

Book publishers see surging interest in US core documents

Declaration of Independence, Constitution not confined to classrooms now

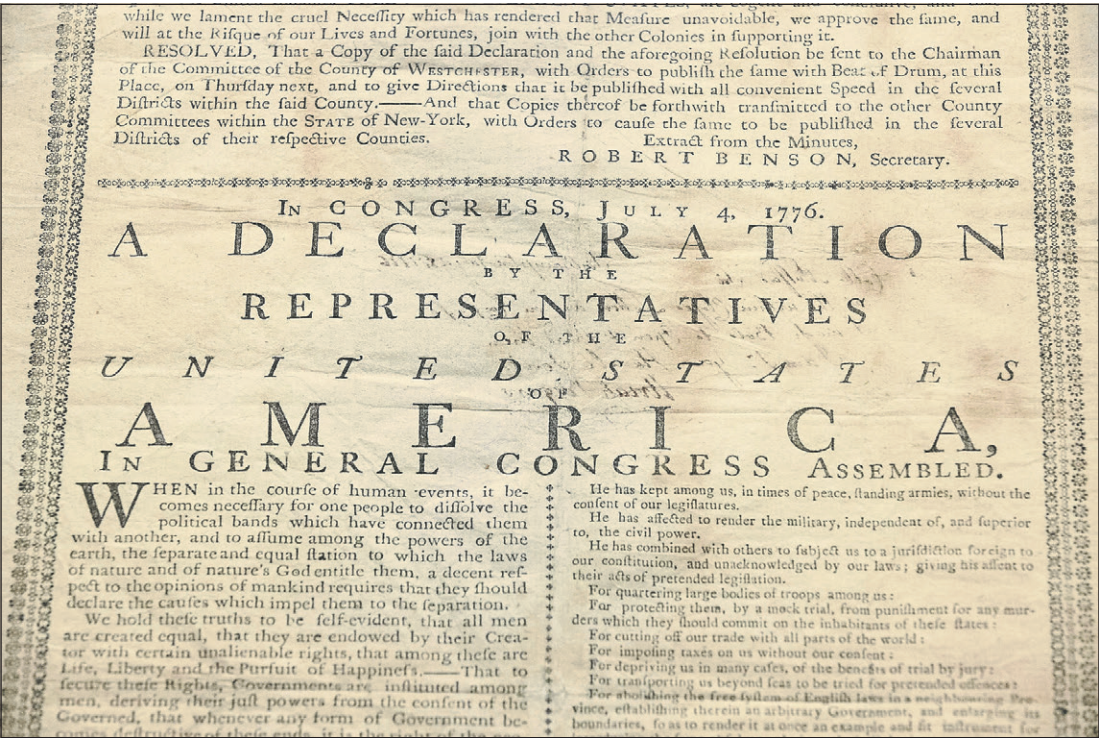
BY HILLEL ITALIE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK — When Random House Publisher Andrew Ward met recently with staff editors to discuss potential book projects, conversation inevitably turned to current events and the Trump administration.

“It seemed obvious that we needed to look back to the country’s core documents,” Ward said. “And that we wanted to get them out quickly.”

On Wednesday, Random House announced that it would publish a hardcover book in July combining the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, followed in November by a hardcover edition of the Federalist Papers. Both books include introductions by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Jon Meacham, who has written biographies of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson among others.

The Random House volumes, released through its Modern Library imprint, will join a prolific market that has



A 1776 broadside printing of the Declaration of Independence is displayed at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia on June 17, 2019.

surged in recent months. According to Circana, which tracks around 85% of the print retail market, editions of the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers and the U.S. Constitution are selling at their fastest pace since Circana began compiling numbers in 2004.

Around 162,000 combined copies have sold through mid-April, compared to 58,000 during the same time period the year before and around 33,000 in 2023. Sales were

around 92,000 in the early months of Trump’s first term, in 2017, more than double the pace of 2016.

Brenna Connor, a book industry analyst for Circana, said the jump “is likely in response to the recent change of administration” and cited increased interest in other books about democracy and government, among them Timothy Snyder’s “On Tyranny” and the Michael Lewis-edited “Who Is Government?” a collection of

essays about civil servants by Dave Eggers, Geraldine Brooks, Sarah Vowell and others.

“This pursuit of political understanding is playing out in a few different areas,” Connor added.

Meacham, during a recent phone interview with The Associated Press, said that the founders had sought to make sense of a revolutionary era — whether breaking with England or debating how to form a federal govern-

ment with enough power to rule effectively, without giving it the kind of monarchical authority that enraged the colonies.

Reading the Declaration and other texts, he believes, can give today’s public a similar sense of mission and guiding principles.

“It is a tumultuous moment ... to put it kindly,” Meacham said. “One way to address the chaos of the present time, what Saint Paul would call the ‘tribulations’ of the present time, is to re-engage with the essential texts that are about creating a system that is still worth defending.”

The Modern Library books will have many competitors. The 18th century documents all are in the public domain, can be read for free online and anyone can publish them. According to Circana, popular editions have been released by Skyhorse, Penguin, Barnes & Noble and others.

“We generally see increased sales of editions of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution every election cycle, but particularly this year,” said Shannon DeVito, Barnes & Noble’s senior director of book strategy. “This could be because next year marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence,” she said, “or the fast and furious current political conversations and policy changes.”

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A Detailed copy of the following Ordinance adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Paducah on April 21, 2025, is on file and may be obtained upon request at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 300 South 5th Street, Paducah, Kentucky.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2024-06-8815, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF PADUCAH, KENTUCKY, ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025, BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT." This Ordinance is summarized as follows: That the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, as adopted by Ordinance No. 2024-06-8815, be amended by the following re-appropriations:

- Increase revenues and expenditures for the CDBG Fund by \$200,000

CERTIFICATION
A Summary of the above Ordinance was prepared under the supervision of a licensed attorney. Denton Law Firm

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