

July 4: The Birth of American Independence

By History Channel

Variouly known as the Fourth of July and Independence Day, July 4 has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the eighteenth century and the American Revolution (1775 to 1783).

In June of 1776, representatives of the thirteen colonies then fighting in the revolutionary struggle weighed a resolution that would declare their independence from Great Britain. On July 2, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

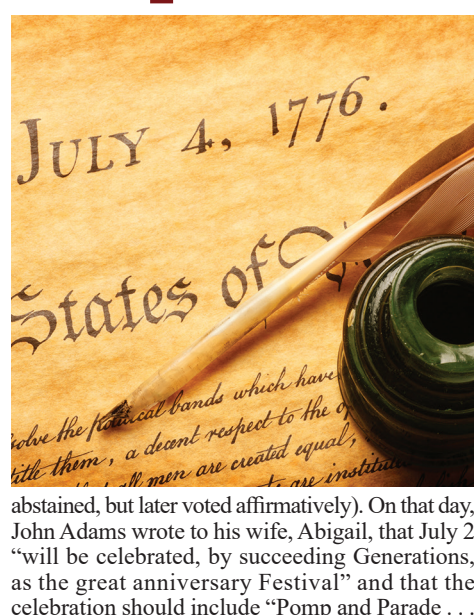
From 1776 until the present day, July Fourth has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with typical festivities ranging from fireworks, parades, and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired

complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical. By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in Thomas Paine's bestselling pamphlet *Common Sense*, published in early 1776.

On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later called Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies' independence. Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee's resolution, but appointed a five-man committee—including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, and Robert R. Livingston of New York—to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

On July 2, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee's resolution for independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation



abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, that July 2 "will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade . . .

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RTA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
PUBLIC NOTICE
RTA Retail Store Pilot
RTA Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 2023-013
Bid Date: July 6, 2023

Project description:
The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is seeking an operator to provide retail store pilot per specifications in RFP 2023-013.

How to obtain a copy of the RFP:
Scope of work and further information concerning the RFP may be obtained beginning June 6, 2023, from the RTA's Procurement website at <https://norta.procurement.com/home>. You will be required to first register on this website. The RFP can also be obtained at Regional Transit Authority's website at <http://www.norta.com>.

Responding to the RFP:
Proposals shall be submitted through RTA's Procurement website on or before 4:00 pm, Thursday, July 6, 2023. Any questions or further information concerning this RFP may be submitted through <https://norta.procurement.com/home> beginning on June 6, 2023. Only written questions submitted through <https://norta.procurement.com/home> shall be considered official. All answers to questions shall be by formal addenda posted to the website under RFP #2023-013.

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The RTA reserves the right to accept or reject any and all submittals.

Lona Hankins
Chief Executive Officer
Regional Transit Authority

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8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar
Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 9:30 am–10:30 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program Webinar
Thursday, July 20, 2023, 10:00 am–11:00 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Stephanie Workman, 478-919-7652, stephanie.workman@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Are you a woman owner of a small business?

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, July 27, 2023, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
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CERTIFICATION

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