August 28, 1820

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Aug. 28, 1820.

After Missouri’s first constitution was adopted in July of that year, the first elections were held even before Missouri became a state. That wouldn’t happen until then-President James Monroe’s declaration on Aug. 10, 1821.

Missouri’s first election named our first governor, lieutenant governor, state senators and representatives, one congressman and county officers. It would not be until the first General Assembly would meet on Sept. 18, 1820, when Missouri’s first 10 counties would be organized.

At the time, Missouri’s constitution provided for 14 state senators and 57 state representatives. Dozens of people sought these new offices. For instance, 39 candidates came from Howard County alone and another 19 suitors called St. Louis home.

Of the 41 people chosen to lead Missouri’s constitutional convention in May, 1820, seven went on to serve in the first Missouri General Assembly.

While the number of members of both the Missouri Senate and House has changed, the two-year terms for representatives and four years for senators have not. In addition, we now see term limits in the Legislature.

August 28, 1820, the date marking the first elections in Missouri, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *A History of Missouri*, by Eugene Morrow Violette, and the Missouri State Historical Society)