

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 5.5

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

COMMISSIONS

WRITS OF ELECTION, 1838-

Abstract: Writs of election (1838-2014) issued by the governor and filed with the secretary of state.

Extent: 1.6 cubic ft. (4 legal-size Hollinger boxes)

Physical Description: Paper

Location: MSA Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

Preferred Citation: [Name of Document], [Date]; Writs of Elections, 1838- ; Commissions; Office of Secretary of State, Record Group 5; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Agency transfer. Various accessions.

Processing Information: Processing done by various staff members. Accessions 2005-0019 and 2005-0107 were processed by Mary Kay Coker on August 2, 2005; 2006-0083 on May 15, 2005; 2007-0094 on July 6, 2007; 2007-0197 on November 2, 2007; 2009-0025 on July 29, 2009. Reprocessed on March 18, 2010, to remove certificates of election and gubernatorial appointments and to add writs found in miscellaneous elections materials. Accession 2012-0005 processed on January 10, 2012; 2012-0048 and 2012-0055 on June 8, 2012; 2013-0065 on April 11, 2013; 2013-0120 on July 17, 2013; 2014-0032 on February 3, 2014.

WRITS OF ELECTION, 1838-2014

Arrangement: Chronologically by date issued/filed or by date of election

Scope and Content

Writs of election authorize the appropriate authorities to hold elections to fill vacancies (Missouri Constitution, Article III, Section 14) or to vote on constitutional amendments (Article XII, Section 2b). They are issued and signed by the governor and attested to by the secretary of state. The date specified may fall on a primary or general election or may be a special election.

Occasionally, the records include the resignation, expulsion, or notice of death of the vacated official and related correspondence. In the earliest years (1838-1846), these records may supplant the actual writ, though many note that a writ is to be issued. Sometimes it is unclear whether the vacancy was filled by appointment or election.

Records may also include a revocation or withdrawal of the writ, as in 1975, either to issue a new writ or to call off the election entirely. The series also includes several broadsides from county sheriffs announcing the election. For instance, Jackson County for the 14th Senatorial District (1865); Maries County for Judge of Circuit Court (1875); St. Louis County for 2nd Congressional District (1882); and Ralls County for 31st Legislative District (1882).

Writs of election are most often for vacancies in the General Assembly but also for county officials, judges, and elected officials. In 1857, a special election was called for the office of governor after the resignation of Trusten Polk. During the Civil War, many special elections were held for those killed or expelled from office. In 1974, the governor held a special primary election to choose between two Republican candidates who received a tie vote in the primary in Camden County.

Over the years, writs of election have also been issued as proclamations. Some writs of election in this series are, in fact, labeled proclamations. Because of this confusion, writs of election can sometimes also be found in the series *Governor's Proclamations* and, more often, in the closed series *Governor's Proclamations Concerning Elections* (1946-1984).

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Years	Contents
14A/6/3	1	1	1838	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	2	1840	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	3	1842	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	4	1844	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	5	1846	Writs of Election

14A/6/3	1	6	1852	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	7	1854	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	8	1855	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	9	1856	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	10	1857	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	11	1858	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	12	1859	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	13	1860	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	14	1861	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	15	1862	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	16	1863	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	17	1864	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	18	1865	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	19	1866	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	20	1867	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	21	1868	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	1	22	1869	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	1	1870	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	2	1871	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	3	1872	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	4	1873	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	5	1874	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	6	1875	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	7	1876	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	8	1877	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	9	1878	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	10	1879	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	11	1880	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	12	1882	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	13	1884	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	14	1885	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	15	1886	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	16	1887	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	17	1888	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	18	1889	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	2	19	1890	Writs of Election

14A/6/3	2	20	1892	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	1	1895	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	2	1897	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	3	1898	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	4	1899	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	5	1902	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	6	1904	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	7	1906	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	8	1907	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	9	1908	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	10	1909	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	11	1910	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	12	1912	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	13	1916	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	14	1918	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	15	1919	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	16	1920	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	17	1925	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	18	1926	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	19	1929	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	20	1931	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	21	1932	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	22	1933	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	23	1935	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	24	1940	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	25	1942	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	26	1943	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	27	1944	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	28	1945	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	29	1946	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	30	1947	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	31	1948	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	32	1950	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	33	1951	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	34	1952	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	35	1953	Writs of Election

14A/6/3	3	36	1954	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	37	1955	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	38	1956	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	39	1957	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	3	40	1959	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	1	1960	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	2	1961	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	3	1962	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	4	1964	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	5	1965	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	6	1966	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	7	1974	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	8	1975	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	9	1976	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	10	1977	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	11	1978	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	12	1979	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	13	1981	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	14	1982	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	15	1983	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	16	1984	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	17	1985	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	18	1986	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	19	1987	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	20	1988	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	21	1989	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	22	1990	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	23	1991	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	24	1992	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	25	1993	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	26	1994	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	27	1995	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	28	1996	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	29	1997	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	30	1998	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	31	1999	Writs of Election

14A/6/3	4	32	2000	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	33	2001	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	34	2002	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	35	2003	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	36	2005	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	37	2006	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	38	2007	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	39	2009	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	40	2010	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	41	2011	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	42	2013	Writs of Election
14A/6/3	4	43	2014	Writs of Election