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A LINCOLN POLITICAL CALENDAR

In August 1831, Abraham Lincoln cast his first vote. This event might be called his introduction into politics as he immediately began to take more than a casual interest in the political activities of the state. On this one hundredth anniversary of his initial recognition of his franchise, it seems timely to trace the outstanding events in his political career which led up to his nomination for the presidency of the United States.

The addresses, which Lincoln made in the Illinois Legislature, and United States Congress, are not listed in this calendar.

The compiler of this chronological summary realizes how incomplete it is, and invites suggestions as to other places Lincoln may have delivered political speeches up to the time of his nomination. The editor wishes to acknowledge his obligation to the Abraham Lincoln Association for information secured in its publications under the title "Day by Day Activities of Abraham Lincoln."

1831

August 1. Served as clerk of the election. Cast his first vote.

1832

March. Public announcement of his candidacy.

March 9. First address as a candidate for representative in the general assembly of Illinois.

August 6. Defeated for the office of Representative.

September 20. Served as clerk of election.

1833

May 7. Appointed postmaster of New Salem, Illinois.

1834

January. Appointed as a deputy surveyor of Sangamon County.

August. Elected as one of the four assemblymen from Sangamon County.

1836

June 13. Announcement of political views in Sangamon Journal.

August. Re-elected to Legislature.

December 5. Lincoln became Whig floor leader at opening session of General Assembly.

1837

January 27. Address at Springfield.

1838

August. Re-elected to Legislature.

1840

August. Re-elected to the Legislature.

Campaigned as an elector for Harrison.

1844

Campaigned as an elector for Clay. October. Addresses at Bruceville, Indiana, Vincennes, Washington, Boonville, Gentryville, Rockport, and other points in southern Indiana.

1846

August. Elected a Representative to the Congress of the United States.

1847

December 6. Takes his seat in the Thirtieth Congress.

1848

September 12, address at Worcester, Mass.; 15, Washington Hall, Boston; 16, Lowell; 18, Dorchester; 19, Chelsea; 20, Dedham; 20, Cambridge; 21, Tremont Temple, Boston.

1849

September. Declined appointment as Secretary of Oregon.

1852

July 16. Pronounces eulogy at Springfield on Henry Clay.

1854

June 14. Introduces Ex-president Filmore upon his visit to Springfield.

August 26. First address on Nebraska Bill and Missouri Compromise at Winchester.

August 28. Address at Carrolton.

September 2. Address at Jacksonville.

September 4. Announces as a candidate for the State Legislature.

September 9. Address at Springfield; 12, Bloomington; 26, Bloomington.

October 4, address at Springfield; 16, Peoria; 24, Urbana; 27, North Market Hall, Chicago.

November 1. Address at Kendall Hall, Quincy.

November 7. Elected to the Legislature of Illinois.

1855

February 8. Defeated for United States Senator by vote of the Illinois Legislature.

1856

February 22. Toast offered to him as "Candidate for Governor," in political banquet at Decatur.

May 28. Address at Bloomington convention.

May 29. Nominated as presidential elector.

June 10. Address at Springfield, Ill.

June 19. Received 110 votes for Vice-President at the first National Republican Convention but does not receive the nomination.

June 23. Address at Urbana, Ill.

July 4, address at Princeton; 17, Dixon; 18, Sterling; 19, Dearborn Park, Chicago; 23, Galena.

August 2, address at Springfield; 6, Paris; 7, Grand View; 8, Charleston; 9, Shelbyville; 16, Oregon, Ill.; 27, Kalamazoo, Mich.; 30, Petersburg, Ill.

September 1, address at Lincoln; 4, Atlanta; 6, Jacksonville, Springfield; 8, Springfield; 12, Bloomington; 16, Bloomington; 17, Urbana; 23, Vandalia; 24, Decatur; 25, Springfield; 30, Lacon.

October 2, address at Alton; 7, Ottowa; 8, Joliet; 9, Peoria; 13, Clinton; 18, Bellville; 20, Urbana; 21, West Urbana; 23, Atlanta; 29, Springfield; 31, Springfield.

November 1. Address at Jacksonville.

1858

June 16. State Republican Convention at Springfield nominates Lincoln as candidate for United States Senate. He delivers the "House Divided" speech.

July 10, address at Tremont House, Chicago; 17, Springfield, Ill.

July 24. Challenges Douglas to a series of debates.

July 27. Address at Clinton.

August 12, address at Beardstown; 14, Havanah; 16, Bath; 17, Lewistown; 19, Peoria; 20, Ottowa (first joint debate); 23, Henry; 24, Galesburg; 25, Augusta, Macomb; 26, Amboy; 27, Freeport (second joint debate); 28, El Paso; 30, Fremont; 31, Carlinville.

September 2, address at Clinton; 4, Bloomington; 6, Monticello; 7, Mattoon, Paris; 9, Hillsboro; 11, Edwardsville, Highland; 13, Greenville; 15, Jonesboro (third joint debate); 18, Charleston (fourth joint debate); 20, Sullivan; 21, Danville; 22, Danville; 24, Urbana; 27, Jacksonville; 28, Winchester; 29, Winchester.

October 1, address at Pittsburg; 4, Matamora; 5, Pekin; 7, Galesburg (fifth joint debate); 9, Oquawka, Ill.; 9, Burlington, Iowa; 11, Monmouth; 13, Quincy (sixth joint debate); 15, Alton (last joint debate); 16, Lincoln; 20, Rushville; 22, Carthage; 24, Macomb; 27, Vermont; 29, Petersburg; 30, Springfield.

November 1. Address at Decatur.

November 2. Defeated for Congressman.

1859

March 1. Address at Republican Headquarters, Chicago.

August 13. Address at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

September 16, two addresses at Columbus, Ohio; 17, Dayton; 17, Hamilton; 17, Cincinnati; 19, Indianapolis.

October 1, address at Beloit; 1, Janesville; 15, Springfield; 27, Springfield.

November 4. Address at Mechanicsburg.

December 1, address at Elwood, Kansas; 2, Troy; 2, Doniphan; 2, Atchinson; 3, Leavensworth; 5, Leavensworth.

1860

February 1, address at Springfield; 27, Cooper Institute, New York; 28, Railroad Hall, Providence, R. I.

March 1, address at Phenix Hall; Concord, N. H.; 1, Smyth's Hall, Manchester, N. H.; 2, City Hall, Dover, N. H.; 3, Town Hall, Exeter, N. H.; 5, City Hall, Hartford, Conn.; 6, Union Hall, New Haven, Conn.; 7, Meriden, Conn.; 8, Harris Hall, Woonsocket, R. I.; 9, Town Hall, Norwich, Conn.; 10, Bridgeport, Conn.

April 2, address at Waukegan, Ill.; 4, Evanston; 10, Bloomington.

May 9. Address at State Republican Convention, Decatur, Ill.

May 10. Illinois Convention instructs its delegates for Lincoln for President.

May 18. Nominated for President at the Republican Convention at Chicago.