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CONFUSION AND ARTISTS' WITHDRAWAL

One birthday two party planners Freedom 250 vs America250 explained • NBC News • May 30 2026

Celebrations are taking place across the country leading up to the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, including concerts, fairs and sporting events, with two main groups responsible for the largest festivities.

One of them, America250, is the nonprofit¹ supporting the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, which was established 10 years ago through an act of Congress² and is led by a bipartisan³ group of lawmakers⁴ and private citizens. The other, Freedom 250, was established by the Trump administration as a public-private partnership by which to fund and plan events celebrating this summer's historic anniversary.

This week, confusion about the difference between the two groups reached a fever pitch⁵ after some of the artists who were billed as⁶ performing at Freedom 250's Great American State Fair backed out⁷, saying they were misled⁸ about the nature of the event.

"The artists were never told about any political involvement with the event," rapper Young MC wrote in a social media post on Wednesday. Country singer Martina McBride said she "was assured this was a nonpartisan event that was meant to celebrate ALL 50 states. Yesterday things started changing and what we were told is, in fact, not what is happening."

Freedom 250, which labels itself as a nonpartisan nonprofit¹, maintained that its event wasn't meant to be political. In a statement to NBC News, a spokesperson said: "Freedom 250 is a nonpartisan organization singularly focused on celebrating America's 250th anniversary and bringing Americans together around this historic milestone."

The two groups aren't connected, but each entity says they share similar goals of putting on nonpartisan events to honor the United States' history on its milestone birthday.

Vocabulary

1 nonprofit association à but non lucratif • **2 an act of Congress** une loi adoptée par le Congrès • **3 bipartisan** réunissant les deux grands partis • **4 lawmakers** parlementaires • **5 reached a fever pitch** a atteint son paroxysme • **6 were billed as** étaient annoncés comme • **7 backed out** se sont retirés • **8 misled** induits en erreur