

RESOLUTION NO. 25-08-025

**SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONERS JARED ANDERSON, RICK CARVER,
NICK BRIGHT, JOHN GILES, QUENTIN CALDWELL, DAWN REAGAN,
MIKE AKARD, BRAD BOWERS, DAVID WELLS, JEFF JOPLING,
STEVE MIKELS, JESSICA HANNAH, DYRAN BLEDSOE, ROBBIE BENNETT,
MIKE CAYLOR, MISTY DAVIS, RON FRENCH, SCOTT KING, STACI MARTIN,
EARL MCMAHAN, AND LINDA WEBB**

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR
BLOUNT COUNTY’S CELEBRATION EFFORTS TO HONOR THE 250TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

WHEREAS, July 4, 2026, will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a momentous event in the history of the United States of America that declared the original thirteen colonies free and independent states; and

WHEREAS, the United States Semiquincentennial Commission has encouraged state and local governments to plan, promote, and coordinate commemorative events, activities, and educational opportunities that honor this milestone; and

WHEREAS, Blount County, Tennessee, desires to recognize and commemorate this historic anniversary through appropriate celebrations, public events, educational programs, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the citizens of Blount County for the County Government to create a structure for planning, coordinating, and implementing celebration efforts in partnership with municipalities, schools, historical organizations, civic groups, and other interested stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, a Coordinating Committee will facilitate communication, cooperation, and collaboration among community partners to ensure that the Blount County celebration is inclusive, historically accurate, and reflective of the County’s heritage and patriotism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Blount County, Tennessee, meeting in regular session on this 21st day of August, 2025, that:

1. **Creation of Committee** – There is hereby established a *Blount County 250th Anniversary Celebration Coordinating Committee* (“the Blount 250 Committee” or “the Committee”) for the purpose of planning and coordinating the County’s celebration efforts for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.
2. **Membership** – The Committee shall be composed of:
 - A. Four (4) County Commissioners appointed by the Board of County Commissioners;
 - B. The Blount County Mayor or the Mayor’s designee;
 - C. One (1) representative from each of Maryville, Alcoa, Friendsville, Townsend, Rockford, and Louisville, appointed by their respective legislative bodies;

- D. One (1) representative with historical expertise – to be selected by the Committee from among individuals knowledgeable about Blount County and American history.
 - E. One (1) representative from the Blount County Board of Education;
 - F. One (1) representative from the Blount County Public Library;
 - G. Up to three (3) additional at-large members representing community organizations, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.
 - H. Such additional members as the Committee shall deem appropriate, which members shall be non-voting.
3. **Organization** – The Committee shall select from its members a Chair and Vice-Chair, and shall also designate a Secretary. The Committee shall meet as often as necessary to fulfill its duties, but not less than monthly.
4. **Duties** – The Committee shall:
- A. Develop and recommend a calendar of celebratory events and activities for Blount County;
 - B. Coordinate with municipal governments, schools, civic organizations, and other stakeholders to promote participation;
 - C. Pursue opportunities for grants, sponsorships, and donations to support the celebrations;
 - D. Ensure that celebrations reflect historical accuracy, civic pride, and love of country;
 - E. Report periodically to the Blount County Board of Commissioners on planning progress.
5. **Duration** – The Committee shall remain in existence through December 31, 2026, unless extended by further action of the Board of County Commissioners.
6. **Rules and Procedures** – The Committee shall operate under the same rules as the Board of County Commissioners until such time as it has adopted its own rules of procedure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption, the public welfare requiring it.

CERTIFICATION OF ACTION

ATTEST

Commission Chairman

County Clerk

County Mayor

Date

- ☐ **Approved**
- ☐ **Vetoed**