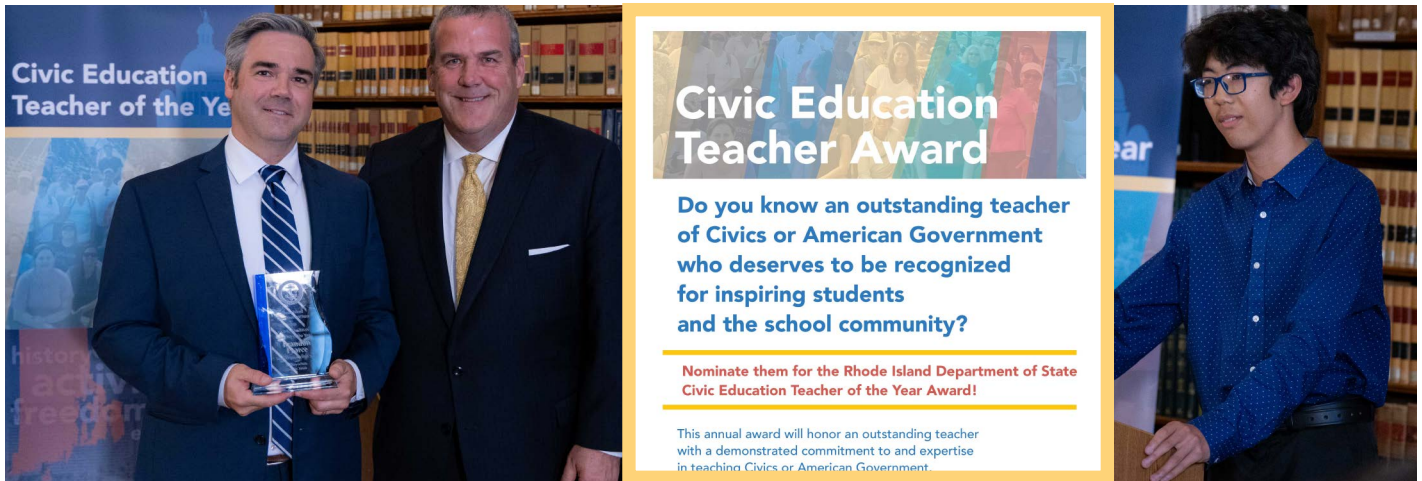
SPONSORS LISTED ALPHABETICALLY.

- AAA Northeast*
- Amica
- Bally's Corporation**
- BankNewport**
- BayCoast Bank
- The Beacon Foundation**
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI
- Citizens Bank*
- Cox Communications*
- East Providence Education Association
- Fort Orange Press*
- Graphic Ink
- Heritage Hospitality Group
- IBEW Local 99
- Ironworkers Local 37**
- LiUNA, New England Laborers' Tri-Funds**
- National Education Association Rhode Island (NEARI)**
- Navigant Credit Union
- Pannone, Lopes, Devereaux and O'Gara, LLC**
- Providence College
- Providence Marriott Downtown
- Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC)
- RI AFL-CIO**
- Rhode Island College*
- Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals
- Signature Printing*
- South County Sand & Gravel*
- Washington Trust Bank*

*two-year Program sponsor

**three-year Program sponsor





2025 Civic Education Teacher of the Year

Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore honored Brandon Pearce of South Kingstown High School as the 2025 winner of the Rhode Island Civic Education Teacher of the Year award. Brandon Pearce has been an educator in South Kingstown for 13 years. Currently, Mr. Pearce teaches AP US History, AP Government and Politics, and Tides Over Time: A Maritime History and Oceanography Course. Mr. Pearce lives in South Kingstown with his wife and two children. Prosper Lin, student nominator, shared that Mr. Pearce has “truly changed how I see the world and my role in it. Even though these are advanced classes, [Mr. Pearce makes] learning so exciting and real. This teacher

doesn’t just make us memorize dates or court cases; they help us understand why these things matter, and how we can use that knowledge to be better citizens.” Secretary Amore was joined by representatives from the Rhode Island Department of Education and the South Kingstown School District, as well as Prosper Lin, student nominator, and their classmates to honor Mr. Pearce.

2026 Civic Education Teachers of the Year

Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore honored Amarís García of Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) and Kathryn Jones of Narragansett High School as the 2026 winners of the Rhode Island Civic Education Teacher of

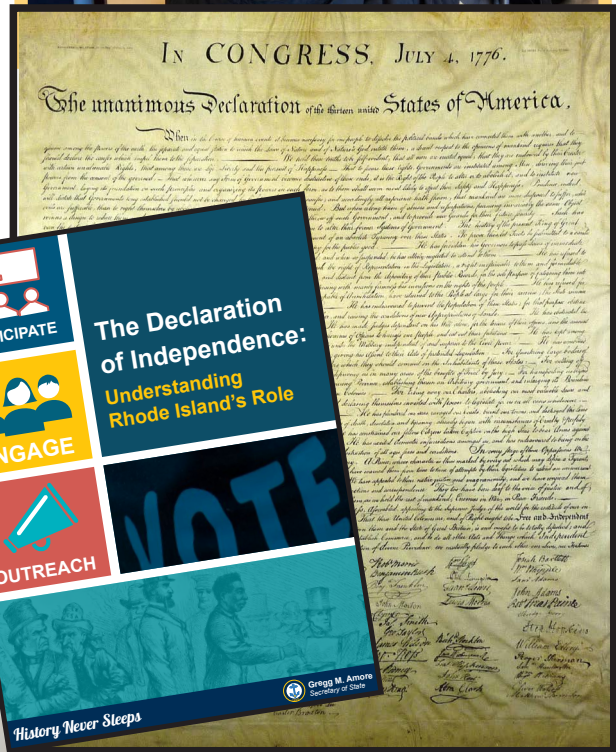
the Year award. Amarís García is a fourth-year culturally-responsive Social Studies and Ethnic Studies educator. At TAPA, she designs and implements interdisciplinary, identity-centered curriculum that empowers students to explore civic engagement, social justice, and community leadership. Kathryn “Katie” Jones is in her twelfth year of teaching high school social studies. In addition to Civics, she teaches AP Psychology, International Relations, and Law and Society. Secretary Amore was joined by the Rhode Island Department of Education, administrators from Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) and the Narragansett School System, and students.





Classroom Visits

Secretary Amore's background as a history teacher continues to be a foundational piece of the RI Department of State's civic education program. Classroom visits and lessons focused on the Declaration of Independence in recognition of the nation's semiquincentennial. Students from 12 classrooms learned about Rhode Island's role in the Revolution as well as the state's two signers of the Declaration of Independence: Stephen Hopkins and William Ellery. In addition, Secretary Amore presented his Voting Rights lesson nearly 40 times.





*The RI Department of State has continued the tradition of celebrating high school students with the **Civic Leadership Award**, recognizing 128 students in 2025 and 121 students in 2026.*



State Library

In 2025 and 2026, the State Library continued to grow as a resource for library patrons, online researchers, and community organizations.



Federal Depository Library Program Anniversary

Since 1895, the Rhode Island State Library has been a member of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), helping to ensure access to United States government public records. Through FDLP libraries, the US Government Publishing Office (GPO) provides free public access to US federal documents and resources. Serving as an FDLP member entails maintaining a physical collection of materials as

well as, increasingly, helping library patrons navigate the vast collection of US government materials available online.

In early September, the State Library hosted Scott Matheson, US GPO Superintendent of Documents. The visit included a presentation of an anniversary plaque from Mr. Matheson to Secretary Amore as well as a collections tour and meeting with Kate Wells and Ann Teixeira. This site visit provided a wonderful opportunity for librarians to learn more about upcoming changes to

- Federal Depository Library Program Anniversary
- State Publications Clearinghouse Outreach
- Rhode Island Public Laws, Acts, & Resolves Digitization Project
- Connecting Visitors to the Library
- Visitor Experience Improvements

	2025	2026
<i>State Library at a glance</i>	27,694	13,966
	LIBRARY VISITORS AND RESEARCHERS	LIBRARY VISITORS AND RESEARCHERS
	1,137	570
	TOTAL REFERENCE QUESTIONS	TOTAL REFERENCE QUESTIONS



the FDLP as well as to show off our historic federal publications collection.

On September 22, 2025, the State Library was joined by US Senator Jack Reed, Secretary Amore, Senator Mark McKenney, Representative David Morales, and Wendy Schiller, Director of the Taubman Center for American Politics & Policy at Brown University, to celebrate 130 years of participation in the FDLP.

State Publications Clearinghouse Outreach

The State Library is statutorily responsible for the State Publications Clearinghouse which collects, catalogs, and distributes State publications to a number of libraries across Rhode Island to ensure access to State information for residents within their own communities. All State agencies are mandated to send publications to the State Library in either print or digital format. Following statutory updates in 2024, Greg Facincani focused the work of the State Publications Clearinghouse on outreach to participating libraries, a biannual e-newsletter, and four site visits to the Adams Library at

Rhode Island College, the Robert L. Carothers Library at the University of Rhode Island, Providence Public Library, and the Krupp Library at Bryant University.

Rhode Island Public Laws, Acts, & Resolves Digitization Project

The State Library is working to increase digital access to historic State publications through our digitization project. The digitization program was renewed in 2025 after being paused for several years. The State Library's current focus remains the continued digitization of the Rhode Island Public Laws, Acts, & Resolves, as well as other titles by special request based on researcher need. To ensure accuracy in editing and due to the complexity of imaging, all digitization work occurs in the State Library. In her role as Digitization Assistant, Myshara Whittington works primarily on imaging and editing the Rhode Island Public Laws, Acts, & Resolves. From 2025 to today, Myshara completed scanning and editing of 3,661 items from 1981-1985.



2,711
New items
cataloged in 2025



2,694
RI Public Laws,
Acts, & Resolves
digitized and
cataloged

The Digitization Process

- 1 Photograph each page of a publication using a camera-mounted book scanner.
- 2 Export the image file to a pdf.
- 3 Edit the pdf to ensure that the text is accurate and readable at the highest standards for digital accessibility tools.
- 4 Export the file to internal server storage for long term digital file preservation.
- 5 Add the file to the Library catalog for public access.

Connecting Visitors to the Library

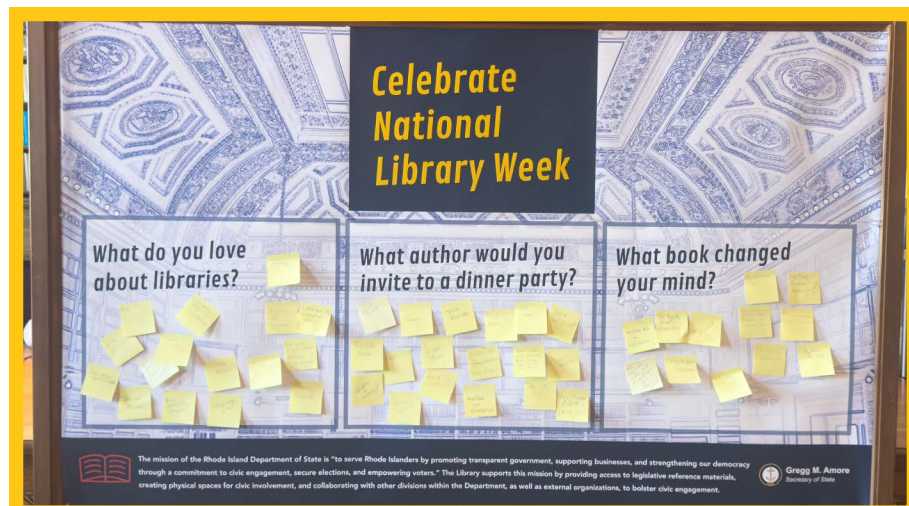
The State Library is proud to host outside groups for meetings and events, as well as create its own programming for visitors to enjoy both in the Library itself and on the Lower Level of the State House in the recently updated Lower-Level Gallery Space.

National Library Week

In celebration of National Library Week, a display in the State Library encouraged visitors to contribute their answers to several prompts related to their experiences with libraries, reading, and media literacy. The State Library hosted Library Advocacy Day in collaboration with the Rhode Island Library Association on April 6, 2025. This event engaged legislators to support the Freedom to Read Bill and advocated for support of libraries in Rhode Island.

Civic Engagement and the Impact of Artificial Intelligence

Civic Engagement and the Impact of Artificial Intelligence, held on April 28, 2025, focused on the opportunities and challenges of generative artificial intelligence as a tool for public information. Featured panelists included Congressman Jim Langevin, Distinguished Chair of the Institute for Cybersecurity & Emerging Technologies at Rhode Island College; Jim Ludes, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at Salve Regina University; and Renee Hobbs, Professor at the Harrington School of Communication and Media at the University of Rhode Island. The conversation was moderated by Terrance Jackson, Director of Information Technology for the RI Department of State.



Civic Learning Week

State Librarian Kate Wells and Stacy DiCola, Director of Public Information, presented Access & Advocacy as part of Sunshine Week, a nonpartisan series of events that shines a light on the importance of public records and open government. The public workshop provided a demonstration of the State Library's resources to research State legislative history and a tutorial for how to register as a lobbyist.

Revolutionary Readers Book Club

In 2026, the State Library created the Revolutionary Readers Book Club, a semiquincentennial commemoration effort to examine the cultural and political forces

at play in the American colonies during the American Revolution. There have been three meetings so far with more than 35 attendees, with the program set to continue through 2026!

Community Events

As an apolitical community space, the State Library provides event space to support civic education and civic involvement. It is often used for meetings, presentations, press conferences, and other events by various State offices and agencies as well as public organizations. In 2025, a total of 104 events were held in the State Library attended by 4,636 people, and in 2026 so far, there have been 49 events attended by 2,336 people.



Rhode Island State Library

Research, Engage, Empower

The Library encourages civic engagement by supporting public access to information related to the State and federal government.

BRIEF HISTORY

The library was created in January 1852 by a Joint Resolution under the purview of the Secretary of State. The Library moved into its current location in the Rhode Island State House in 1901, coinciding with the General Assembly's first legislative session in the new building.

First page of the Rhode Island Public Laws, 1790, the library's oldest book.

How We Can Help You

- Research Assistance
- Legislative History
- Legal Research
- State House Information
- Notary Services



Visitors Welcome!

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
* Until the Rise of the House and Senate when in Session

 Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

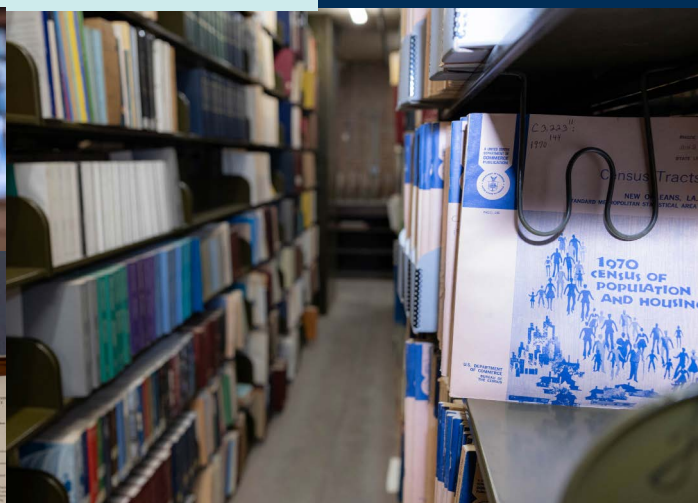
Visitor Experience Improvements

The Library undertook several initiatives to improve the visitor experience and create a more welcoming atmosphere.



Visitor Experience Improvements:

- A new entrance banner for the State Library
- An upgraded digital kiosk with improved site navigation and information
- Installing a display of the current state map of Rhode Island
- Reorganizing bulletin boards for open meetings
- New counter displays for handouts
- New signage for WiFi



Collection Maintenance

Librarians worked throughout the year to improve access to and preservation of the collection.

Collection Maintenance Improvements:

- Inventory and preservation of the General Laws of Rhode Island.
- Shelf maintenance.

Rhode Island State House



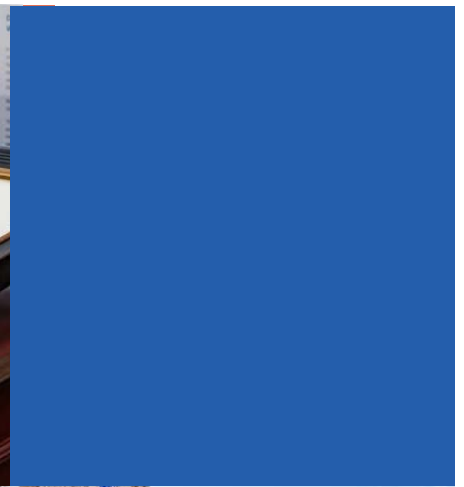
Welcoming Visitors to the Rhode Island State House

One of the simplest ways to make government more accessible is to ensure all feel welcome in the places where government happens. The RI Department of State embraces the State House’s role as “The People’s House,” welcoming visitors of all ages and backgrounds for tours, mock legislative sessions in partnership with the General Assembly, and special events.

In 2026, the State House tour team developed a special tour focused on Rhode Island’s role in the Revolution in recognition of America’s semiquincentennial. Visitors from around the world got to learn about the revolution from the perspective of Rhode Islanders in this anniversary year.

- Welcoming Visitors to the Rhode Island State House
- Special Weekend and Holiday Events
- Spooky State House
- Lower-Level Gallery Exhibits

	2025	2026
<i>State House at a glance</i>	12,468 TOUR ATTENDEES FROM 45 COUNTRIES AND 46 STATES 140 SCHOOL GROUPS FROM 38 SCHOOL DISTRICTS; PUBLIC, PRIVATE, CHARTER, PAROCHIAL, HOMESCHOOL GROUPS	8,000 NEARLY 8,000 TOUR ATTENDEES SO FAR!



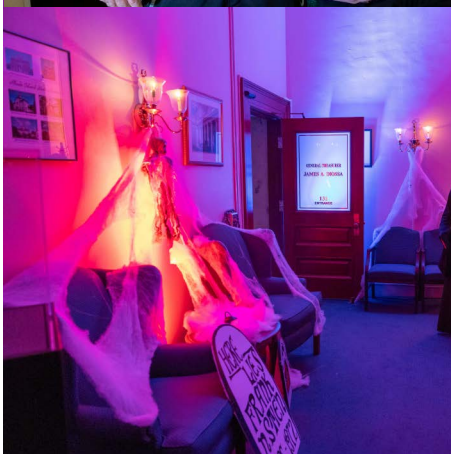
Special Saturday Events

Rhode Island Independence Day

The State House team once again hosted very successful Saturday openings on May 4 (Rhode Island Independence Day) and, special in 2026 for the semiquincentennial, on July 4 as part of Rhode Island 250 commemorations. More than 250 people visited the State House for a tour and to view the Act of Renunciation on May 4 in 2025 and 2026. On July 4, 2026, over 500 people attended a special viewing of all three of the State's copies of the Declaration of Independence. These off-hours events make Rhode Island's history accessible to even more visitors!

Spooky State House

Not every visit to the State House is to see historic documents! The Department of State once again welcomed kids and families from across Rhode Island for Spooky State House, featuring trick-or-treating with elected officials, spooky story time in the State Library, crafts, music, and more!





Lower-Level Gallery Exhibits

The Lower-Level Gallery is promoted by Secretary Amore as an exhibition space for area artists, and to bring new and diverse audiences into the State House. The Gallery hosts multidisciplinary exhibits in partnership with community artists, curators, and local arts and cultural organizations. In collaboration with Eileen Sweeney, Director of Community Outreach & Engagement, State Librarian Kate Wells was responsible for the installation of two new exhibitions in 2025.

"Somos Rhode Island" Exhibit

In September 2025, the Lower-Level Gallery was home to "Somos Rhode Island," an exhibit featuring portrait paintings by René Gómez of individuals from Rhode Island's Latino community. The exhibit was

curated by Marta V. Martínez, Founder and Executive Director of Rhode Island Latino Arts, and features 31 portraits completed in a detailed style known as pointillism. The portraits each tell a story of an individual from Rhode Island's Latino community and together underscore the impact of Latino history on the state.

"Owning Our History" Exhibit

From December 2025 until March 2026, the Lower-Level Gallery featured "Owning Our History," an exhibit curated by Dr. Christopher West and inspired by the findings of *A Church in a Triangle*, a book-length report on the involvement of early church members in slavery and slavery-related businesses.

The original research contained in *A Church in a Triangle* was commissioned as part of the First Unitarian Church of Providence's

300th anniversary initiatives. The book, published in 2025, offers new insight into the relationship between Providence's white elite and the slave trade.

The exhibit included the acrylic painting "Do You Feel Like Shouting?" by Renée Elizabeth Neely-Tanner, the 2024 Artist Research Resident of the RISD Museum of Art and the 2023 Heimark Artist in Residence for the Ruth J. Simmons Center at Brown University.

Revolution and Rhode Island Exhibit

In 2026, the State Library and the Rhode Island 250 Commission partnered to install a new exhibit: *Revolution and Rhode Island: Liberty, Struggle, Legacy*, in commemoration of the semiquincentennial.



Promoting Transparent Government

Lobbying and Open Meetings

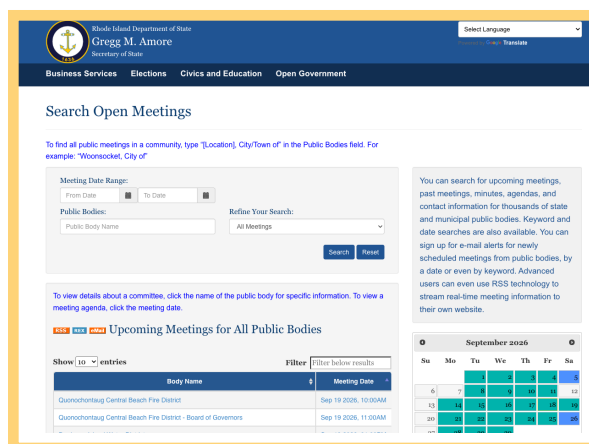
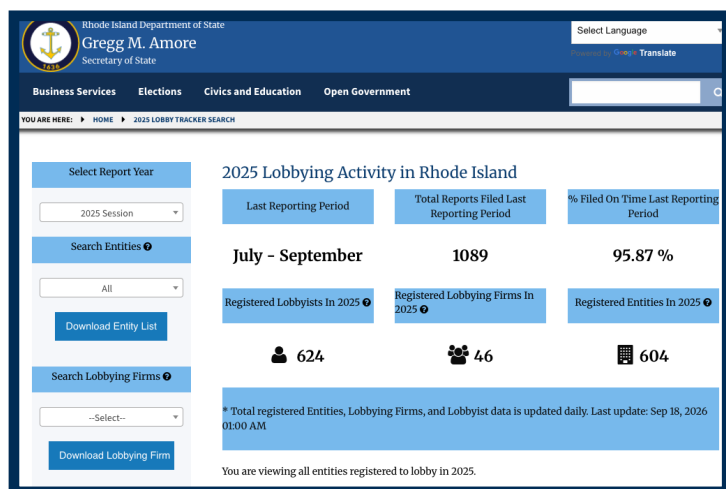
The Public Information Division is responsible for providing public access to many important records related to how State government functions.

All lobbyists must register and file regular reports with the RI Department of State. In both 2025 and 2026 so far, the Public Information Division received and

processed over 15,000 reports for 624 lobbyists, 329 for-profit entities, 242 non-profit entities, and 46 firms across 2,830 lobbying relationships.

The Public Information Division is also the repository of filings for Open Meetings, including agendas and meeting minutes. In 2025 and 2026 so far, there were 25,959 notices and 20,926 minutes posted for 1,558 unique entities.

- Lobbying and Open Meetings
- Sunshine Week
- Inspector General Independent Advisory Commission



Access & Advocacy: Using Open Government Resources for Civic Engagement

Monday, March 17, 2025
12 - 1:30 p.m.
Rhode Island State Library

Making SRC Records Management Manageable: How to Increase Best Practice & Avoid Unnecessary Extra Work

Ashley Selima
Director of State Archives & Public Records Administration

Rich Hite
State Records Coordinator

Rachel Strashnick
Administrative Records & Technical Services Specialist

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Registration required via EventBrite

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Discovering Your Story: Genealogy Basics

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
12 p.m.
Virtual Webinar

*Rhode Island State Archives
& Public Records Administration*

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Sunshine Week

The Department of State once again recognized Sunshine Week in 2025 through two events highlighting open government and transparency resources.

Access & Advocacy: Using Open Government Resources for Civic Engagement

was presented by Rhode Island State Librarian Kate Wells and Department of State Director of Public Information Stacy DiCola. The presentation included topics such as: how a bill becomes a law, and how to track bill progress; how to research Rhode Island legislative history; what it means to be a lobbyist versus a citizen advocate; and lobbying laws and compliance.

During **Discovering Your Story: Genealogy Basics**, RI State Archives staff shared tips, resources, and strategies, and

answered questions about getting started with researching family history. The presentation included an introduction to the Archives and how to conduct research at the Archives or from home.

Inspector General Independent Advisory Commission

At the end of the 2026 legislative session, the General Assembly passed a bill creating an Inspector General Independent Advisory Commission, tasked with developing a process for hiring the State's first Inspector General. The Secretary of State is one of five statutorily-appointed members. RI Department of State staff have been critical in supporting the Commission's efforts and developing plans and processes. The work is ongoing and expected to conclude in the fall of 2026.

Inspector General Independent Advisory Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING
Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 2:00pm

LOCATION
Rhode Island State House, Room 101
62 South Street
Providence, RI 02903

AGENDA:

1. Call to order
2. Review, discussion, and vote on the approval of the August 26, 2026 meeting minutes
3. Discussion and possible vote on the background investigation process for candidates for Inspector General. Attorney General Nemesio and/or his staff will provide an update from the Rhode Island State Police regarding the background investigation process.
4. Discussion and possible vote on the conduct of the interview and/or interview methods from the Inspector General position.
5. The Board will advise public comment from members of the public. Members of the public may provide public comment in person at the Board's September 17, 2026 meeting or in writing by emailing it-gov. Please submit any written public comment by September 17, 2026 at 12:00 pm.
6. Discussion and possible vote on whether to publicly post any written public comment received by the Commission.
7. Vote to adjourn the meeting.

NOTED:
October, September 15, 2026, at the State Library, Ethics Commission, and Office of the Attorney General, in accordance with the Secretary of State.

COMING UP NEXT...

**INSPECTOR GENERAL
INDEPENDENT ADVISORY
COMMISSION**

CAPITOL TV

WWW.RILEGISLATURE.GOV

COX 61

13 BROADBAND 13

VERIZON FIOS 34

SCHEDULE

Today at 3:00 PM

Today at 8:30 PM

Tomorrow at 5:00 AM

09/20 at 3:30 PM

DOWNLOADS

State Archives

STATE ARCHIVES
ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Declaration of Independence viewing, October 2025

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Records Management

One of the State Archives and Public Records Administration's greatest responsibilities is supporting State and local agencies in the preservation of public records.

The Public Records Administration is proud to support these efforts through workshops and on-site assistance days. In 2025, the PRA held its first annual Records Summit training, aimed at providing a one-stop-shop for learning records management basics, to receive updates from the PRA on process improvements, and to learn about records management services and how to best utilize them throughout the year. In 2026, the PRA launched a new drop-in session program, welcoming agencies to schedule individual meetings with the Records Team to receive feedback, guidance, and best practices based on their current records management efforts.

- Records Management
- Making Microfilm Accessible
- Community Events

State Archives at a glance

2025

29,946

RECORDS CENTER ACTIVITIES

812

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RECORD
MANAGEMENT REQUESTS

4,679

STATE AGENCY RECORDS
(TRANSMITTED TO STORAGE)

2026

18,961

RECORDS CENTER ACTIVITIES

392

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RECORD
MANAGEMENT REQUESTS

2,792

STATE AGENCY RECORDS
(TRANSMITTED TO STORAGE)

Social Media Highlight:

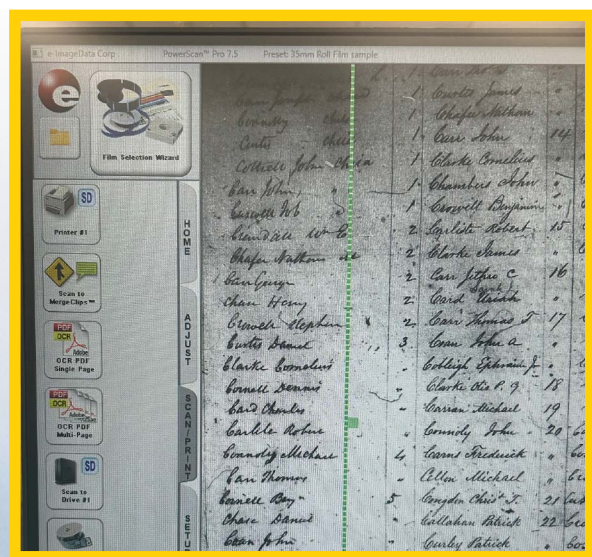
An increase in questions about documentation for Canadian citizenship resulted in the RI Department of State's first-ever post on Reddit. The Canadian citizenship question forum connected a new audience with the State Archives' resources – and resulted in many glowing compliments for State Archives staff!

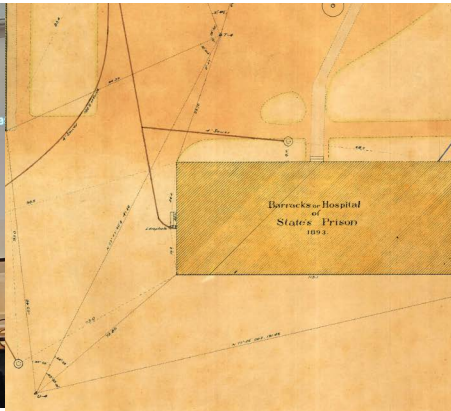
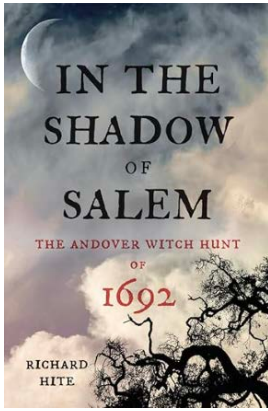


In 2025, the Department of State worked to complete legislative updates to RI General Law 38-3 to better represent the records management landscape and improve the process for the creation and finalization of records retention schedules. This update modernized the language of the Public Records Administration statute to current industry standards and codified that every State agency must have a Records Officer. In 2026, the Administrative Records Office, within the Archives Division, worked to update and improve the mandatory 5-year refile process (RI Gen. Laws 42-35). These legislative changes updated processes to streamline agency coordination, provide a clearer snapshot of all active agency rules for members of the public, and further improve the RI Code of Regulations for public transparency.

Making Microfilm Accessible

Microfilm as a technology dates back more than 150 years, and is still a critically important archival tool today. It remains one of the most stable options for preserving and making archival documents available. As the technology of microfilm has improved, the State Archives has worked to ensure its microfilm resources are tools for research and building the digital collection. In 2025, the Digital Archives program added a new microfilm reader that can specifically read and digitize microfiche, in addition to microfilm. This will assist the State Archives in making previously migrated material available online in the future.





Community Events

History's Stories, Today's Storytellers Exhibit Reception

Students from Mt. Hope High School and North Smithfield High School partnered with the State Archives for its continuing exhibit program focused on unique artwork created by students inspired by the historic documents preserved at the State Archives. This reception, open to the participants and the public, celebrated their hard work as their creations were on display from January-June.

Map Night (March)

This event provided the public with an opportunity to see the expansive and unique collection of archival maps, plans, plat books, and architectural drawings that are

often unable to be shown as part of public exhibitions at the State Archives. A limited selection of maps are available to view online in the Digital Archives.

In the Shadow of Salem, History Talk with Local Author Richard Hite

To celebrate Archives Month, and spooky season, local author and Rhode Island State Archives State Records Coordinator Richard Hite gave a history talk on the fear of witchcraft as it spread throughout northern Massachusetts and the greater New England area, sharing the fascinating story of a long-overlooked phase of the largest witch hunt in American history.

"More than a Number" Historic Cemetery Project Talk

The Rhode Island Training School

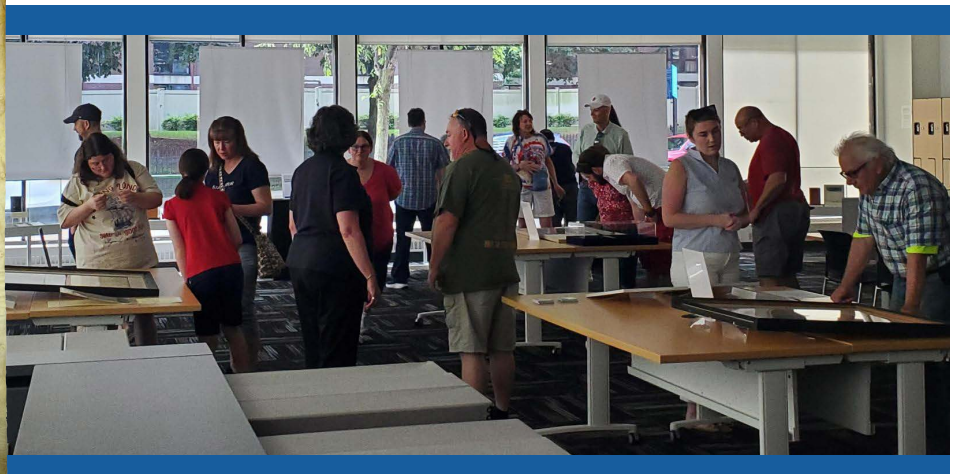
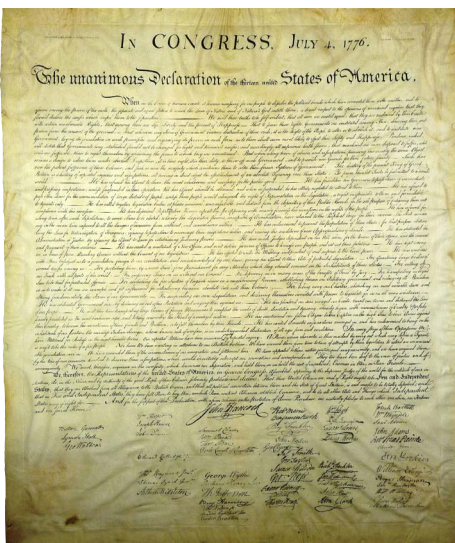
Cemetery Project has been working to remove debris, clean up, and restore the cemetery on the site of one of the former State institutions. During the display of the State Archives' "A Good for the Public" exhibit, Theresa Moore and John Hill joined to share about the project and how the historic records from the collection have aided in their work and the creation of a student curriculum.

Gallery Nights (April and August)

In 2025, the State Archives partnered with Gallery Night Providence to be a stop on their Thursday night art tours in April and August, showcasing the history exhibits to a new audience.

July 4th Independence Day Display

Making the State's copies of



the Declaration of Independence accessible to Rhode Islanders has become an Independence Day tradition. In 2025, the versions were displayed at the State Archives. Over 90 Rhode Islanders came out to see these extraordinary pieces of history. In 2026, in recognition of the nation's semiquincentennial, the viewing was held at the Rhode Island State House. More than 500 attendees visited this special display!

Pop-Up Exhibits

Traveling exhibits continued to stop in many communities throughout the state in 2025, including the RI's Revolutionary Communities and Wild Weather tabletop exhibits and other special, limited programs. The pop-up exhibit program made 27 stops in 2025 and over 600 people saw records from the State Archives everywhere from Newport, the Big E, Stephen Hopkins House, Burrillville, Cranston, and beyond as it made its way throughout our cities and towns commemorating our history. In 2026, there were nine additional pop-up exhibits enjoyed by over 200 visitors.

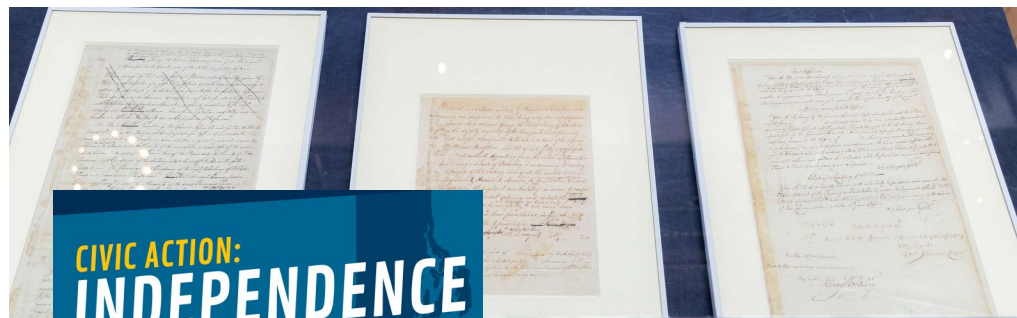
2025-2026 State Archives Exhibits

History's Stories, Today's Storytellers

- exploring stories from Rhode Island history through the lens of high school student artists and their interpretations.

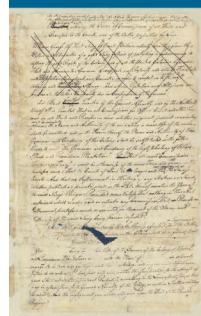
A Good for the Public – detailing the physical spaces State institutions occupied and offering insight into the experiences of the Rhode Islanders who relied on these services.

Following the Spark – Exploring Rhode Island's role in the American Revolution, from the Gaspee Affair, to the Battle of Rhode Island, to the eventual passage of the Constitution, Rhode Island was always part of the story.



CIVIC ACTION: INDEPENDENCE

Rhode Islanders are justly proud of their state's independent spirit.



The Act of Renunciation

Passed by the General Assembly on May 4, 1776, the Act of Renunciation was an important legislative event that preceded the eventual Declaration of Independence, signed two months later.



Following the act, Rhode Island Colony's own Arms, depicting a Native American and a female colonist surrendering an anchor, replaced the Royal Arms.



Revolutionary Communities is in Newport tonight!

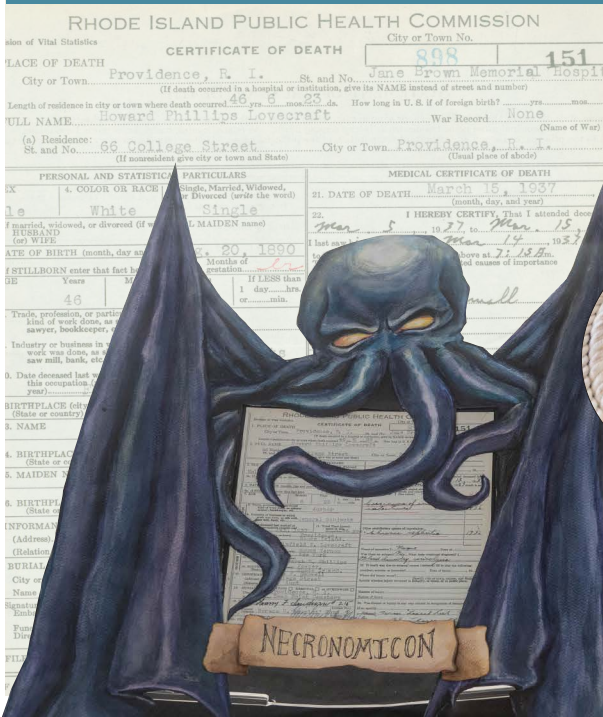
THE ZEPHYRUS MEMORIAL CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST, NEWPORT, RI





The Indigent Cemetery Project

1,049 number-marked headstones behind the Rhode Island Training School have been restored. See how their untold stories were discovered.



A place to experience Rhode Island's story

Rhode Island State History Center

After many years of advocacy by Secretary Amore, as well as former Secretary Gorgea, voters will have the opportunity this fall to approve a \$45 million bond to build the Rhode Island State History Center. The State History Center will be a hub of historic education and civic education, with space for Rhode Island's treasures to be put on display. It will contain an exhibit gallery for permanent display of Rhode Island's founding documents, as well as space for rotating exhibits, and a multi-purpose space that will host a variety of events, functions,

and educational programming. The Rhode Island State History Center also includes limited space for collections storage, with state-of-the-art storage conditions and security to protect the most valuable documents and objects currently being held at the State Archives. Secretary Amore hopes Rhode Islanders will approve the bond initiative – which will be Question 4 on their ballots – to build a State History Center where both Rhode Islanders and tourists can experience the rich history of our state.

A Facility Deserving of Our State's Legacy – for Students, Tourists, and all Rhode Islanders

The 2026 proposal prioritizes education and tourism within a smaller, cost-effective footprint – providing 3,000 square feet of exhibit space for some of Rhode Island's most treasured historic documents as well as a multi-purpose space ideal for interactive learning.

Following a comprehensive site study, the lot in front of the Department of Administration (corner of Smith St. and Park St.) has been identified as the ideal location for the facility as a natural addition to the capitol complex and complement to the State House tours.

The Rhode Island State History Center will be a cultural and educational destination within the State government complex in Providence, Rhode Island.



2026 PROPOSAL

Total Project Cost:
\$43,165,076

Total Square Footage:
24,634 sq. ft.

In 1976, the State built the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery as a legacy project honoring the Bicentennial.

As we honor America's 250th in 2026, **this can be our legacy project.**

Now is the time to ensure Rhode Island's history is preserved and displayed for generations to come.

Supporting and Strengthening Business In Rhode Island

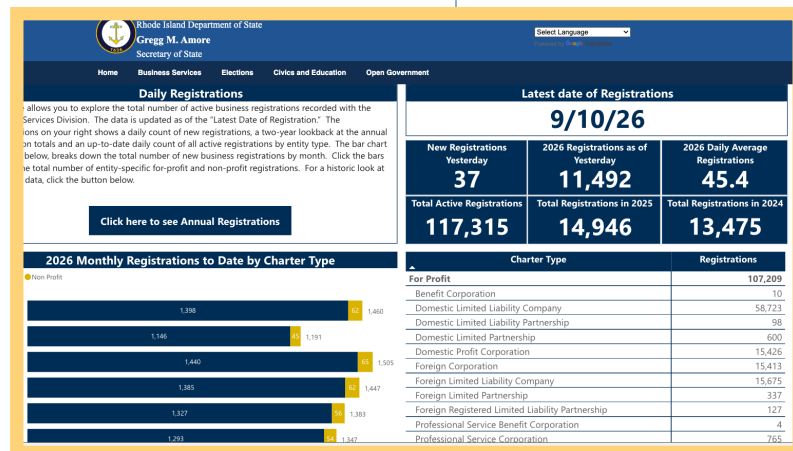
Rhode Island is a state where businesses can grow and thrive – and the RI Department of State is committed to making it as straightforward as possible to register and maintain business and non-profit records.

Modernizing Our Filing Systems

As the filing agency for many corporate records, the RI Department of State maintains a lot of forms and databases. In 2024, the Business Services Division began a detailed and involved process to map the current filing system, understand needed upgrades, and develop a request for proposals for a vendor to create a new, modernized filing system for the agency. Now, that work is underway, with application and database releases scheduled

at regular intervals over the next two years. When the new system is implemented, customers can expect online filing capability for all filings submitted to the RI Department of State Business Services Division; streamlined forms with helpful filing tools; clear email notifications to help track the status of a filing; expanded payment options; and a secure, convenient user profile designed to allow customers quick and convenient access to filing and payment history from anywhere.

- Maintaining the State's Business Registry
- Modernizing Our Filing Systems
- Trade Names – Now at the State Level
- Business Identity Theft Protection Legislation
- International Association of Commercial Administrators' Annual Conference



Did you know?

You can search active and inactive businesses registered with the RI Department of State in the online Corporate Database. We even offer search guides and research tools to assist you in your inquiry!

Maintaining the State's Business Registry

2025 saw a record number of new entity registrations in the Business Services Division: 14,946 new registrants! So far in 2026, 9,255 more entities have registered, as well. Now, the Business Services Division maintains over 115,235 active entities, 105,247 corporate and 9,988 non-profit, in the State's Corporate Database.

Trade Names – Now at the State Level

A Trade Name is a business name used by a person or group of people who do not wish to incorporate a legal business entity. Previously, registrations were filed at the city or town hall in the community where the Trade Name would be effective. A recent legislative change requires that all Trade Name registrations are now filed through the Rhode Island Department of State Business Services Division. This transition required significant coordination between the Business Services Division and each city and town. More than 100,000 existing trade names were migrated into the new State system, and Business Services employees now process all trade name registrations through a centralized filing system for the

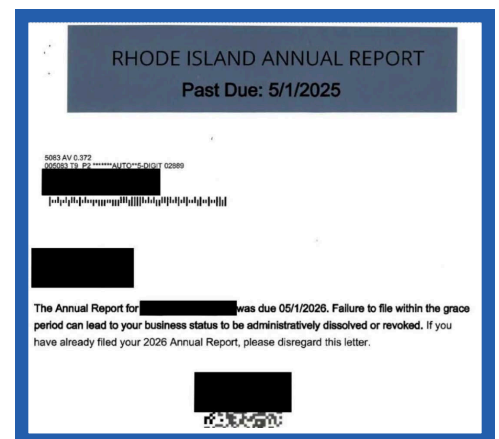
Information Sought	Who Can Provide the Information?			Notes
	RI Department of State	Other State Agency	Records held privately by the entity	
Principal business address	✓	✗	✗	
Registered agent (for service of legal process)	✓	✗	✗	A registered agent accepts service of process and official notices and communication issued to entities of record in our office.
Corporate status	✓	✗	✗	A certificate of good standing from the RI Department of State verifies only that the entity in question is up-to-date on documents required to be filed with our office.
Ownership information	✗	✗	✓	Depending on the structure of an entity, it may be owned by shareholders, members, or partners. That information is not recorded with any state agency and is kept as part of the private records of each entity.
Financial information (profits/losses)	✗	✗	✓	
Tax information	✗	✗	✓	While the RI Division of Taxation collects tax payments from RI business entities, that information is not routinely available.

state. This project has streamlined services for filers, and resulted in the first centralized trade name registry in Rhode Island history.

Business Identity Theft Protection Legislation

During the 2026 session, the General Assembly passed legislation introduced at the request of the Secretary of State that combats several forms of business identity theft, helps prevent business scams, and assists individuals and businesses who have been impacted by fraud.

Among other provisions, the legislation, sponsored in the House (H8324 Sub A) by Chair Mary Ann Shallcross Smith and in the Senate



(S3212 Sub A) by Chair Robert Britto, addresses two forms of fraudulent activity:

1. Unauthorized filings submitted to the RI Department of State to form new business entities using



individuals' names and addresses as "registered agents" and/or "authorized person(s)" without their consent; and

2. Deceptive solicitations or mailings that are sent to entities registered with the Department's Business Services Division to offer annual report or other filing services for exorbitant fees, when, in fact, entities can file these reports or other filings directly with the Department without paying an additional "service" fee. Often, these mailings are designed to confuse the recipient by appearing as though they are coming from a government entity.

The legislation enables individuals and business owners whose identity has been fraudulently used to submit unauthorized filings to file an affidavit and creates a process for the Department to remove illegitimate filings from the public record, helping to limit the legal and financial impact for victims of fraudulent activities. In addition, the legislation requires companies advertising paid filing services for RI Department of State filings to disclose that their communications are advertisements and are not from a government entity. The Business Services Division is proud to provide filing services directly

to constituents, without additional fees, and with assistance available to those who need it.

Rhode Island Hosts International Association of Commercial Administrators' Annual Conference

Rhode Island's picturesque scenery was the perfect backdrop for the 2026 International Association of Commercial Administrators' (IACA) annual conference! Director of Business Services Maureen Ewing, who also served as IACA's president, welcomed more than 200 attendees from 55 states, territories, and countries. Attendees discussed best practices related to business and secured transaction registry administration, filer engagement,

and growing trends in fraud and technology implementation, and enjoyed activities like an evening at Blithewold Manor and Arboretum and games at Level99. The entire Business Services team worked incredibly hard to make the conference a rewarding professional experience for attendees and show off all that Rhode Island has to offer. Congratulations on such a successful event!



Legislation

The following bills became law in 2025 and 2026, supporting the Department's efforts to continue improving services for Rhode Islanders.

2025

Protecting Poll Workers & Election Officials | S729 (Tikoian) & H5300 (Dawson)

Unfortunately, an increase in threats, intimidation, and harassment towards poll workers and election officials has become all too common. With this bill, Rhode Island joined 19 other states and Washington, DC to include poll workers and elections officials in the definition of "public officials" protected by State law. With these protections in place, the RI Department of State hopes to continue to see people pursue public and community service through elections.

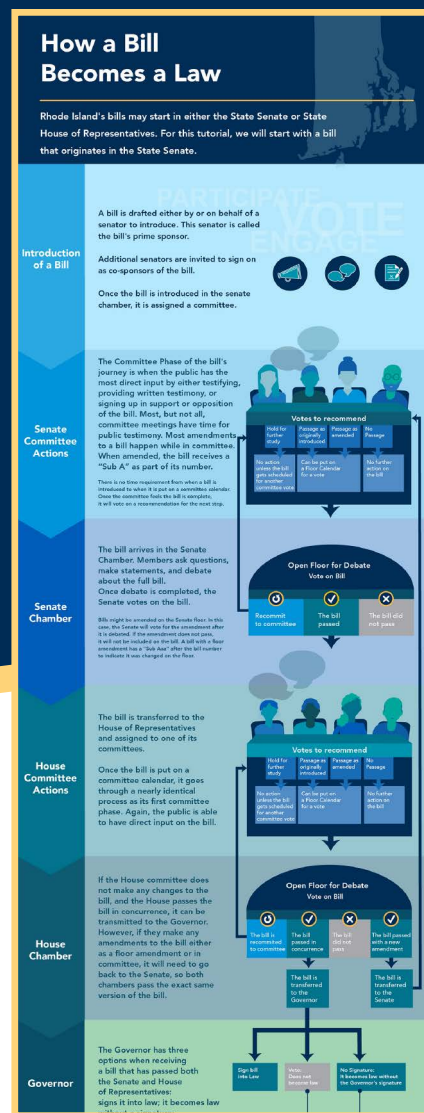
Regulating Synthetic Media in Election Communications | S816 (DiPalma) & H5872 (Baginski)

With the rise in the use of artificial intelligence in many aspects of our daily life, Sec. Amore supported proactive legislation to regulate

synthetic media created with AI. The law requires campaigns using the tool to disclose its use, limiting the risk of the use of synthetic media to create "deepfakes" and convincingly imitate elected leaders and other public figures. This is just a small part of the RI Department of State's efforts to combat misinformation around elections.

Removing "Mail Voter" from Early Voting Ballots | S953 (Dimitri) & H5514 (Furtado)

A straightforward but incredibly impactful bill, this legislation removed the requirement to print "Mail Voter" on the top of ballots for early voting, allowing cities and towns to utilize the same ballot style for early voting and Election Day. This small change reduces the waste of printing ballots. The RI Department of State estimates that if the legislation had been enacted for the 2024 election cycle, the Department would have saved upwards of \$100,000 on ballot printing.



Modernizing Public Records Administration | S742 (Murray) & H5451 (Read)

This legislation modernizes the language of the Public Records Administration statute to appropriately reflect the functions of the division, streamlining reporting for local government and State agencies, formalizing the response timeframe from the Attorney General and Auditor General Offices regarding the approval of retention schedules that the Public Records Administrator drafts, and repealing the now-defunct Public Records Advisory Commission.

Anatomy of a Bill

→ 2021 -- H 5984 SUBSTITUTE A

LC002128/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

AN ACT

RELATING TO CORPORATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS -
ISLAND BUSINESS CORPORATION ACT

Introduced By: _____

Date Introduced: February 26, 2021

Bill Sponsor: There can be several bill sponsors listed.



2026

During the 2026 legislative session, legislative priorities spanned elections, State Archives, business services, and records administration.

RI State History Center FY2027 budget – Article 5, Question 4

In 2026, the RI Department of State accomplished a long-held goal of putting to voters a bond question to fund the construction of a State History Center. Article 5, Question 4 provides \$45 million in general obligation bond funding to build the Rhode Island State History Center, which will have the State's treasures on display and will serve as a hub for history education and civic engagement. The State History Center will have an exhibit gallery to permanently display Rhode Island's founding documents, as well as space for rotating exhibits and a multi-purpose room to host educational and community programming. It will cement Rhode Island's superiority as a cultural tourism destination, enticing new visitors to Rhode Island and encouraging those already here to stay longer and spend more. As we commemorate the

semiquincentennial, the State can invest in a legacy project – the State History Center – to tell Rhode Island's story, from our founding years to today.

RI Business Identity Theft Protection Act | S3212 (Britto) & H8324 (Shallcross Smith)

This legislation combats several forms of business identity theft by providing the RI Department of State with the tools and infrastructure to help prevent business scams and assist individuals and businesses who have been impacted, including deceptive mailing scams and fraudulent filings with the Business Services Division. This legislation gives the Business Services Division recourse to determine if filings are false and to remove them from the public record.

Reinstating Electronic Mail Ballot Returns for Military & Overseas Voters & For Voters with Disabilities | S2341A (LaMountain) & H7007aa (O'Brien)

This legislation reinstates and permanently codifies the electronic return of mail ballots using a secure portal for a limited group of voters: members of the military and overseas voters,

and voters with disabilities. The portal allows this limited subset of voters to vote independently and securely. For some voters with disabilities, this is the only voting method that enables them to vote independently and privately without assistance.

Streamlining the Rule Refile Process for State Agencies | S3202 (Dimitri) & H8297 (Read)

This legislation streamlines the State agency rule-refiling process by requiring agencies to electronically submit a notice with a list of all of their active rules, confirming that said rules will remain active instead of filing and processing each rule individually. This bill aligns with and enhances the values of government efficiency and transparency, preventing public confusion by clearly delineating the function and purpose of the rule-refile process and how it differs from the rule-making process.



Maintaining and Growing our Operations

Staffing

From January 2025 through July 1, 2026, the Finance & Personnel Division has onboarded nine full-time employees and nine part-time employees, strengthening and expanding our workforce. The Rhode Island Department of State also continued its Summer Fellowship Program, hosting 15 fellows throughout 2025 and 2026. Fellows had the opportunity to gain valuable experience across each division and participate in professional development opportunities alongside Department staff.

Budget

The FY 2026 final enacted budget of \$16.2 million, passed by the General Assembly, included funding for a statewide voter list maintenance mailing—the first such mailing since 2006–2007. Statewide mailings are an

important tool for ensuring that voter rolls remain as accurate and up to date as possible. The budget also included funding to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States and to upgrade the Department’s IT infrastructure.

Training

The Department is committed to leading the way in employee training and professional development. Throughout 2025 and 2026, the Department offered several professional development workshops, including the Maintaining Respect & Civility Workshop, the Division of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion’s (DEDI) Cultural Competency Training, and Active Shooter Training offered by the Rhode Island State Police.

- Staffing
- Budget
- Training

2025 – 2026

RI Department of State Staff

L. Gregory Abilheira	Juliana Cuomo	Megan Labbe	Robert Rock
Suzanna Alba	Serenity DaSilva	Jacob Lauria	Sebastian Rosa
Audrey Albert	Nestor Dejesus	Rick Lombardi, Jr.	Carlos Brandon Roman
Gregg Amore	Tracey Croce	Blake Lukens	Ashley Selima
Michelle Arias Santabay	Lynn Del Farno	Kristen Lynch	Denise Sepe
Janet Battcher	Stacy DiCola	Shelby Maldonado	Kelmary Soto
Marisela Berrios	Nicholas Edwards	Kimy McGuy	Lauren Sparadeo
Sue Bohorquez	Annie Ensign	Gregory McBurney	Leah Spengler
Jack Butler	Maureen Ewing	Elsie McLaughlin	Acardia Stevens
LeeAnn Byrne	Greg Facincani	Andrea Mendez	Erin Stevenson
Amanda Caetano	Lauren Fogarty	Daniela Muralles Mendez	Rachel Strashnick
Richard Lennon Cardente	Andrea Francese	Anny Montalvan	Eileen Sweeney
Kenneth Carlson	Miriam Garcia	Sean Morin	Ann Teixeira
Jill Cataldi	Joseph Graziano	Jevonne Morton	Katherine Telford
Malen Cepparo	Jennifer Griffith	Daniel Niederman	Rob Traverse
Noah Charpentier	Colleen Halloran-Villandry	Connie O'Connor	Derik Tutt
Faith Chybowski	Heaven Higginson	Winifred O'Malley	John Vaughan
Jessica Cigna	Richard Hite	Jhonatan Ortiz	Kiviana Ventura
Loretta Cimini	Placido Hoff	Hailey Paganetti	Myshara Whittington
Lauren Civittolo	Emma Holmes	Kathy Placencia Fernandez	Kathryn Wells
Sashenka Coderre	Alexandra Howlett	Michael Popolillo	Diane Zainyeh
Kristen Cordeiro	Terrance Jackson	Jyhasia Reid	
Gregg Cranshaw	Megan Kelley	Anna Rivera	
	Gireeshma Koka		

Commemorating America's Semiquincentennial





In 2026, the United States of America celebrated the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. For years, the Rhode Island 250 Commission has worked to build and support events and commemorations throughout the state. In July 2026, those events culminated in the RI250 Commission's signature event – the opportunity to view Rhode Island's three State copies of the Declaration of Independence, followed by a special free performance of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra and WaterFire featuring representatives of all 39 cities and towns. More than 2,750 people attended the concert at the State House, and an estimated 65,000 joined in for Independence Day events statewide.

Local Committees

Each Rhode Island city and town established its own local 250 committee to create special observances in their own locality. With support from the RI250 Commission, local programming included:

Block Island: The Block Island 250 Committee and their local

Historical Society hosted a month-long America250 celebration featuring museum and lighthouse open houses, a community parade honoring descendants of Revolutionary War soldiers, and participation in the nationwide America250 Potluck. The series also included a public reading of the Declaration of Independence, lectures exploring women's experiences during the Revolution, Indigenous sovereignty, and local activism, as well as the Honoring Ancestors Celebration and Manisseean Intertribal Pow Wow. The commemoration concluded with a historic cemetery tour, offering residents and visitors opportunities throughout July to engage with Block Island's rich history and diverse cultural heritage.

Central Falls: The City of Central Falls celebrated America's 250th anniversary with a community-wide Fourth of July program that highlighted the city's rich immigrant heritage and its role in the American story. The celebration featured a public reading of the Declaration of Independence, student storytelling and performances, historical and cultural exhibits, interpretive

displays, and family-friendly activities. Developed in partnership with local schools, libraries, and community organizations, the event encouraged residents to reflect on the nation's founding ideals while celebrating the diverse communities that continue to shape Central Falls and the United States.

Middletown: The Middletown RI250 Commission commemorated America's 250th anniversary through a series of community events celebrating the town's vital role in the Revolutionary War under the theme, "Middletown 1776–2026: Right in the Middle of It!" Programming included a community Independence celebration called the "America250 Summer Blast at Second Beach," a public lecture on General Nathanael Greene, Revolutionary War reenactments, educational materials, and a town-wide historical scavenger hunt highlighting significant Revolutionary sites. Together, these initiatives engaged residents and visitors in exploring Middletown's contributions to the founding of the nation.

Warwick: The City of Warwick hosted a day-long America250 celebration at Rocky Point State



Park featuring Revolutionary War reenactments, living history demonstrations, fife and drum performances, colonial crafts, historical exhibits, family activities, and local food vendors. The event brought together residents of all ages to celebrate Rhode Island's Revolutionary history through interactive and educational programming.

Westerly: The Westerly 250th Commission hosted a community celebration featuring Rhode Island's largest municipal drone light show to date. More than 300 drones, including pyrotechnic-equipped drones, illuminated the night sky with patriotic imagery and scenes from American history, accompanied by music, food trucks, and live entertainment. The event offered a memorable and innovative way for residents and visitors to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary on Rhode Island Independence Day.

Woonsocket: The City of Woonsocket created a year-long series of educational, cultural, and historical programs highlighting the city's industrial heritage, military contributions, and Revolutionary history. Programming has included enhanced Independence Day celebrations with living history

presentations, military exhibits, and the Ghost Army tank display, as well as public lectures, a historically-themed Autumnfest parade float, and the Mill Town Circus, an immersive theatrical production celebrating 250 years of Woonsocket's history. Developed in partnership with local schools, museums, and community organizations, the initiative engaged residents of all ages in exploring the city's role in the American story.

Community Grant Program

With support from the Joint Committee on Legislative Services (JCLS), the RI250 Commission awarded nearly \$454,000 in grant funding across two successful funding cycles. The RI250 Grant Program was created to support municipalities and partner organizations in developing and expanding programs, projects, and events that commemorate 250 years of the United States. Through this investment, RI250 is helping to build a vibrant, statewide calendar of activities that highlights Rhode Island's unique role in the American Revolution and invites communities across the state to participate in this once-in-a-generation commemoration.

The RI250 Grant Program completed two rounds of funding, awarding a total of \$449,014.54 to 87 organizations and municipalities statewide. In the first round, RI250 awarded \$203,700 to 29 recipients, including 19 statewide partner organizations and ten municipalities. The second round provided \$245,314.54 to 58 recipients, including 32 statewide partner organizations and 26 municipalities.

The Commission later awarded an additional \$4,771 to Narragansett, Exeter, and Glocester, bringing the total grant investment to \$453,785.54 and ensuring that all 39 Rhode Island cities and towns received RI250 grant funding. Together, these grants are helping communities preserve local history, expand civic engagement, and create meaningful opportunities for Rhode Islanders to connect with the state's revolutionary legacy.

Professional Development

The RI250 Commission created a professional development series to support educators in exploring Rhode Island's foundational contributions to American history and civic identity. Through three main themes – The American Experiment, We the People, and Unfinished Revolutions – educators



can access primary sources, lesson plans, and resources that foster critical thinking and civic agency in students.

Rhode Island 250 Cultural Convening

The RI250 Cultural Convening brought together representatives from Rhode Island's museums, historical societies, cultural organizations, libraries, educational institutions, tribal communities, and tourism partners to prepare for the semiquincentennial. The convening included an overview of the RI250 Grant Program and a discussion of the American Association for State and Local History's (AASLH) national themes for the semiquincentennial, providing participants with a shared framework for developing meaningful and engaging commemorative programming. The event fostered collaboration, encouraged new partnerships, and helped build a coordinated statewide approach to America's 250th anniversary.

RI250 Lottery Game

In partnership with the Rhode Island Lottery, RI250 launched a commemorative scratch ticket celebrating Rhode Island's pivotal role in the nation's founding and the 250th anniversary of



the United States. The ticket promoted awareness of the semiquincentennial and extended the reach of the statewide commemoration by engaging Rhode Islanders through a unique and widely recognized public partnership.

Light to Unite

RI250 participated in the National Flag Foundation's Light to Unite initiative by illuminating Rhode Island bridges and skylines in patriotic colors on July 4. The Rhode Island Department of Transportation also activated road projects statewide by displaying American flags, banners, and patriotic messages on available electronic message boards. These efforts connected Rhode Island to a nationwide commemoration of America's 250th anniversary.

Liberty Trees

RI250 partnered with communities across the state to plant 34 Liberty Trees in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States. Inspired by the Liberty Trees of the Revolutionary era, these living memorials serve as lasting symbols of freedom, civic engagement, and Rhode Island's revolutionary legacy. The initiative engaged municipalities in creating permanent landmarks that will continue to commemorate the semiquincentennial for generations to come. This fall, a special Liberty Tree will be planted at the Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery to commemorate Veterans Day.



Girl Scouts of Southern New England Day at the State House

RI250 partnered with Girl Scouts of Southern New England to provide Scouts with a program that encouraged these young leaders to explore the state's history while fostering a deeper understanding of civic responsibility.

Scouting America Day at the State House

RI250 welcomed the Scouting America Narragansett Council to the Rhode Island State House for a day of civic learning and historical exploration.

Declaration of Independence Viewings

RI250 partnered with the Rhode Island State Archives to display the State's historic copies of the Declaration of Independence in communities across Rhode Island including Foster and Glocester, East Greenwich, South Kingstown, West Greenwich, Bristol, Providence, Newport, and Woonsocket. These exhibitions provided over 2,000 visitors with a rare opportunity to view these remarkable documents while exploring Rhode Island's role in the nation's founding and the enduring legacy of the Declaration.

RI250 Honor Flight

RI250 partnered with the RI Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub to recognize Rhode Island veterans with a commemorative trip to Washington, D.C. during Rhode Island Independence Day weekend. The program honored the service and sacrifice of Rhode Island veterans while connecting the nation's founding ideals with those who have defended them throughout history.

RI History Day Competition Award

Each year RI250 sponsors two awards at the Rhode Island History Day Competition, recognizing outstanding student research that explored Rhode Island's unique role in the American Revolution and the nation's founding. The awards encouraged students to engage with primary sources and share original research on the state's revolutionary legacy.

Parade Participation

RI250 partnered with the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) to promote America's 250th anniversary through public transit, expanding awareness of commemorative events and encouraging statewide participation. The RI250 bus also



participated in community parades across Rhode Island, including Gaspee Days and the Bristol Fourth of July Parade, bringing the semiquincentennial celebration directly to thousands of spectators.

Play Ball for RI250

RI250 partnered with local baseball and softball organizations as part of its Play Ball for RI250 initiative, celebrating the nation's pastime while promoting civic pride and awareness of the semiquincentennial. Players from participating leagues joined RI250 Night at historic Cardines Field in Newport on July 3, where young athletes had the opportunity to throw ceremonial first pitches with RI250 Commission Members.



"Brave Men As Ever Fought" Tour

RI250 toured its commissioned reproduction of Don Troiani's *Brave Men As Ever Fought*, bringing the powerful story of the First Rhode Island Regiment to communities across the state through exhibitions and educational programming. The painting was displayed at the Barrington Public Library, John Brown House Museum, Western Hills Middle School, Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library, Tomaquag Museum, and North Kingstown Town Hall.

America's Potluck

RI250 encouraged Rhode Islanders to participate in America's Potluck, a nationwide initiative that brought neighbors together to share meals, celebrate community, and reflect on the values that unite the nation. In partnership with RIDEM, Rhode Island State Parks, and local restaurants, the initiative highlighted Rhode Island's unique culinary traditions while strengthening community connections.

Northeast Regional Planners Summit

RI250 convened planners and leaders from across the Northeast to share ideas, strengthen partnerships, and collaborate

on regional approaches to commemorating America's 250th anniversary. The Summit fostered the exchange of best practices and strengthened relationships among neighboring America250 Commissions.

RI250 Holiday Ornament Collection

RI250 partnered with ChemArt to create an annual commemorative holiday ornament celebrating Rhode Island's unique history and contributions over the past 250 years. The collection features designs honoring the RI250 logo, the Burning of the Gaspee, the Act of Renunciation, the First Rhode Island Regiment, and Rhode Island's legacy as the Birthplace of Religious Freedom. A limited-edition commemorative set will be available in the coming weeks!

Ken Burns' *The American Revolution*

RI250 partnered with Ocean State Media to welcome acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns and producer Sarah Botstein to Rhode Island in advance of the release of *The American Revolution*. During their visit, Burns highlighted Rhode Island's pivotal role in the Revolution through conversations with Rhode Islanders, met with students, participated in a



public screening featuring the documentary's Rhode Island-focused segments, and joined RI250 and the John Carter Brown Library for a professional development program for educators. The partnership expanded public understanding of Rhode Island's contributions to the nation's founding while connecting local history to a national audience.

Providence Arts & Education Roundtable

RI250 and the Rhode Island Department of State hosted educators, artists, and cultural leaders from across Providence to explore how the arts and education can inspire meaningful public engagement during the semiquincentennial. The discussion encouraged new collaborations that connect history, creativity, and civic learning.

USCGC Eagle

RI250, in coordination with Senator Jack Reed's office, will welcome the USCGC Eagle to Newport as part of the state's semiquincentennial commemoration, offering public tours and special events celebrating America's maritime heritage and longstanding tradition of service. The visit over the last weekend of July will provide Rhode Islanders with a unique opportunity to experience America's Tallship while honoring the state's deep maritime history.

Flag Sojourn

The Flag Sojourn 250 was a nationwide initiative commemorating America's 250th anniversary through the journey of a single American flag. Over the semiquincentennial, it flew above all 26 US military cemeteries in ten countries, visited every US territory, and traveled through all 50 states. As the flag completed its final journey through the original 13 colonies, Rhode Island was proud to welcome it to the State House. The flag continued on to Washington, D.C., where it was flown over the US Capitol on July 4 before being permanently preserved in the National Archives.

RI250 Gallery Exhibit

The 'Rhode Island and the Revolution: Liberty, Struggle, Legacy' exhibit showcased the state's pivotal role in the American Revolution through engaging displays and historical artifacts. Hosted at the Rhode Island State House through the commemorative period, several panels will travel this fall to the Block Island Historical Society. The exhibit introduced thousands of visitors to Rhode Island's revolutionary story.



