



## Georgia Reads for America 250

**GEORGIA (March 3, 2026)** – Today, the Georgia Council on Literacy, in partnership with the Georgia Public Library Service, the Georgia Municipal Association, and GeorgiaForward, announced the launch of *Georgia Reads for America 250*, a statewide initiative celebrating America’s 250th birthday.

The initiative places a strong emphasis on civic literacy—encouraging Georgians of all ages to better understand the nation’s founding principles, democratic institutions, and the responsibilities of citizenship. Through reading, reflection, and community engagement, the program aims to strengthen civic knowledge, foster informed participation, and inspire the next generation of engaged leaders.

“Under the Georgia Reads for America250 initiative, Georgia's students won't just gain the literacy skills needed for opportunity, they will also learn about the history and principles that have guided our nation since its founding,” said Governor Brian Kemp. “I hope all our young learners will take this opportunity to become both better readers and better participants in the great American experiment.”

As part of the celebration, the Georgia Public Library Service is sharing the *Georgia Reads for America 250 Reading List*—a collection of 25 books focused on American and Georgia history and civic literacy. The list is organized by grade level for K–12 students and is designed to inspire students, educators, and literacy advocates to reflect on America’s past, strengthen civic understanding, and renew a shared commitment to the future. A companion reading challenge available at public libraries statewide will invite Georgians of all ages to engage with the reading list and complete activities to earn badges and prizes.

“We are so proud to support Georgia Reads for America 250 across our state’s 410 libraries,” said Julie Walker, Vice Chancellor for Libraries & Archives and state librarian. “Libraries are the heart of our communities, and this partnership reflects the important role they play in shaping the futures of Georgians by building literacy, supporting lifelong learning, and strengthening civic knowledge.”

In addition, mayors across the state will promote civic literacy and community engagement through local events and partnerships. GeorgiaForward’s Mayor’s Reading Club provides a platform to connect literacy, local history, and civic pride, helping communities bring this national milestone to life in meaningful and relevant ways.

“Georgia’s cities and mayors play a vital role in bringing civic literacy to life in communities across our state,” said Larry Hanson, CEO and Executive Director of the Georgia Municipal Association. “Through our partnership with Georgia Reads for America 250, we are committed to strengthening literacy while also connecting our communities to the history, principles, and responsibilities that define our nation.”



For more information about Georgia Reads for America 250, the Georgia Council on Literacy, and the state's literacy efforts, visit [www.america250.georgiareads.org](http://www.america250.georgiareads.org).

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### **About the America250 Reading List:**

The Georgia Reads for America 250 Reading List features a diverse range of voices, historical accounts, and foundational texts, including: *Hey, Georgia* by Malcolm Mitchell; *Delivering Justice* by Jim Haskins; *Hard Work, But It's Worth It* by Bethany Hegedus; *March Trilogy* by John Lewis; *Lillian's Right to Vote* by Jonah Winter; *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom* by Lynda Blackmon Lowery; *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams* by Stacy Schiff; *Those Rebels, John and Tom* by Barbara Kerley; *Rebellion 1776* by Laurie Halse Anderson; *When You Grow Up to Vote* by Eleanor Roosevelt; *Your Vote Matters* by Rebecca Katzman; *The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation* by Jonathan Hennessey; *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo; *The Rediscovery of America* by Ned Blackhawk; and *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie.

### **About the Georgia Council on Literacy**

The Georgia Council on Literacy leads statewide efforts to improve reading outcomes for children, families, and adults. The Council is responsible for developing and advancing Georgia's comprehensive statewide literacy plan, aligning agencies and partners around evidence-based strategies to strengthen literacy from early childhood through adulthood. Working with educators, community leaders, and policymakers, the Council promotes policies and partnerships that ensure every Georgian has the literacy skills needed to succeed in school, work, and civic life.