



Proclamation

Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Princeton

PROCLAMATION CHAMPIONING PRINCETON'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

WHEREAS, local governments are the foundation of American democracy, delivering essential services and upholding the principles of accountability, transparency, inclusion, and responsiveness for more than 336 million residents; and

WHEREAS, from the nation's earliest settlements to its most dynamic communities today, local governments have played a central role in shaping the civic, economic, and cultural strength of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Princeton holds a unique and distinguished place in the American story, having served as the site of pivotal events leading up to and during the American Revolution, including the Battle of Princeton in 1777, and briefly as the nation's capital in 1783, hosting the Continental Congress at Nassau Hall; and

WHEREAS, Princeton has long been both a town and a campus where people gathered to debate the most important concepts of our times, enriched by the presence of Princeton University and a diverse community committed to public service, education, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, the United States Semiquincentennial in 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reflect on the nation's founding ideals, celebrate its progress, and recommit to the work of building a more perfect union; and

WHEREAS, Princeton's commemorative efforts advance through partnerships with local institutions, including the Historical Society of Princeton, Princeton Battlefield Society, Princeton University, Princeton Public Library, Arts Council of Princeton, Morven Museum & Garden, and Princeton Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, these partners are presenting a robust calendar of signature events and exhibitions, including the Battle of Princeton Anniversary Commemoration and Reenactment at Princeton Battlefield State Park; The Historical Society of Princeton's "Princeton and the American Revolution" exhibition; Princeton University's "Nursery of Rebellion" and "Real and Remembered: Princetonians Caught Between Study and Revolution" exhibitions and related public programming; and Morven Museum & Garden's "Five Independent Souls" exhibition and related programming; and

WHEREAS, additional programming will include the Princeton Public Library's "America at 250" Lecture and Civic Dialogue Series, Princeton University's "Revolution Up Close A Public Lecture Series", the Arts Council of Princeton's community-wide arts and storytelling initiatives, Experience Princeton's Revolutionary-era walking tours of Princeton, creative placemaking and promotions, and Princeton Public Schools' student-led history projects and exhibitions connecting young people to the nation's founding ideals; and

WHEREAS, Experience Princeton will partner with local businesses and cultural organizations to widely promote area events and exhibitions during this 250th anniversary and in following years featuring significant anniversary events as part of an evergreen umbrella campaign entitled "Princeton NJ from 1776 to NOW"; and

WHEREAS, Experience Princeton and the Municipality will partner to enhance events happening throughout our business communities starting this May with the Historic Society of Princeton's, "Princeton's Taverns: On the Road to Revolution" exhibition in Dohm Alley and various Tavern Events around town; an expanded "Spirit of '76 Memorial Day Parade", support for the "Princeton Festival" at Morven this June with The Princeton Symphony; a summer calendar of cultural events in Palmer Square; a very special 4th of July; a rousing "1776 Festival" celebrated at multiple locations this October; and a new series of events at the Battlefield this December and January; and



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WHEREAS, together, these events and initiatives will provide meaningful opportunities for residents, students and visitors to engage with history in dynamic, inclusive, and educational ways, highlighting Princeton's enduring contributions to the American story; and

WHEREAS, this milestone provides an opportunity for Princeton to engage residents of all ages in civic education and discussion, commemorate its historic contributions, and inspire future generations through collaborative programming that reflects the community's diversity, creativity, and shared values;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mark Freda, Mayor of the Municipality of Princeton, and the Council of Princeton, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, hereby recognizes and supports the United States Semiquincentennial and encourages all residents, institutions, businesses, and community organizations to participate in activities that commemorate this historic anniversary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Princeton commits to working in partnership with its cultural, educational, and civic institutions to advance and promote these signature events and exhibits, ensuring broad community engagement and lasting impact; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Proclamation shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL
THIS 27TH DAY OF APRIL 2026

MARK FREDA
Mayor