

Date: January 8, 2026

Resolution Commemorating America's 250th Birthday and Her Guiding Foundational Principles

1.**WHEREAS**, celebrating 250 years since America's founding, the Utah State Board of Education acknowledges and remembers the guiding and foundational principles and truths that have established and given birth to America's freedom and success as a nation. A people cannot remain free without a thorough knowledge of those principles;

2.**WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Independence boldly and clearly identified the political philosophy of America when it stated, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," ~~acknowledging and enshrining into our nation's founding document the foundational truth that our rights come from God, the Creator. and that government's sole legitimate purpose is to protect those pre-existing rights;~~

3.**WHEREAS**, the core political beliefs of the Founding Fathers included: ordered liberty; equality; natural rights, including defense of self, community, and nation; freedom of speech and press; and the free exercise of religion;

4.**WHEREAS**, the Founding Fathers recognized historical events and texts—such as the Ten Commandments, the Mosaic Law, the New Testament, and the experiences of the ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans, the English Common Law, the Magna Carta, and the English Bill of Rights—as a basis for American law and public policy;

5.**WHEREAS**, America was founded as a Constitutional Republic, establishing separation of powers and federalism under a written constitution, and thereby avoiding the fatal tendencies of a democracy. The stability of our Republic relies upon self-governance, a principle requiring that citizens govern their own conduct according to moral virtue and internal conscience—a "moral and religious people" being, as the Founders noted, the only people capable of sustaining a free Constitution;

5a.**WHEREAS**, ~~in moments of hardships and success, America's people have historically turned to God, the giver of their rights, to give thanks and seek protection and guidance;~~

6.**WHEREAS**, ~~at Cape Henry Landing in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607, Rev. Robert Hunt and the original Jamestown settlers erected a cross and had a prayer ceremony dedicating the new land to the Lord in what is considered the first English Christian worship service in America;~~

7.**WHEREAS**, ~~as depicted in the US Capitol Rotunda Painting, the Pilgrims gathered around an open Bible, where they learned principles like republican government, religious liberty, and equality that characterize America;~~

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Contact Person and Email: Chair Jennie Earl

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8. **WHEREAS**, as we approach the 250th anniversary of the United States, the Utah State Board of Education acknowledges that a free people cannot remain free without a thorough knowledge of the principles that birthed their liberty;

9. **WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Independence identifies the American political philosophy as one rooted in "Natural Law," establishing the self-evident truth that all individuals are endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights, and that government's sole legitimate purpose is to protect those pre-existing rights;

10. **WHEREAS**, the Founders established a Constitutional Republic rather than an unrestrained democracy, specifically to ensure the Rule of Law and to protect the jurisdictional boundaries between the Individual, the Family, and the State;

11. **WHEREAS**, the stability of our Republic relies upon Self Governance, a principle requiring that citizens govern their own conduct according to moral virtue and internal conscience—a "moral and religious people" being, as the Founders noted, the only people capable of sustaining a free Constitution;

12. **WHEREAS**, historical primary sources—including the Northwest Ordinance of 1787—record that "religion, morality, and knowledge" are "necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind," and therefore must be encouraged through our schools;

13. **WHEREAS**, the American system is built upon the "consent of the governed," wherein the people are the principals of their government and elected officials are their agents, necessitating that students understand their role as the ultimate sovereign authority in our land;

13a. **WHEREAS**, public education plays a vital role in preparing students to be informed, responsible, and engaged citizens, capable of understanding the nation's history, respecting right of conscience, and participating thoughtfully in civic responsibilities;

14. **WHEREAS**, America's history from the past 250 years has been marked by the prevalence of faith and Divine Providence, and her history affirms a clear and firm reliance on God and the Bible.

15. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Utah State Board of Education reaffirms its commitment to the principles upheld in the Declaration of Independence that we are endowed by the Creator with inalienable rights, and it is with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence that we mutually pledge together our lives and fortunes and sacred honor in preservation of America and her next 250 years.

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