



# Board of Commissioners

## *PRESS RELEASE*

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### **Lake County Commissioners Honor America's 250th Anniversary with Reading of the Declaration of Independence**

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, June 9, 2026 – The Lake County Board of Commissioners commemorated the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary by reading the Declaration of Independence during its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

The reading was conducted to honor the founding principles of the United States and to encourage residents to reflect on the historic document that established the nation's independence nearly 250 years ago. Commissioner John T. Plecnik, Chair of the Lake County America 250 Committee, read the Declaration aloud during the meeting as part of the Board's recognition of America's Semiquincentennial.

By incorporating the Declaration into an official public meeting, the Lake County Board of Commissioners sought to lead by example and encourage other local governments and public bodies to participate in the nationwide celebration of America's 250th anniversary. Board President Morris W. Beverage III, Commissioner John T. Plecnik, and Commissioner Morgan R. McIntosh called upon city councils, village councils, township trustees, school boards, and other governing bodies throughout Lake County and Ohio to consider including readings of the Declaration of Independence in their own meetings over the coming year.

"As we prepare to celebrate 250 years of American independence, it is important to revisit the words and ideals that helped shape our nation," said Commissioner John T. Plecnik. "Reading the Declaration of Independence reminds us of the courage, vision, and commitment to liberty that remain at the heart of the American experience. We must remember, the Revolution is not over, and we are all a part of it."

"The Semiquincentennial provides a unique opportunity for citizens of all ages to engage with our nation's history," said Board President Morris W. Beverage III. "By reading the Declaration of Independence in our public meetings, we can help foster a deeper appreciation for the principles of self-government and civic responsibility."

"America's 250th anniversary is a moment to celebrate our shared heritage and reflect on the enduring values that unite us," said Commissioner Morgan R. McIntosh. "We encourage

communities across Lake County to join us in recognizing this historic milestone and honoring the document that gave birth to our nation.”

America’s 250th anniversary commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Communities across Ohio and the nation are planning educational programs, ceremonies, and events leading up to and throughout the anniversary year.

“The Declaration of Independence is more than a historical document—it is a reminder of the ideals of liberty, equality, and self-government that continue to guide our nation,” said Board President Beverage. “As we approach this historic milestone, we encourage local governments and community organizations to join us in reflecting on our nation’s founding and the responsibilities of citizenship.”

The Lake County Board of Commissioners invites residents and local governments alike to participate in honoring America’s founding and celebrating 250 years of freedom, democracy, and civic engagement.

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