May 2, 1820

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was May 2, 1820, the day delegates to Missouri’s first constitutional convention were elected.

At the time, the Missouri territory had 15 counties, all of which sent between one and nine delegates. These would include Alexander McNair, would go on to be Missouri’s first governor. Interestingly enough, following election of officers, the rules adopted for the convention would be mirrored identically for what are still the rules of the Missouri Senate.

Among the provisions of the state’s first constitution was how it could be amended. The only way was for the Legislature to come up with changes and then send them to a ballot for voter consideration.

The meetings were held at Mansion House Hotel in St. Louis, and started on June 12. It only took 38 days to produce the constitution, which was agreed to on July 19.

The territorial Legislature put together the document that then went to Congress for final approval. After this, new constitutions were put in place in 1865, 1875, 1922 and 1945.

But, it all started on May 2, 1820, the date marking election of delegates to Missouri’s first constitutional convention, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: [Missouri Government, Missouri State University](http://courses.missouristate.edu/dennishickey/mogov.htm); [Missouri State Archives](http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16795coll1); [Missouri First](http://www.mofirst.org/history/con-con.htm); *Journal of the Missouri State Convention*)