Aug. 5, 1861

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Aug. 5, 1861, the day then-Gov. Claiborne Fox Jackson issued a proclamation declaring Missouri a free republic.

Before he was elected governor, Jackson served as Missouri House speaker between 1844 and ‘48. It was in 1848, as Missouri senator, he presented the “Jackson resolutions.” As chair of the Missouri Senate Ways and Means Committee, he was asking our state’s congressional delegation to extend the Missouri Compromise line into the territories.

After the 1860 election, Jackson was sworn in as governor in 1861. This was the same year a state convention was called to decide if the Show-Me State would leave or stay with the Union. Jackson believed Missouri would side with the confederacy. When state convention members voted to undo statewide offices and the Missouri General Assembly, Jackson ignored the move and issued his proclamation.

The confederate-backing officeholders would move south, eventually leaving Missouri altogether.

New elections would be held for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state and the Legislature, with normalcy returning after the Civil War was over.

August 5, 1861, the date marking issuance of a proclamation declaring Missouri a free republic — as the Civil War was unfolding — on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: Missouri Senate Journal and [Missouri Digital Heritage](https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default?coll=cfjackson))