

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 5, 2026**

## **Kansas 250 Launches *Per Aspera* Podcast**



**First Episode Premieres Friday, March 6, 2026**

**Topeka, Kansas** –The Kansas 250 Commission proudly announces the launch of the *Per Aspera* Podcast, a 20-episode series commemorating the United States Semiquincentennial. The first episode premieres Friday, March 6, 2026, with new episodes released bi-weekly.

The podcast is presented in partnership with Walmart and the United States Semiquincentennial Commission (America 250), bringing together national and state leaders to celebrate Kansas' role in the American story as the nation approaches its 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026. Additional support is provided by Creative One.

*Per Aspera* episodes explore how Kansans have wrestled with the promises of the Declaration of Independence - such as life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the consent of the governed. These ideals are inspiring, but they can also come into tension with one another. Through focused, narrative-driven episodes, the series examines moments in Kansas history when these founding principles collided, revealing how Americans have debated, defended, and reinterpreted them over time.

Drawing on pivotal events from the territorial era through the 21st century, the podcast shows how Kansas has repeatedly served as a proving ground for national ideals. From contested legislatures and struggles over equal education to debates about power and democracy, *Per Aspera* connects state history to the enduring questions first raised in 1776. The opening episode revisits Kansan Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1961 Farewell Address, exploring his famous warning about the "military-industrial complex" as a reflection on democratic vigilance and the responsibility of citizens in a self-governing nation.

"As we approach America's 250th anniversary, this podcast creates a platform to share the stories that shaped Kansas and strengthened our nation," said Chair Representative Susan Estes. "Through this partnership with Walmart and America 250, we're able to expand the reach of these stories and inspire communities across the state."

The series is part of broader statewide efforts supporting the national America 250 commemoration, coordinated by the United States Semiquincentennial Commission. Kansas 250 is leading initiatives across the state to engage citizens, schools, organizations, and communities in meaningful reflection and celebration.

For more information about Kansas 250, America 250 events, and the *Per Aspera* Podcast, visit [America250KS.com](http://America250KS.com) and [Perasperapodcast.com](http://Perasperapodcast.com).

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