

Network News

Dedicated to: **Building trust within our democracy** | **Reducing the spread of disinformation** | **Promoting civil dialogue**

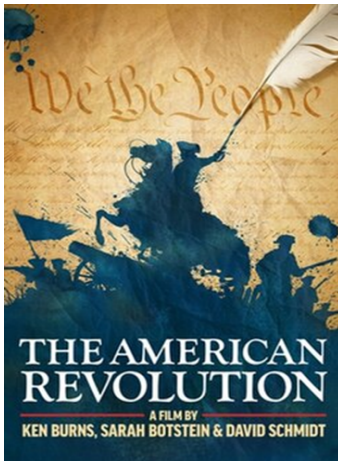
November 2025

Turning 250 – Toward Our Ideals or Our Divisions?

As we look to our 250th Anniversary as the United States, we have choices in how we engage this moment in our history. Will the country and our many cultures be drawn toward the best of humanity, enjoy the benefits of pluralism and a vibrant democracy or will we be pulled more firmly toward divisions that have been sewn into our national fabric for centuries?

One thing we know for sure is that this network embodies the energy of an engaged and “can-do” civic spirit. And that the ripples from the relationships you have and the work you do to help build trust, engage differences respectfully, and strengthen our civic muscle are some of the best of what our democracy needs now.

Here’s a little joyful, energetic music from the [Resistance Revival Chorus](#) – a women’s chorus that rocks with civic spirit.



For those watching the Ken Burns film [The American Revolution](#) on PBS, as historian Jane Kamensky notes, “I think to believe in America, rooted in the American Revolution, is to believe in possibility. I think everybody on every side — including people who were denied even the ownership of themselves — had the sense of possibility worth fighting for.”

A couple of events that are reflecting on our 250th Anniversary in these times include:

November 18, 2025 – 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (PT)

[America 250: Young or Old Democracy?](#)

The USC Center for the Political Future hosts its annual Warschaw Conference, featuring top experts from politics, government, media, and academia to explore the most pressing issues in America's political landscape. Multi-partisan panels will explore what's ahead in our politics. To join on Zoom, please [Register Here](#).

November 18, 2025 – 7:00 PM (ET)

[America at 250: "...her ability to repair her faults"](#)

When Alexis de Tocqueville traveled to a freshly-minted America he wrote: *"The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults."* Join this conversation with Liz Joyner of the Village Square and two dynamic young leaders who are building bridges of pluralism and civic renewal today, John Woods, Jr of Braver Angels and Manu Meel of Bridge USA. Please [Register Here](#).

Planning Ahead!

[America's Potluck](#) – July 5, 2026

There is a national effort underway to organize potlucks in every neighborhood in America. Food and music are ways that we can connect across our community tables and bring people together to commemorate, celebrate, and look to the future. America's Potluck is an opportunity for neighbors to join one another to share a communal meal, creating a sense of connection and belonging and fostering interactions among people from all walks of life.

Some Resources on the 250th that Might Interest You

[Youth250](#) - Made By Us, initiators of the Civic Season (between Juneteenth and July 4th), share that young people are the "founders" of our next chapter. They've created tools, such as this [Youth250 Toolkit](#) such as information on "The 7 Domains of Youth Civic Thriving that offers a framework for reflection and action. Each domain represents a different way young people might seek to navigate, grow, and engage, and can help adults be intentional about supporting teens in civic life.

[We The People Podcast](#) – from the National Constitution Center. Walter Isaacson discusses his new book, *The Greatest Sentence Ever Written*, with Jeffrey Rosen, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center. As we approach the 250th anniversary of the country's founding, Isaacson explores the intellectual inspirations and drafting history of the Declaration's famous second sentence, which lays the foundation for the American dream and defines the common ground we share as a nation.

[What the Ancients Taught the Founders](#) -- How did the ideas of the ancient world shape the birth of the American republic? In this three-part lecture series, Pete Peterson, Dean of the Pepperdine School of Public Policy, speaks with renowned historian Victor Davis Hanson. The series explores how the wisdom of classical thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero informed the Founders' understanding of freedom, citizenship, and good governance.

LWV/NICD Network Mission Statement:

The mission of the Civil Discourse Network is to promote and encourage “Urgent Positive Civic Engagement.” We provide our network members with a home space for collaboration, support, and resource sharing which helps members to take positive actions in their communities and in their personal lives. Sharing ideas, resources, experiences and feedback will help each of us better our own efforts in our own lives to promote civil dialogue, reduce the spread of disinformation and build trust within our democracy.

On behalf of the Network planning team, we thank you for all your civic service.

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