June 2, 1862

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was June 2, 1862, the day loyalty oaths were adopted in Missouri.

So-called “oaths of loyalty” were born of the Civil War, and determining who was on whose side, as the nation split. Loyalty oaths started with the U.S. Military. Missouri’s provisional government saw them as a way to keep order.

The “dominion system” took political stances of people in local militias, rather than entire platoons. But, it wouldn’t be long until this idea moved throughout territories and made its way into a national format.

In a matter of a few years, Congress created the Ironclad oath, which was originally given to all federal employees. President Lincoln opposed it, but was outnumbered. The federal version of the oath was based on Missouri’s.

Such loyalty oaths continued past the Civil War and into Reconstruction. The Missouri General Assembly outlaws the oath in 1871. The 1875 Missouri Constitution did away with the loyalty oath.

June 2, 1862, the date marking implementation of Missouri’s loyalty oath, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: [Missouri Secretary of State’s office](https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/provost/provostPDF); [Missouri Digital Heritage](https://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/dividedLoyalties/); [Oath of Loyalty](http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm/ref/collection/CivilWar/id/49331); [Civil War on the Western Border](http://www.civilwaronthewesternborder.org/essay/shadow-war-federal-military-authority-and-loyalty-oaths-civil-war-missouri); [National Park Service](https://www.nps.gov/jeff/blogs/oath-of-loyalty-book-1868-1871-artifact-of-the-month-for-september-2011.htm))