

纪念《独立宣言》诞生 250 周年

2024 年 7 月

2026 年 7 月 4 日是美国成立 250 周年。与其他国家不同，它的成立基于一个《独立宣言》中阐述的建国理念：

“我们认为这些真理是不言而喻的：人人生而平等，造物主赋予他们若干不可剥夺的权利，其中包括生命、自由和追求幸福的权利。为了保障这些权利，人们设立政府，而政府的正当权力源自被治理者的认同。当任何形式的政府破坏这些目的时，人民就有权改变或废除它，并以他们认为最有可能实现其安全和幸福为原则组建一个新的政府。”

政府的合法性和权威来自于拥有平等权利之民众的认可，并为他们的利益提供服务和保护。这就是“民有、民治、民享政府”的定义（林肯）。

美国宪法建立的三权分立民主政体是这一建国理念伟大的“美国实验”。美国是一个由许多经历过相似挣扎并克服各种挑战的人组成的国家。这种为追求自由而奋斗的共同历史团结了所有美国人。捍卫建立这个国家的原则是所有美国人的共同诉求。

尽管两个多世纪后我们仍走在实现这一美国理想的征程上，但人人生而平等并拥有不可剥夺的生命、自由和追求幸福权利的理念，依然是吸引世界各地的人们来到这片希望之地的灯塔。《独立宣言》不仅为这个伟大的国家奠定了基础，也是人类进步的里程碑。正因为如此，我们要纪念《独立宣言》诞生 250 周年。

我们要通过纪念活动帮助第一代华人移民在心灵深处跨越从侨民到公民的“坎”，启发华人后代热爱美国的同时以祖籍为荣。更重要的是，我们要认识到美国华人就是美国人，我们与各族裔美国人民是一个命运共同体，我们的未来在美国。在这个认识基础上，实现华人社区从文化传承，维权抗争，参选参政到贡献引领的升级。在美国进入智能多元社会的今后 20 年中为美国的发展做出华人的特殊贡献，从根本上提高地位，改变形象，成为主流社会不可或缺的组成部分。

行动呼吁

1. 成立《独立宣言》诞生 250 周年纪念委员会来规划和协调纪念活动。
2. 以纪念委员会名义建立一个网站，倡导纪念活动，提供有关信息，并注册和记录所有相关活动。
3. 设计、推广和销售纪念品。
4. 成立美国华人 250 纪念活动联盟，邀请个人和团体网站注册登记自愿参加。
5. 鼓励各类华人团体在 2026 年 7 月 4 日之前和当天围绕美国的建国理念，华裔对美国的历史贡献，以及如何迎接美国面临的挑战，真正实现人人平等，社会正义，各族裔共享共荣等题目与各族裔美国人民联手开展各种纪念活动。
6. 积极参与其他族裔和主流社会的纪念和庆祝活动，例如 America250。
7. 建立华人媒体联盟，联合发表、转发纪念委员会推荐的相关文章和重大活动。
8. 2026 年 7 月 4 日之后以纪念委员会名义编辑出版纪念册和视频影像。

倡议人按照姓氏的拼音字母顺序排列：

方晓莹，黄倩，邱超辉，李春贵，刘迎曦，卢春雨，苏汲，宋智达，孙大卫，原文斌，杨冉，徐和平，张小彦（起草人）。

Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

July 2024

July 4th, 2026, is the 250th birthday of the United States of America. Unlike other countries, The United States was founded on a set of ideals stated in the Declaration of Independence:

"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.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

A government derives its legitimacy and authority from the consent of people with equal rights and serves and protects their interests and rights. This is the definition of "government of the people, by the people and for the people" (Lincoln).

The democratic system of separation of powers established by the U.S. Constitution is the great American Experiment under these founding principles. The United States is a nation formed by many people who have experienced similar struggles and overcome various challenges. This shared history of striving for freedom unites all Americans. Defending the principles upon which this country was founded is a common aspiration of all Americans.

Although we are still on the journey to fully realize this American ideal more than two centuries later, the concept that all men are created equal and have unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness still serves as the Shining City on a hill, attracting people from all corners of the world to this promising land. The Declaration of Independence laid the foundation for this great nation and is a milestone for human progress. This is why we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

The commemoration activities aim to empower first-generation Chinese immigrants to overcome the psychological barrier from sojourners to citizens and inspire Chinese descendants to take pride in their heritage while loving the United States. Most importantly, we shall remember that Chinese Americans are Americans and are an integral part of the American fabric. We share a common destiny with all Americans, and our future is here in the United States. With this conviction, the Chinese American community shall move beyond heritage preservation, civil rights advocacy, and political participation to actively contribute and take on leadership roles. Over the next twenty years, as the United States transitions into an AI-empowered pluralistic society, Chinese Americans will make unique contributions to the future of this great nation, fundamentally improving our status, transforming our image, and becoming an indispensable part of mainstream society.

Call for Action:

1. Establish a Commemoration Committee to plan and coordinate the commemorating activities for the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
2. Establish a website to advocate for the initiative, provide relevant information, and document commemoration activities.
3. Design, promote, and sell commemorative souvenirs.
4. Establish a Chinese-American Coalition for America 250 Commemoration and invite individuals and organizations to register and join the coalition.
5. Encourage Chinese American organizations to collaborate with Americans of all ethnic backgrounds in organizing commemorative activities, both before and on July 4, 2026. These activities should focus on the founding principles of the United States, the historical contributions of Chinese Americans, and meeting the challenges facing America to achieve justice, equality, and shared prosperity for Americans of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.
6. Actively engage with other ethnic groups and the mainstream's commemoration and celebration activities, such as America250.
7. Establish a Chinese-American media coalition to publish articles recommended by the Commemoration Committee and report on significant events.
8. Publish a commemoration book, pictures, and videos by the Commemoration Committee after July 4, 2026.

Initiators (in alphabetical order of last name):

Celine Fang, Cathy Huang, Steven Hugh, Chuck Li, Lewis Liu, Charley Lu, Zhida Song-James, Ji Su, David Sun, Wenbin Yuan, Heping Xu, Ran Yang, and Xiaoyan Zhang (drafter).