



A STAR AT 96

JUNE SQUIBB, BUSIER THAN EVER AT 96, HAS HER FIRST LEAD ROLE ON BROADWAY IN "MARJORIE PRIME." SHE ALSO PLAYS THE TITLE CHARACTER IN "ELEANOR THE GREAT," RELEASED THIS FALL. **D1**

U.S. MINT

New coins to celebrate 250 years of independence



Will Trump appear on one of them? Not so far. But designs honoring civil rights and women's suffrage were tossed.

Jonathan J. Cooper Associated Press

The U.S. Mint has unveiled the designs for coins commemorating the 250th anniversary of American independence next year. They depict the founding documents and the Revolutionary War, but so far, not President Donald Trump — despite a push among some of his allies to get his face on a coin.

The Mint abandoned designs developed during Joe Biden's presidency that highlighted women's suffrage and civil rights advancements, favoring classical depictions of America over progress toward a more inclusive society.

A series of celebrations are planned next year under the banner America 250, marking the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. All U.S. coins show the year they were minted, but those made next year will also display 1776.

IS THERE A LOOPHOLE FOR TRUMP?

No design was released for a \$1 coin, though U.S. Treasurer Brandon Beach, whose duties include oversight of the U.S. Mint, serving as a liaison with the Federal Reserve and overseeing Treasury's Office of Consumer Policy, confirmed in October that one showcasing Trump was in the works.

THE TRUMP DOLLAR?

No design was released for a \$1 coin. However, draft designs featuring President Donald Trump's visage have been posted on the U.S. Mint website:



Draft designs show Trump's visage on the "heads" side, known as the obverse, and on the reverse, a depiction of Trump raising his fist after his attempted assassination. The words "FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT" appear along the top.

By law, presidents typically can't appear on coins until two years after their death, but some advocates for a Trump coin think there may be a loophole in the law authorizing the Treasury to mint special coins for the nation's 250th birthday.

Neither the Mint nor the Treasury Department responded when asked whether a Trump coin is still planned.

CLASSICAL AMERICANA

New designs will appear only on coins minted in 2026, with the current images returning the following year.

The nickel, dime and five versions of the quarter will circulate, while a penny and half dollar will be sold as collectibles.

Five versions of the quarter are planned depicting the Mayflower Compact, Revolutionary War, Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Gettysburg Address.

The dime will show a depiction of Liberty, a symbolic woman facing down the tyranny of the British monarchy, and an eagle carrying arrows in its talons representing America's fight for independence.

The commemorative nickel is essentially the same as its most recent redesign, in 2006, but it includes two dates on the head's side instead of one, 1776 and 2026.

'A MORE PERFECT UNION'

Congress authorized commemorative coins in 2021. During the Biden administration, the Mint worked with a citizens advisory committee to propose designs depicting the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, abolitionism, suffrage and civil rights.

SEE MINT, A2

POLITICS

Voters ask court to declare Pa.'s closed primaries unconstitutional

There are an estimated 1.4 million independent voters in the state.

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Is Pennsylvania's ban on independent voters participating in party primary elections unconstitutional?

That's the question a group of independents is asking the state Commonwealth Court to consider in a new filing announced this week.

Ballot PA Action praised the filing by their chairman David Thornburgh, TV and radio host Michael Smerconish and three other Pennsylvanians.

"After 88 years of being treated as second-class Pennsylvania citizens, 1.4 million independent voters will finally get our day in court," said Thornburgh, the son of former Republican Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburgh, according to a statement.

The plaintiffs, Thornburgh said, "are confident in our argument that a state constitution that promises to treat all voters equally will no longer permit this political discrimination to continue."

An earlier petition filed with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in July was denied in August.

Ballot PA Action's statement said testimony from a Carnegie Mellon University mathematics professor made the latest filing "unique."

CMU professor Wesley Pegden, the group said, analyzed election data from state House and Senate races from 2002 to 2020, school board elections in the counties where the plaintiffs live, and mayor and other elections for large counties in Pennsylvania.

Pegden "measured voter influence, which corresponds to the number of votes that would have to change in an election to flip the final outcome of that election," Ballot PA Action said.

"The lower the number of votes necessary, the more an individual vote matters."

Democratic and Republican voters' influence is greater than independents' since they get to vote in primaries and general elections, the group said.

Ballot PA Action said Pegden determined the median influence of a Democratic voter in legislative elections between 2002 to 2012 is 1.7 times the influence of an independent voter while a Republican voter's influence is 1.8 times greater.

Independent voters' influence is only equal to partisan voters' influence in uncontested primaries and general elections, Pegden found.

"In other words, the only elections in which independent voters have equal electoral influence to partisan voters (are) when no voters have any choice at all," Ballot PA Action said.

Pa. makes joint demand for SNAP data safeguards

In a 16-page letter, lawyers for more than 20 states laid out dozens of questions about aspects of the initiative.

Emily Previti *Pennsylvania Capital-Star*

Governors and attorneys general from Pennsylvania and 21 other jurisdictions say they want explicit safeguards related to immigration enforcement, artificial intelligence and more before getting involved in the federal government's push for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) data.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the project will help mitigate SNAP fraud, waste and abuse. Opponents fear the resulting database will lack appropriate safeguards and support other endeavors — including immigration enforcement, as with some of the Trump administration's other data expansion efforts.

In a 16-page letter provided to the Pennsylvania Capital-Star, lawyers for the states laid out dozens of questions about aspects of

the initiative — including cost-sharing, privacy, security and bureaucratic redundancy — that they want the USDA to address.

The document comes as part of a lawsuit filed earlier this year as 21 states and Washington, D.C., declined to share the information as requested by USDA. That includes SNAP applicant and recipients' names, addresses, Social Security numbers and immigration and marital statuses dating to Jan. 1, 2020.

Twenty-eight states and Guam have since started sharing the data, according to the USDA.

Recently, the Trump administration told the other states and D.C. that they could lose federal funding to help pay to administer SNAP if they don't opt into the data collection initiative before Christmas Eve, and asked for detailed justifications by Monday for continuing to abstain.

But the federal government can't yank SNAP funding due to the preliminary injunction in the case, attorneys for the plaintiff jurisdictions argue in their Dec. 8 letter.

They also made demands and raised questions they say need responses — preferably, by Monday — before they can move forward.

The plaintiffs want the USDA to detail its artificial intelligence policy and confirm restrictions on data access by other federal agencies — in particular, that Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) won't use it for immigration enforcement.

And they want to know what will be achieved by the new data sharing initiative that isn't already happening through existing SNAP oversight and data-sharing and analysis. That includes:

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