

Historical Listings of Constitutional Officers

In this section an attempt has been made to present as accurate a record as possible of the persons who have filled constitutional offices in Tennessee. In some cases, however, it has not been possible to obtain a complete list.

Governors

Name	Year of Birth	State of Birth	Year of Death	Date		Occupation	Politics
				Inaugurated			
*William Blount	1749	NC	1800	Sept. 20, 1790		Soldier	D
John Sevier	1745	VA	1815	March 30, 1796		Soldier, pioneer	D
Archibald Roane	1759	PA	1819	Sept. 23, 1801		Lawyer	D
John Sevier	1745	VA	1815	Sept. 23, 1803		Soldier, pioneer	D
Willie Blount	1768	NC	1835	Sept. 20, 1809		Lawyer, planter	D
Joseph McMinn	1758	PA	1824	Sept. 27, 1815		Merchant	D
William Carroll	1788	PA	1844	Oct. 1, 1821		Merchant, soldier	D
Sam Houston	1793	VA	1863	Oct. 1, 1827		Lawyer	D
William Hall	1775	NC	1856	April 16, 1829		Planter, soldier	D
William Carroll	1788	PA	1844	Oct. 1, 1829		Merchant, soldier	D
Newton Cannon	1781	NC	1841	Oct. 12, 1835		Planter	W
James K. Polk	1795	NC	1849	Oct. 14, 1839		Lawyer	D
James C. Jones	1809	TN	1859	Oct. 15, 1841		Lawyer	W
Aaron V. Brown	1795	VA	1859	Oct. 14, 1845		Lawyer	D
Neill S. Brown	1810	TN	1886	Oct. 17, 1847		Lawyer	W
William Trousdale	1790	NC	1872	Oct. 16, 1849		Lawyer	D
William B. Campbell	1807	TN	1867	Oct. 16, 1851		Lawyer	W
Andrew Johnson	1808	NC	1875	Oct. 17, 1853		Tailor, President	D
Isham G. Harris	1818	TN	1897	Nov. 3, 1857		Lawyer, U.S. Senator	D
#Andrew Johnson	1808	NC	1875	1862		Tailor, President	D
William G. Brownlow	1805	VA	1877	April 5, 1865		Editor, preacher	W-R
DeWitt C. Senter	1830	TN	1898	Feb. 25, 1869		Lawyer	W-R
John C. Brown	1827	TN	1889	Oct. 10, 1871		Lawyer	W-D
James D. Porter	1828	TN	1912	Jan. 18, 1875		Lawyer, educator	D
Albert S. Marks	1836	KY	1891	Feb. 16, 1879		Lawyer, chancellor	D
Alvin Hawkins	1821	KY	1905	Jan. 17, 1881		Lawyer, judge	R
William B. Bate	1826	TN	1905	Jan. 15, 1883		Lawyer, U.S. Senator	D
Robert Love Taylor	1850	TN	1912	Jan. 17, 1887		Lawyer, U.S. Senator	D
John P. Buchanan	1847	TN	1930	Jan. 19, 1891		Farmer	F-L
Peter Turney	1827	TN	1903	Jan. 16, 1893		Lawyer, judge	D
Robert Love Taylor	1850	TN	1912	Jan. 21, 1897		Lawyer, U.S. Senator	D
Benton McMillin	1845	KY	1933	Jan. 16, 1899		Lawyer, diplomat	D
James B. Frazier	1856	TN	1937	Jan. 19, 1903		Lawyer, U.S. Senator	D
John I. Cox	1857	TN	1946	March 21, 1905		Lawyer	D
Malcolm R. Patterson	1861	AL	1935	Jan. 17, 1907		Lawyer, judge	D
Ben W. Hooper	1870	TN	1957	Jan. 26, 1911		Lawyer	R
Tom C. Rye	1863	TN	1953	Jan. 17, 1915		Lawyer, judge	D
A.H. Roberts	1868	TN	1946	Jan. 15, 1919		Lawyer, judge	D
Alfred A. Taylor	1848	TN	1931	Jan. 15, 1921		Lawyer	R
Austin Peay	1876	KY	1927	Jan. 16, 1923		Lawyer	D
Henry H. Horton	1866	AL	1934	Oct. 3, 1927		Lawyer, farmer	D
Hill McAlister	1875	TN	1960	Jan. 17, 1933		Lawyer	D
Gordon Browning	1895	TN	1976	Jan. 15, 1937		Lawyer, judge	D
Prentice Cooper	1895	TN	1969	Jan. 16, 1939		Lawyer	D
Jim McCord	1879	TN	1968	Jan. 16, 1945		Editor	D
Gordon Browning	1895	TN	1976	Jan. 16, 1949		Lawyer, judge	D
Frank G. Clement	1920	TN	1969	Jan. 15, 1953		Lawyer	D
Buford Ellington	1907	MS	1972	Jan. 19, 1959		Farmer	D
Frank G. Clement	1920	TN	1969	Jan. 15, 1963		Lawyer	D
Buford Ellington	1907	MS	1972	Jan. 16, 1967		Farmer	D
Winfield Dunn	1927	MS	Living	Jan. 16, 1971		Dentist	R
Ray Blanton	1930	TN	1996	Jan. 18, 1975		Farmer, businessman	D
Lamar Alexander	1940	TN	Living	Jan. 17, 1979		Lawyer	R
Ned McWherter	1930	TN	Living	Jan. 17, 1987		Businessman	D
Don Sundquist	1936	IL	Living	Jan. 21, 1995		Businessman	R
Phil Bredesen	1943	NY	Living	Jan. 18, 2003		Businessman	D

*Territorial #Military D/Democrat R/Republican W/Whig F-L/Farmer-Labor

Speakers of the Senate

Territory South of the River Ohio, 1790-1796

Griffith Rutherford, President of Legislative Council 1794-1796

State of Tennessee

James Winchester, 1796-97; James White, 1797-98; William Blount, 1798-99; Alexander Outlaw, 1799-1801; James White, 1801-05; Joseph McMinn, 1805-11; Thomas Henderson, 1811-13; Robert C. Foster, 1813-15; Edward Ward, 1815-19; Robert Weakley, 1819-21; Sterling Brewer, 1821-23; Robert Weakley, 1823-25; Robert C. Foster, 1825-27; William Hall, 1827-29; Joel Walker, 1829-31; Burchet Douglas, 1831-33; David Burford, 1833-35; Jonathon Webster, 1835-37; Terry H. Cahal, 1837-39; Thomas Love, 1839; L.H. Coe, 1839-41; Samuel Turney, 1841-43; Josiah M. Anderson, 1843-45; Harvey M. Watterson, 1845-47; Josiah M. Anderson, 1847-49; John F. Henry, 1849-51; M.R. Hill, 1851-53; Edwin Polk, 1853-55; Edward S. Cheatham, 1855-57; John C. Burch, 1857-59; Tazewell W. Newman, 1859-61; B.L. Stovall, 1861-61; Edward S. Cheatham, 1861-62;* Samuel R. Rodgers, 1865; Joshua B. Frierson, 1865-67; DeWitt W.C. Senter, 1867-69; P.P.C. Nelson, 1869; Dorsey B. Thomas, 1869-71; John C. Vaughn, 1871-73; A.T. Lacey, 1873-75; Thomas H. Paine, 1875-77; Hugh M. McAdoo, 1877-79; John R. Neal, 1879-81; George H. Morgan, 1881-83; Benjamin F. Alexander, 1883-85; C.R. Barry, 1885-87; Z.W. Ewing, 1887-89; Benjamin J. Lea, 1889-91; William C. Dismukes, 1891-95; Ernest Pillow, 1895-97; John Thompson, 1897-99; Seid Waddell, 1899-1901; Newton H. White, 1901-03; E.T. Seay, 1903-05; John L. Cox, 1905; Ernest Rice, 1905-07; E.G. Tollett, 1907-09; William Kinney, 1909-11; Nathaniel Baxter, Jr., 1911-13; Newton H. White, 1913-15; Hu C. Anderson, 1915; Albert E. Hill, 1915-17; W.R. Crabtree, 1917-19; Andrew L. Todd, 1919-21; W.W. Bond, 1921-23; Eugene J. Bryan, 1923-25; L.D. Hill, 1925-27; Henry H. Horton, 1927; Sam R. Bratton, 1929-31; Scott Fitzhugh, 1931; A.B. Broadbent, 1931-33; A.F. Officer, 1933-35; William P. Moss, 1935-36; Bryan Pope, 1936-39; Blan R. Maxwell, 1939-43; J.H. Ballew, 1943-45; Larry Morgan, 1945-47; George Oliver Benton, 1947-49; Walter M. Haynes, 1949-53; Jared Maddux, 1953-59; Wm. D. Baird, 1959-62; James L. Bomar, 1963-65; Jared Maddux, 1966-67; Frank Gorrell, 1967-71; John S. Wilder, 1971-2007; Ron Ramsey, 2007-present.

* Upon the fall of Fort Donelson, the Legislature recessed to meet in Memphis on Feb. 20, 1862, where it continued in session for one month. Thereafter no sessions of the Legislature were held until April 3, 1865.

Speakers of the House of Representatives

Territory South of the River Ohio, 1790-1796

David Wilson 1794-1795
Joseph Hardin 1795-1796

State of Tennessee

James Stuart, 1796-99; William Dickson, 1799-1803; James Stuart, 1803-05; Robert C. Foster, 1805-07; John Tipton, 1807-09; Joseph Dickson, 1809-11; John Cocke, 1811-13; Thomas Claiborne, 1813-15; James Fentress, 1815-17; Thomas Williamson, 1817-19; James Fentress, 1819-25; William Brady, 1825-27; John H. Camp, 1827-29; Ephriam H. Foster, 1829-31; Frederick W. Huling, 1831-35; Ephriam H. Foster, 1835-37; John Cocke, 1837-39; Jonas E. Thomas, 1839-41; Burchet Douglas, 1841-42; Franklin Buchanan, 1842-43; Daniel L. Barringer, 1843-45; Brookings Campbell, 1845-47; Franklin Buchanan, 1847-49; Landon C. Haynes, 1849-51; Jordan Stokes, 1851-53; William H. Wisener, 1853-55; Neil S. Brown, 1855-57; Daniel S. Donelson, 1857-59; W.C. Whitthorne, 1859-61; Edwin A. Keeble, 1861-62; William Heiskell, 1865-67; F.S. Richards, 1867-69; William O'Neil Perkins, 1869-71; James D. Richardson, 1871-73; W.S. McGaughey, 1873-75; Lewis Bond, 1875-77; Edwin T. Taliaferro, 1877-79; Henry P. Fowlkes, 1879-81; H.B. Ramsey, 1881-83; W.L. Ledgerwood, 1883-85; James A. Manson, 1885-87; W.L. Clapp, 1887-91; Thomas R. Myers, 1891-93; Ralph Davis, 1893; J.A. Trousdale, 1893-95; John A. Tipton, 1895-97; Morgan C. Fitzpatrick, 1897-99; Joseph W. Bryns, 1899-1901; E.B. Wilson, 1901-03; Lawrence Davis Tyson, 1903-05; Will Kendall Abernathy, 1905-07; John T. Cunningham, Jr., 1907-09; M. Hillsman Taylor, 1909-11; A.M. Leach, 1911-13; W.M. Stanton, 1913-15; William P. Cooper, 1915-17; Clyde Shropshire, 1917-19; Seth M. Walker, 1919-21; Andrew L. Todd, 1921-23; Frank S. Hall, 1923-25; W.F. Barry, Jr., 1925-27; Selden Maiden, 1927-29; Charles H. Love, 1929-31; Walter M. Haynes, 1931-33; Frank W. Moore, 1933-35; Walter M. Haynes, 1935-39; John Ed O'Dell, 1939-43; James J. Broome, 1943-45; George Woods, 1945-47; W. Buford Lewallen, 1947-49; McAllen Foutch, 1949-53; James L. Bomar, 1953-63; William L. Barry, 1963-67; James Cummings, 1967-69; William L. Jenkins, 1969-71; James McKinney, 1971-73; Ned R. McWherter, 1973-87; Ed Murray, 1987-91; James O. Naifeh, 1991-present.

Secretaries of State

Territory South of the River Ohio, 1790-1796

Daniel Smith, Territorial Secretary 1792-1796

State of Tennessee

William Maclin, 1796-1807; Robert Houston, 1807-11; W.G. Blount, 1811-15; William Alexander, 1815-18; Daniel Graham, 1818-30; Thomas H. Fletcher, 1830-32; Samuel G. Smith, 1831-35; Luke Lea, 1835-39; John S. Young, 1839-47; W.B.A. Ramsey, 1847-55; F.N.W. Burton, 1855-59; J.F.R. Ray, 1859-62; Edward H. East, 1862-65;* A.J. Fletcher, 1865-70; T.H. Butler, 1870-73; Charles N. Gibbs, 1873-81; David A. Nunn, 1881-85; John Allison, 1885-89; Charles A. Miller, 1889-93; William S. Morgan, 1893-1901; John W. Morton, 1901-09; Hallum W. Goodloe, 1909-13; R.R. Sneed, 1913-17; Ike B. Stevens, 1917-21; Ernest N. Haston, 1921-37; A.B. Broadbent; 1937-41; Joe C. Carr, 1941-44; Mrs. Joe C. Carr, 1944-45; Joe C. Carr, 1945-49; James H. Cummings, 1949-53; G. Edward Friar, 1953-57; Joe C. Carr, 1957-77; Gentry Crowell, 1977-89; Milton P. Rice, 1989-90; Bryant Millsaps, 1990-93; Riley C. Darnell; 1993-present.

* Edward H. East was appointed by Andrew Johnson, military governor of Tennessee.

Comptrollers of the Treasury

Daniel Graham, 1836-43; Felix K. Zollicoffer, 1843-49; B.H. Sheppard, 1849-51; Arthur R. Crozier, 1851-55; James C. Luttrell, 1855-57; James T. Dunlap, 1857-61; Joseph S. Foster, 1861-65;* S.E. Hackett, 1865-66; G.W. Blackburn, 1866-70; E.R. Pennebaker, 1870-73; W.W. Hobbs, January-May 1873; John C. Burch, 1873-75; James L. Gaines, 1875-81; James N. Nolan, 1881-83; P.P. Pickard, 1883-89; J.W. Allen, 1889-93; James A. Harris, 1893-99; Theo F. King, 1899-1904; Frank Dibrell, 1904-13; George P. Woollen, 1913-15; J. B. Thompson, 1915-23; Edgar J. Graham, 1923-31; Roy C. Wallace, 1931-37; John W. Britton, 1937-38; Marshall F. Priest, 1938-39; Robert W. Lowe, 1939-45; Jared Maddux, January-April 1945; Sam K. Carson, April 1945-46; Jared Maddux, 1946-49; Cedric Hunt, 1949-53; Jeanne S. Bodfish, 1953-55; William R. Snodgrass, 1955-99; John G. Morgan, 1999-present.

* *J.R. Dillon was elected April 25, 1865, but being a member of the General Assembly, he could not serve.*

Treasurers

Miller Francis, 1836-43; Matthew Nelson, 1843-45; Robert B. Turner, 1845-47; Anthony Dibrell, 1847-55; G.C. Torbett, 1855-57; W.Z. McGregor, 1857-59; R.L. Standford, 1865-66; John R. Henry, 1866-68; W.H. Stilwell, 1868-69; J.E. Rust, 1869-71; William Morrow, 1871-77; M.T. Polk, 1877-83; Atha Thomas, 1883-85; J.W. Thomas, 1885-86; Atha Thomas, 1886-89; M.F. House, 1889-93; E.B. Craig, 1893-1901; Reau Folk 1901-11; G.T. Taylor, 1911-13; W.P. Hickerson, 1913-15; Porter Dunlap, 1915-19; Hill McAlister, 1919-27; John F. Nolan, 1927-31; Hill McAlister, 1931-33; James J. Bean, 1933-37; Grover Keaton, 1937-39; John W. Harton, 1939-45; Cecil C. Wallace, 1945-48; J. Floyd Murrey, 1948-49; W.N. Estes, 1949-53; J.B. Walker, Sr., 1953-55; Ramon Davis, 1955-63; James H. Alexander, 1963-64; Nobel Caudill, June-October 1964; James H. Alexander, 1964-67; Charlie Worley, 1967-71; Thomas A. Wiseman, 1971-74; Harlan Mathews, 1974-87; Steve Adams, 1987-2003; Dale Sims, 2003-present.

Adjutants General

James C. Maclin, 1797-02; William Maclin, IV, 1802-07; George Wilson, 1807-11; John Williams, 1811-14; Anew Hynes (resigned), 1814-16; Rufus Morgan, 1816-19; Samuel Houston, 1819-22; George Gibbs, 1822-27; John McGregor, 1827-31; George W. Terrell, 1831-33; Gideon J. Pillow, 1833-35; Thomas J. Porter, 1835-37; Richard G. Dunlap, acting AG *pro tem.* May-July 1836; William W. Woodfolk, 1837-39; William Moore, 1840-41; Felix K. Zollicoffer, 1841-43; Neill S. Brown, 1843-45; Robert B. Turner, 1845-47; George W. Gordon, 1847-49; Edward W. Hickman, 1849-51; Lucius J. Polk, 1851-53; Granville P. Smith, 1853-55; Samuel P. Allison, 1855-58; Hunter Nicholson, 1858-60; James W. McHenry, 1860-61; W.C. Whithorne (followed Harris government), 1861-62; Alvin C. Gillem (under military governor), 1862-65; James P. Brownlow, 1865-67; Samuel Hunt, July-October 1867; Daniel T. Boynton, 1867-69; Frank Hyberger, 1869-71; John S. Wilkes, 1871-75; W.R. Hamby, 1875-77; Charles D. Porter, 1877-79; Walter W. Estill, 1879-81; Earnest Hawkins, 1881-83; R.W. Cantrell, 1883-87; James P. Taylor (resigned), 1887-88; Laps D. McCord (resigned), 1888-91; M.M. Hope, January 14-18, 1891; H.H. Norman, 1891-93; John A. Fite, 1893-95; Charles Sykes, 1895-99; Horton C. Lamb (resigned), 1899-1900; W.M. Brandon, 1900-03; Harvey H. Hannah, 1903-07; Harvey C. Alexander, 1907; Tully Brown, 1907-11; Frank Maloney, 1911-15; Charles B. Rogan (resigned), 1915-17; Allison G. Buckner, 1917-19; E.B. Sweeney, 1919-21; P.I. Brumit, 1921-23; William Caswell Boyd, 1923-33; Wirt Courtney (resigned), January 7-27, 1933; H.H. Ballew, 1933-37; Raymond O. Smith, 1937-39; Thomas A. Frazier, 1939-45; George Hilton Butler, acting, May-June 1945; Rufus E. Fort, Jr. (resigned), June-December 1945; George Hilton Butler, 1946-49; Carl A. Anderson (resigned), 1949-50; Sam T. Wallace, 1950-53; Joe W. Henry, Jr., 1953-59; George Hilton Butler, 1959-61; Van D. Nunally, Jr., 1961-67; Robert W. Akin, Jr., 1967-68; Hugh B. Mott, 1968-71; William C. Smith, 1971-75; Carl D. Wallace, 1975-91; Jerry R. Wyatt, 1991-93; William B. Jones, 1993-95; Jackie D. Wood, 1995-2002; Gus L. Hargett, 2002-present.

Attorneys General and Reporters

George T. Yerger, 1831-39; Return J. Meigs, 39; West H. Humphreys, 1839-51; W.G. Swan, 1851-54; John L.T. Sneed, 1854-59; John W. Head, 1859-62;* Thomas M. Coldwell, 1865-70; Joseph B. Heiskell, 1870-78; Benjamin J. Lea, 1878-86; George W. Pickle, 1886-1902; Charles T. Cates, Jr., 1902-13; Frank M. Thompson, 1913-26 (Frank M. Thompson died in 1926, and Charles L. Cornelius was appointed to finish the unexpired term of approximately three months); L.D. Smith, 1926-32; Roy H. Beeler, 1932-54; George F. McCannless, 1954 to September 1969; David M. Pack, September 1969-May 7; Milton P. Rice, May-September 1974; R.A. Ashley, Jr., September 1974-October 1976; Brooks McLemore, October 1976-July 1978; William M. Leech, Jr., July 1978-July 1984; W.J. Michael Cody, July 1984-September 1988; Charles W. Burson, October 1988-February 1997; John Knox Walkup, February 1997-January 1999; Paul G. Summers, January 1999-2006; Robert E. Cooper Jr., 2006-present.

* *During the War between the States, civil government was suspended in Tennessee, and the office was vacant.*