March 8, 1988

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was March 8, 1988, Missouri’s first foray into a presidential primary, after years of holding a caucus.

Then-Cong. Richard Gephardt of St. Louis ran for president that year.

Missouri would return to taking part in the caucus system in 1992 and ’96.

In 2000, Missouri was back in the primary business, thanks — in part — to another one-time Missourian in the hunt for 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., former U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley. By 2004, the preference primary was held in February.

In 2014, [Senate Bill 892](http://www.senate.mo.gov/14info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=30702539) made a change to Missouri’s presidential primary once again, moving the date from February to the second Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

March 8, 1988, the date marking Missouri’s first presidential preference primary, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Missouri Senate Journal*)