

The American Founding Documents

Major Funding for THE AMERICAN FOUNDING DOCUMENTS exhibit was provided by AMERICA250MI.

Additional funding for THE AMERICAN FOUNDING DOCUMENTS exhibit was provided by:

Ann Arbor
District Library
aadl.org



Dexter Area
Historical Society
dexterhistory.org



Genealogical Society
of Washtenaw Co.
washtenawgenealogy.org



Salem Area
Historical Society
sahshistory.org



Salem-South Lyon
District Library
ssldl.info



Destination Ann Arbor
annarbor.org



About America250MI

In 2026, the United States will commemorate 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the development of a new country dedicated to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". The founding of the United States of America was an experiment, and in the ensuing years, the country has experienced many successes and challenges. To observe this momentous occasion, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission was established by Congress (P.L. 114-196) to encourage Americans to remember our past, mark the present, and build towards a promising future. America250MI is Michigan's official committee for the commemoration of the history of our state and its relation to the development of the United States of America.

America250MI's generous funding is enabling us to provide this project to our communities. We are proud to partner with America250MI to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Our Nation Exhibit Project. This initiative is a testament to America250MI's commitment to fostering community engagement and promoting education.



For more information about dates and locations of this exhibit

as well as the content of this exhibit, go to: wchconsortium.org click on The American Founding Documents Exhibit or scan the QR code



Washtenaw County Historical Consortium's 250th Anniversary of Our Nation Exhibit Project

The American Founding Documents

To celebrate the 250th Anniversary of America's founding, the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium would like to introduce five seminal documents from our nation's history:



This series will explore the historical context, authors, text, and effects of each document, and show how each has affected American governance and law into the modern day.

Posters researched and designed with the assistance of Hillsdale College students

To celebrate the 250th Anniversary of America's founding, the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium would like to introduce five seminal documents from our nation's history:

- The Declaration of Independence (1776)
- The Northwest Ordinances (1787)
- The Federalist Papers (1787 - 1788)
- The Constitution (1787)
- The Bill of Rights (1791)

This series will explore the historical context, authors, text, and effects of each document, and show how each has affected American governance and law into the modern day.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

[illegible][illegible]

1870
 1871
 1872
 1873
 1874
 1875
 1876
 1877
 1878
 1879
 1880
 1881
 1882
 1883
 1884
 1885
 1886
 1887
 1888
 1889
 1890
 1891
 1892
 1893
 1894
 1895
 1896
 1897
 1898
 1899
 1900
 1901
 1902
 1903
 1904
 1905
 1906
 1907
 1908
 1909
 1910
 1911
 1912
 1913
 1914
 1915
 1916
 1917
 1918
 1919
 1920
 1921
 1922
 1923
 1924
 1925
 1926
 1927
 1928
 1929
 1930
 1931
 1932
 1933
 1934
 1935
 1936
 1937
 1938
 1939
 1940
 1941
 1942
 1943
 1944
 1945
 1946
 1947
 1948
 1949
 1950
 1951
 1952
 1953
 1954
 1955
 1956
 1957
 1958
 1959
 1960
 1961
 1962
 1963
 1964
 1965
 1966
 1967
 1968
 1969
 1970
 1971
 1972
 1973
 1974
 1975
 1976
 1977
 1978
 1979
 1980
 1981
 1982
 1983
 1984
 1985
 1986
 1987
 1988
 1989
 1990
 1991
 1992
 1993
 1994
 1995
 1996
 1997
 1998
 1999
 2000
 2001
 2002
 2003
 2004
 2005
 2006
 2007
 2008
 2009
 2010
 2011
 2012
 2013
 2014
 2015
 2016
 2017
 2018
 2019
 2020
 2021
 2022
 2023
 2024
 2025
 2026
 2027
 2028
 2029
 2030
 2031
 2032
 2033
 2034
 2035
 2036
 2037
 2038
 2039
 2040
 2041
 2042
 2043
 2044
 2045
 2046
 2047
 2048
 2049
 2050
 2051
 2052
 2053
 2054
 2055
 2056
 2057
 2058
 2059
 2060
 2061
 2062
 2063
 2064
 2065
 2066
 2067
 2068
 2069
 2070
 2071
 2072
 2073
 2074
 2075
 2076
 2077
 2078
 2079
 2080
 2081
 2082
 2083
 2084
 2085
 2086
 2087
 2088
 2089
 2090
 2091
 2092
 2093
 2094
 2095
 2096
 2097
 2098
 2099
 2100
 2101
 2102
 2103
 2104
 2105
 2106
 2107
 2108
 2109
 2110
 2111
 2112
 2113
 2114
 2115
 2116
 2117
 2118
 2119
 2120
 2121
 2122
 2123
 2124
 2125
 2126
 2127
 2128
 2129
 2130
 2131
 2132
 2133
 2134
 2135
 2136
 2137
 2138
 2139
 2140
 2141
 2142
 2143
 2144
 2145
 2146
 2147
 2148
 2149
 2150
 2151
 2152
 2153
 2154
 2155
 2156
 2157
 2158
 2159
 2160
 2161
 2162
 2163
 2164
 2165
 2166
 2167
 2168
 2169
 2170
 2171
 2172
 2173
 2174
 2175
 2176
 2177
 2178
 2179
 2180
 2181
 2182
 2183
 2184
 2185
 2186
 2187
 2188
 2189
 2190
 2191
 2192
 2193
 2194
 2195
 2196
 2197
 2198
 2199
 2200
 2201
 2202
 2203
 2204
 2205
 2206
 2207
 2208
 2209
 2210
 2211
 2212
 2213
 2214
 2215
 2216
 2217
 2218
 2219
 2220
 2221
 2222
 2223
 2224
 2225
 2226
 2227
 2228
 2229
 2230
 2231
 2232
 2233
 2234
 2235
 2236
 2237
 2238
 2239
 2240
 2241
 2242
 2243
 2244
 2245
 2246
 2247
 2248
 2249
 2250
 2251
 2252
 2253
 2254
 2255
 2256
 2257
 2258
 2259
 2260
 2261
 2262
 2263
 2264
 2265
 2266
 2267
 2268
 2269
 2270
 2271
 2272
 2273
 2274
 2275
 2276
 2277
 2278
 2279
 2280
 2281
 2282
 2283
 2284
 2285
 2286
 2287
 2288
 2289
 2290
 2291
 2292
 2293
 2294
 2295
 2296
 2297
 2298
 2299
 2300
 2301
 2302
 2303
 2304
 2305
 2306
 2307
 2308
 2309
 2310
 2311
 2312
 2313
 2314
 2315
 2316
 2317
 2318
 2319
 2320
 2321
 2322
 2323
 2324

Since the British government failed to protect these rights, the colonists established their own government to better protect themselves.

For more information, scan the QR code



FEDERALIST;
A COLLECTION
OF
ESSAYS,
WRITTEN IN FAVOUR OF THE
NEW CONSTITUTION,
AS AGREED UPON BY THE FEDERAL CONVENTION,
SEPTEMBER 17, 1787.
[By Alexander Hamilton]
IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.
NEW-YORK:
PRINTED AND SOLD BY J. AND A. McLEAN,

For more information scan the QR code

[illegible]

For more information scan the QR code



AN ORDINANCE for the GOVERNMENT of the TERRITORY of the UNITED STATES, North-West of the River OHIO.

[illegible]

the said office by the authority aforesaid. That there shall be appointed from time to time, by Congress, a governor, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary for the management of the said office, and that the said officers shall hold their offices for such terms of years as Congress shall determine, and have a freehold estate therein, in one thousand acres of land, while in the exercise of his office.

That there shall be appointed from time to time, by Congress, a secretary, whose commission shall continue in force until he shall be removed by Congress, and who shall be sworn to execute the laws of the said territory, and to be faithful to the said land, while in the exercise of his office. It shall be his duty to keep and preserve the acts and laws passed by the legislature, and the public records of the said territory, and the proceedings of the governor in his executive department, and to cause the same to be duly recorded, and to be preserved in the said territory, and to be accessible to the public.

That there shall be appointed a court to consist of three judges, any two of whom to form a court, who shall have a common law jurisdiction, and be sworn to execute the laws of the said territory, and to be faithful to the said land, while in the exercise of his office, and their commissions shall continue in force during good behavior.

The governor and judges, or a majority of them, shall adopt and publish in the said district, facts of the original and true discovery, and the title of the said land, and the same shall be recorded in the said office, and the same shall be published in the said territory, from time to time, which laws shall be in force in the said territory until the organization of the general assembly there, unless dispensed of by Congress. But afterwards the legislature shall have authority to alter them as they shall

[illegible]

So far as there shall be two thousand free male inhabitants, of full age, in the district, upon giving prior notice to the Board of Supervisors, the said Board shall have authority to select and appoint, from among the said inhabitants, to represent them in the general assembly, provided that for every five hundred free male inhabitants there shall be one representative, and that no district shall have more than two representatives; and the said representatives shall be chosen by ballot, and shall be elected for one year, unless, until the number of representatives shall amount to twenty-five, after which the number and proportion of representatives shall be determined by the Board of Supervisors, and shall be subject to the following provisions, to wit: That, if any district shall have been a citizen of one of the United States three years and be a resident in the district, or if any district shall have been a citizen of one of the States, and in either case shall likewise have, in his own right, or in the right of his wife, a freehold estate in land, or if any district shall have been a citizen of one of the States, and in either case shall have, in his own right, or in the right of his wife, a freehold estate in land, and being resident in the district, or the like hold and two years shall have resided in the district, shall be eligible to the office of representative.

The representatives thus elected, shall serve for the term of two years, and in case of the death of a representative, or of his removal from the district, or of his resignation, or of his becoming a citizen of another State, or of his removal to another in his blood, to serve for the residue of the term.

The general assembly, or legislature, shall consist of the governor, legislative council, after a house or houses of assembly. The legislative council shall consist of five members, to continue in office five years, unless sooner removed by Congress, any three of whom to be a quorum, and the members of the council shall be nominated and appointed in the following manner, to wit: As soon as representatives shall be elected, the governor shall appoint a time and place for them to meet together, and, when met, they shall nominate ten persons, residents in the district, and each possessed of a freehold in five hundred acres of land, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as aforesaid; and whenever a vacancy shall happen in the council, by death or removal from office, the house of assembly shall nominate ten persons, qualified as aforesaid, to each vacancy, and return their names to Congress.

[illegible]

For more information, scan the QR code



This exhibit was researched and composed by students of Hillsdale College. Interested in learning more or taking a course? Check out the available offerings from Hillsdale College at: hillsdale.edu or scan below.

For more information, scan the QR code



**For more
information,
scan the
QR code**

