

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 5.2

Office of Secretary of State

Commissions

Governor's Proclamations, 1885-

Abstract: Proclamations (1885-2025) made by the governor of the state of Missouri and filed with the secretary of state.

Extent: 29.6 cubic ft. (74 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: [Item], [date], [Box and Folder]; Governors' Proclamations, 1885- ; 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. Partially refoldered in 2002. Accession 2002-0042 was processed by Mary Kay Coker on June 27, 2002; 2004-0067, 2004-0143, and 2004-0212 on August 31, 2004; 2005-0107 on June 27, 2005; 2007-0094 on July 6, 2007; 2008-0126 and 2009-0025 on July 28, 2009. Added printed Columbus Day Proclamation (21 Oct 1892) on June 1, 2010. Accessions 2012-0048 and 2012-0055 processed by Mary Kay Coker on June 5, 2012; accessions 2015-0018 and 2015-0155 on October 19, 2015; 2018-0017 on February 15, 2018; 2018-0022 2019-0020 on August 28, 2019; 2020-008 on July 30, 2021; and 2021-0166 on November 2, 2021; 2022-0029 on March 16, 2022; 2023-0006 on January 9, 2023; 2024-0038 on March 5, 2024; 2025-0055 on February 22, 2025; 2026-0005 on January 9, 2025.

Historical And Biographical Notes

Proclamations are gubernatorial decrees that are generally ceremonial in nature, primarily for days of observance or commemoration of people or events, although they can also be substantive, such as offering rewards for fugitives or calling special elections. They are called out specifically in Article IV, Section 9, of the Missouri State Constitution, namely that on extraordinary occasions the governor "may convene the general assembly by proclamation, wherein he shall state specifically each matter on which action is deemed necessary."

Although proclamations existed in Missouri long before 1893, when this series begins, the ones here are those filed and signed by the secretary of state. These are the official versions, fulfilling the secretary of state's role of "authenticating all official acts of the governor, except the approval of laws" (10 CSR 30-1). For proclamations prior to 1893, see the multi-volume set published by The State Historical Society of Missouri called *The Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri*.

Additional Descriptive Information

Bibliography

The Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri, Vols. I - XX (Columbia, MO: The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1922-1965).

Other Finding Aids

Some proclamations may be found in the finding aids for Record Group 3, Office of Governor. In early years, prior to 1893, these proclamations may be originals. In later years, they are more likely to be copies of the official version held by the secretary of state.

Related Material

See series *Governor's Proclamations Concerning Elections* (1946-1984) and *Governor's Proclamations Concerning Senatorial Districts* (1881-1931). Both are closed series, the former generally superseded by the ongoing series *Writs of Election* or found in the regular proclamation series. Information on senatorial districts may be found in the series *Records of the Reapportionment Commissions*. Although proclamations convening special sessions usually call out all matters to be considered, sometimes the proclamation will deal with the topic only generally and the details will be found in the series *Special Messages from the Governor*.

Governor's Proclamations, 1892-2025

Arrangement: Chronological either by date signed (preferred) or date filed

Scope and Content

The proclamations found within this series are those signed by (or affixed with the signature of) the governor, signed and filed with the secretary of state, and affixed or impressed with the official state seal. Occasionally the original is missing and only a copy or draft remains in the file. Although there is a separate series designated as proclamations concerning elections, there are nonetheless many scattered among this regular series of proclamations.

Before the turn of the 20th century, the great majority of governor's proclamations in this series offered rewards for the arrest of fugitives. A number of the wanted were described as colored. Although the crime most often cited was murder, other crimes included ravishment, bigamy, forgery, embezzlement, voting violations, assault, train and bank robbery, horse stealing, lynching, death resulting from abortion, and arson. Early rewards, up to about 1913, may have supporting documentation, such as letters from prosecuting attorneys, copies of indictments, newspaper clippings, reward notices, or applications for the reward. Because rewards expired after only a year, there may be several renewals for the same criminal in successive years. The number of these rewards offered diminishes around the time of World War I and ceases entirely by World War II.

Other early proclamations set up quarantines for contagious livestock or declare a day of observance such as Thanksgiving. A few also asked the public to help relieve the suffering of victims of natural disasters, such as "cloud bursts," floods, and cyclones. Historical events are often noted, such as wars and the depressions. After World War II, the proclamations become generally more ceremonial, with the great majority proclaiming periods of observation, from "Ragweed Control Month" to "Barbershop Harmony Week" to "Miss Missouri Day." However, there are still substantive proclamations involving special elections, special sessions, and labor disputes in public utilities. In 1967-68, there are several oversize proclamations designating regional planning commissions.

Container List

NOTE: Proclamations up to 2008 are digitized on CD in the Archives. Reading Room.

Box	Folders	Contents
1	1 - 44	August 1885 - April 1897
2	1 - 34	May 1897 - June 1900
3	1 - 33	July 1900 - December 1903
4	1 - 36	January 1904 - December 1906
5	1 - 38	January 1907 - May 1910
6	1 - 68	July 1910 - June 1917
7	1 - 80	July 1918 - November 1925
8	1 - 95	January 1926 - August 1938
9	1 - 54	September 1938 - December 1943
10	1 - 73	January 1944 - December 1950
11	1 - 59	January 1951 - December 1955
12	1 - 40	January 1956 - April 1959
13	1 - 44	May 1959 - December 1962
14	1 - 41	January 1963 - June 1966
15	1 - 42	July 1966 - December 1969
16	1 - 42	January 1970 - June 1973
17	1 - 26	July 1973 - August 1975
18	1 - 22	September 1975 - January 1977 (See box 52 for February - December 1977) January 1978 - May 1978
19	1 - 18	June 1978 - November 1979
20	1 - 13	December 1979 - December 1980
21	1 - 16	January 1981 - April 1982
22	1 - 12	May 1982 - April 1983
23	1 - 12	May 1983 - April 1984
24	1 - 12	May 1984 - April 1985
25	1 - 14	May 1985 - June 1986
26	1 - 12	July 1986 - June 1987
27	1 - 14	July 1987 - August 1988
28	1 - 14	September 1988 - October 1989
29	1 - 14	November 1989 - December 1990
30	1 - 16	January 1991 - April 1992
31	1 - 15	May 1992 - July 1993
32	1 - 7	August 1993 - April 1994
33	1 - 7	May 1994 - December 1994

Box	Folders	Contents
34	1 - 7	January 1995 - August 1995
35	1 - 7	September 1995 - April 1996
36	1 - 7	May 1996 - December 1996
37	1 - 7	January 1997 - July 1997
38	1 - 8	August 1997 - March 1998
39	1 - 7	April 1998 - October 1998
40	1 - 9	November 1998 - July 1999
41	1 - 9	August 1999 - April 2000
42	1 - 8	May 2000 - December 2000
43	1 - 8	January 2001 - August 2001
44	1 - 7	September 2001 - February 2002
45	1 - 6	March 2002 - July 2002
46	1 - 7	August 2002 - February 2003
47	1 - 7	March 2003 - August 2003
48	1 - 8	September 2003 - April 2004
49	1 - 8	May 2004 - December 2004
50	1 - 12	January 2005 - December 2005
51	1 - 12	January 2006 - December 2006
52	1 - 16	February - December 1977 January 2007 - May 2007
53	1 - 11	June 2007 - April 2008
54	1 - 12	May 2008 - April 2009
55	1 - 11	May 2009 - March 2010
56	1 - 10	April 2010 - January 2011
57	1 - 10	February - November 2011
58	1 - 11	December 2011 - October 2012
59	1 - 11	November 2012 - September 2013
60	1 - 11	October 2013 - August 2014
61	1 - 11	September 2014 - July 2015
62	1 - 10	August 2015 - May 2016
63	1 - 11	June 2016 - April 2017
64	1 - 8	May 2017 - December 2017
65	1 - 9	January 2018 - September 2018
66	1 - 12	October 2018 - September 2019
67	1 - 10	October 2019 - July 2020
68	1 - 11	August 2020 - June 2021
69	1 - 9	July 2021 - March 2022
70	1 - 10	April 2022 - January 2023

Box	Folders	Contents
71	1 – 11	February 2023 – December 2023
72	1 – 9	January 2024 – September 2024
73	1 – 8	October 2024 – May 2025
74	1 – 7	June 2025 – December 2025