



## COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY

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### ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TALBOT 250 COMMISSION

**WHEREAS**, on July 4, 2026, the United States of America will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding (the “Semiquincentennial”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Semiquincentennial is a momentous occasion that should be commemorated with a variety of celebrations, events, and activities that reflect the nation’s diversity and strength and the role that Talbot County, Maryland (the “County”) played in its founding; and

**WHEREAS**, notable examples of the role the County played in the nation’s founding include, but are not limited to, the following:

- May 24, 1774 – County citizens assembled on the Courthouse lawn to protest Great Britain’s closing of the Port of Boston and resolved “to act as friends to liberty and the general interest of mankind.” The County was the first locality in Maryland to release a statement in support of its sister city in Boston.
- October 24, 1781 – County native Tench Tilghman, aide-de-camp to General George Washington, arrived in Philadelphia, carrying news to the Continental Congress that Lord Charles Cornwallis of the British Army surrendered, marking a major turning point in the Revolutionary War.
- 1818 – Frederick Douglass, born into slavery in the County as Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, continued the work of the revolutionaries when he self-liberated from Baltimore and helped lead the fight to “secure the blessings of liberty” for all Americans, regardless of race or gender.

**WHEREAS**, in consideration of the foregoing, the County will be a significant venue for celebrating the Semiquincentennial; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Council of Talbot County, Maryland (the “County Council”) recognizes the importance of engaging the County’s citizens, businesses, educational institutions, and other various organizations

in celebrating the Semiquincentennial and fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of American history, culture, and achievements; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Council is desirous of formally establishing a Talbot 250 Commission for the purposes of planning and coordinating celebrations, events, and activities for the Semiquincentennial, as more fully set forth in this Administrative Resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the County Council of Talbot County, Maryland, that:

1. The County Council hereby establishes the Talbot 250 Commission (the “Commission”) for the following purposes:

a. Developing a plan for the Semiquincentennial’s commemoration in the County, including outlining specific events, programs, and initiatives that align with the County’s historical significance and cultural heritage;

b. Identifying funding sources for the Semiquincentennial’s commemoration by seeking grants, sponsorships, and donations as well as exploring partnerships with county, State, and federal agencies;

c. Coordinating the County’s commemoration of the Semiquincentennial with local, County, and State agencies; and

d. Making recommendations to the County Council regarding the foregoing.

2. The Commission shall consist of nine to 15 members, to be appointed and confirmed by the County Council, representing various sectors of the County, including, but not limited to, the following:

a. The County Council;

b. The Town of Easton;

c. The Town of Oxford;

d. The Town of Queen Anne;

e. The Town of St. Michaels;

f. The Town of Trappe;

g. The unincorporated areas of the County;

h. Tilghman Island;

i. The Talbot Historical Society;

j. The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum;

k. The County’s business community;

- l. The County's arts community;
- m. The Talbot County Free Library;
- n. Colonel Tench Tilghman Chapter of the Maryland Society of the Sons of the American Revolution; and
- o. General Perry Benson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

3. The members set forth in 2(b) through (h), 2(k), and 2(l) above shall be nominated through a public application process and, to the extent practicable, reflect the racial, gender, and cultural diversity of Talbot County, Maryland.

4. Administrative support for the Commission shall be provided by the County Manager's Office.

5. Legal support for the Commission shall be provided by the Office of Law.

6. Commission members serve at the pleasure of the County Council and may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the County Council.

7. The Commission shall meet at least once quarterly, with additional meetings as needed. A majority of the Commission members appointed shall be present to constitute a quorum for the transaction of Commission business.

8. The Commission shall provide reports at least once per quarter at regularly scheduled County Council meetings.

9. Commission meetings shall comply with the Maryland Open Meetings Act, Md. Code Ann., General Provisions § 3-101, et seq., as amended hereafter from time to time.

10. Within three months after the final Semiquincentennial event, the Commission shall submit a final report evaluating the success of the County's commemoration of the Semiquincentennial and making recommendations for future related events. The Commission shall dissolve following its submission of its final report to the County Council.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Administrative Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**INTRODUCED** by the County Council of Talbot County, Maryland at a Regular Meeting on January 14, 2025, at which meeting copies were available to the public for inspection.

**ADOPTED** by the County Council of Talbot County, Maryland at a Regular Meeting on January 14, 2025, at which meeting copies were available to the public for inspection.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AND THE GREAT SEAL OF TALBOT COUNTY, THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FIVE.

ADOPTED:

By the Council January 14, 2025

Certified *Susan Moran*  
Susan Moran, Secretary

*Chuck F. Callahan*  
Chuck F. Callahan, President

*Pete Lesh*  
Pete Lesh, Vice President

*Keasha N. Haythe*  
Keasha N. Haythe

*Lynn L. Mielke*  
Lynn L. Mielke

*Dave Stepp*  
Dave Stepp