

**PLANNING BOARD FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY  
AMERICA'S 250TH CELEBRATION MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

The Meeting of the Planning Board for Washington County America250th Celebration was called to order by Commissioner Victor Iverson at 11:04 a.m. on February 18, 2026, in Conference room 421, 111 East Tabernacle, St. George, Utah. Those in attendance were Commissioner Victor Iverson, Darren Prince, Susi Lafaele via Zoom, Wendi Bulkey, Kevin Smith via Zoom, Brad Buhanan via Zoom, Matthew Watson, Valerie King, Teresa Orton, Deputy County Attorney Steven Scott, and Deputy County Clerk Sarah Lloyd

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**Welcome:**

Commissioner Iverson welcomed all in attendance and began the meeting at 11:01 am.

**Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2026**

**MOTION: Motion by Matthew Watson to Approve the Minutes of January 21, 2026. Motion seconded by Valerie King and Carried by Unanimous Vote.**

**Open and Public Meeting Training:**

Steven Scott shared the yearly open and public meetings training.

**Sub Committee Updates:**

Matthew Watson shared a grant application for a long-term America 250 monument or plaque. The County will pay up to \$10,000 with a match from cities. Commissioner Iverson suggested this grant be used for the Hildale City Sign and the LaVerkin City Bell Tower. It was decided that Commissioner Iverson and Valerie King work together to reach out to cities once the application is finished.

Teresa Orton with the Washington County Historical Society discussed the America's Quilt/Unity Quilt that will be designed by the 31 Washington Counties in the United States, which will be a traveling quilt amongst those 31 counties. It was discussed displaying the quilt in either the Administration Building or the Pioneer Courthouse.

Susi Lafaele shared several details regarding the upcoming 2026 Washington County Fair. Susi highlighted the field of flags and discussed the birthday cake that will be held on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Wendi Bulkey discussed using grant money to get a buffalo for Washington County.

Matthew Watson discussed America's 250<sup>th</sup> branded paddles for the Pro Pickleball Association event that will be held at Black Desert this year.

**Next Meeting:**

March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM

**Adjourn:**

Commissioner Iverson adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am

Minutes prepared by Deputy Clerk Sarah Lloyd

## **Resolution Recognizing the Semiquincentennial of the United States and the Washington Counties' National Collaboration**

**WHEREAS**, July 4, 2026, marks the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a milestone in history that gave birth to the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and the first President of the United States, exemplified the qualities of leadership, integrity, vision, and dedication to the principles of liberty and democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, his enduring legacy is honored by communities across the United States that bear his name, including thirty counties and one parish; and

**WHEREAS**, the year 2026 offers an opportunity to celebrate our nation's founding, reflect upon our shared values and renew our commitment to building a stronger and more united future for all Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, counties named for George Washington across the nation are joining together through the Washingtons Unite collaboration to commemorate the 250th Anniversary, share in common recognition of our namesake and contribute to the national celebration; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the Washingtons Unite collaboration, counties named for George Washington are contributing individual quilt squares to a collectively assembled, handcrafted quilt that symbolizes local identity, shared history, and national unity in commemoration of the United States' Semiquincentennial; and

**WHEREAS**, this collaboration highlights the unique role of counties and cities as the level of government closest to the people and demonstrates the power of partnership in honoring our history and strengthening our democracy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the *[Governing Body Name: Board of Commissioners / County Council / County Executive]* [of / in] Washington County, [State] hereby recognizes the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, honors the legacy of George Washington, and expresses its support for the Washingtons Unite

initiative bringing together Washington Counties across the nation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this Resolution shall be shared with the National Association of Counties, fellow Washington Counties and other partners engaged in the America250 celebration.

Adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Signed:

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[Name], Chair/Executive, [County Name]

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[Additional Elected Officials as desired]



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\*\*\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*

[DATE]

Contact:

[Name]

[Title]

[Organization]

[Phone]

[Email]

## ***Washingtons Unite: Washington Counties Collaborate for America's 250th Anniversary***

[Washington County, STATE] — Washington Counties across the United States are joining together in a national collaboration known as Washingtons Unite, an initiative celebrating America's Semiquincentennial and honoring the legacy of George Washington through a shared work of art.

The collaboration brings together counties bearing the name *Washington* to create a handcrafted quilt composed of individual squares designed and sewn by each county. Every square reflects its history, character, landscape, or values while contributing to a larger, unified whole. Over the course of the next year the quilt will travel the county.

*Insert quote from an elected official here.*

[Name, Title] said, "[Quote reflecting unity, local pride, and the significance of honoring America's founding and George Washington's leadership.]"

### **Stronger Together**

Like the nation itself, the quilt is made up of pieces that are distinct yet inseparable. Each square is different, crafted with care and intention, reflecting the individuality of the communities that created it. When stitched together, the individual squares form a unified work of art, stronger and more meaningful than any single piece alone.

In much the same way, George Washington guided an emerging nation toward unity. His leadership emphasized service over self-interest and collaboration over division, values that



Insert your logo here

made it possible to build something enduring. This traveling quilt carries that legacy forward, reminding us that America is stronger together.

Washington County, **STATE**'s quilt square features:

*[Brief description of the design and imagery.]*

Why this design was chosen:

*[Short explanation of its local significance.]*


The quilt square was sewn by **[Name of Quilter]**, whose craftsmanship represents the community's contribution to this national collaboration.

### **Traveling Exhibit**

The completed quilt will travel to each participating county, allowing residents and visitors to experience how their local story fits into this shared national tapestry.

The quilt will be on display locally:

 *[Location]*

 *[Dates]*