



Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson
Office of Communications

2021 Bicentennial Inauguration of Michael L. Parson 57th Governor of the State of Missouri

On **Monday, January 11, 2021**, Governor Michael L. Parson will be sworn in as the 57th Governor of the State of Missouri at the 2021 Bicentennial Inauguration.

Governor Michael L. Parson

Governor Parson is a veteran who served six years in the United States Army. He served more than 22 years in law enforcement, including 12 years as the sheriff of Polk County. He also served in the Missouri House of Representatives from 2005-2011, in the Missouri Senate from 2011-2017, and as Lieutenant Governor from 2017-2018.

Governor Parson and First Lady Teresa live in Bolivar. Together they have two children and six grandchildren. Governor Parson was raised on a farm in Hickory County and graduated from Wheatland High School in Wheatland, Missouri. He is a small business owner and a third generation farmer who currently owns and operates a cow and calf operation. Governor Parson has a passion for sports, agriculture, Christ, and people.

Health and Safety Protocols

State and local health officials have been consulted for guidance to protect attendees, participants, and staff on safely hosting this year's inaugural celebration. All inauguration guests will go through a health and security screening prior to entry. Inaugural events will be socially distanced, masks will be available and encouraged, and hand sanitizer will be provided. Guests were highly encouraged to RSVP in advance of the event in order to ensure that seating can be modified to support social distancing standards.

A livestream of the ceremony will be available on the Governor's [Facebook page](#) and [mo.gov/live](https://www.mo.gov/live) for those who are not able to attend in person.



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Honorable Guests

- Members of the First Family
 - Daughter Stephanie House and husband Dr. Jonathan House
 - Son Kelly Parson and wife Tara Parson
 - Grandchildren Alicia House, David House, Michaela House, Ben House, Isabella House, and Sophie Parson
 - Kent and Tracy Parson
 - Ike Parson
 - Brent and Vesta Seiner
 - Rocky and Patsy Seiner
- Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe, Second Lady Claudia Kehoe, and family
- Secretary of State John R. (Jay) Ashcroft, wife Katie Ashcroft, and family
- State Auditor Nicole Galloway, husband Jon Galloway, and family
- State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick, wife Mallory Fitzpatrick, and family
- Attorney General Eric Schmitt, wife Jaime Schmitt, and family
- Former Governor John Ashcroft and First Lady Janet Ashcroft
- Former Governor Jeremiah “Jay” Nixon and First Lady Georganne Nixon
- Former Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder
- Members of the Executive Cabinet
 - Office of Administration Commissioner Sarah Steelman
 - Department of Agriculture Director Chris Chinn
 - Department of Conservation Director Sara Parker Pauley



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- Department of Corrections Director Anne Precythe
- Department of Economic Development Director Rob Dixon
- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Margie Vandeven
- Department of Health and Senior Services Dr. Randall Williams
- Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development Commissioner Zora Mulligan
- Department of Commerce and Insurance Director Chlora Lindley-Myers
- Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Director Anna Hui
- Department of Mental Health Director Mark Stringer
- Department of Natural Resources Director Carol Comer
- Department of Public Safety Director Sandy Karsten
- Department of Revenue Director Ken Zellers
- Department of Social Services Acting Director Jennifer Tidball
- Department of Transportation Director Patrick McKenna
- The Adjutant General of the Missouri National Guard Major General Levon Cumpton
- Superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Colonel Eric Olsen
- Missouri State Fire Marshal Tim Bean
- MO HealthNet Director Todd Richardson
- Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice George W. Draper III
- Missouri Supreme Court Judge Mary R. Russell
- Missouri Supreme Court Judge W. Brent Powell
- Missouri Supreme Court Judge Patricia Breckenridge



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- Congresswoman Ann Wagner
- Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler
- Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer
- Congressman Jason Smith
- Congressman Billy Long
- Bicentennial Inaugural Steering Committee

Inauguration Ceremony

History of Missouri's Bicentennial – Gary R. Kremer, State Historical Society of Missouri

Musical Selections – 135th Missouri Army National Guard Band and Missouri State University Chorale

Invocation – Dr. Ray Leininger, Pastor Emeritus, First Baptist Church in Bolivar

National Anthem – Alicia House, Granddaughter of Governor Parson, and Dr. Jonathan House, Son-in-Law of Governor Parson

Pledge of Allegiance – John Sanders, Former JAG Student and Current Missouri S&T Student

Scripture Readings – Rabbi Yosef David and Pastor John Modest Miles, Morning Star Baptist Church in Kansas City

Nineteen Gun Salute – Missouri National Guard

Inaugural Address – Governor Michael L. Parson, “Missouri Shines On”

Benediction – The Most Reverend Bishop Shawn McKnight

Special Salute to Missouri: The 24th State



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Oaths of Office
Governor Michael L. Parson

Governor Parson’s oath of office was administered by **Judge Sarah A. Castle**. Judge Castle was appointed by Governor Parson as Circuit Judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit on October 20, 2020. At the time of her appointment, Judge Castle was serving as Associate Circuit Judge of Division 27, having been appointed by the Governor to the bench on January 29, 2020. Judge Castle is the only judge to be appointed twice by Governor Parson. Previously, Judge Castle served as an Assistant Prosecutor in the Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office, a position she had held since 2013. Prior to that, Judge Castle served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office where she assisted in the prosecution of criminal cases specifically related to the illegal possession of firearms.

Judge Castle grew up in Denver, Colorado. She attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she earned a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in political science with an emphasis in civic leadership and disability studies. She obtained a Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School in 2012.

Judge Castle was a member of the USA Women’s Basketball Team from 2005 – 2012, during which she and her teammates won a gold medal at the 2008 Paralympics in China and finished fourth at the 2012 Paralympics in London. Also a swimmer, Judge Castle won a silver medal in 2000 in the 100 meter breaststroke at the Paralympics in Australia and finished fourth at the 2004 Paralympics in Greece.

Judge Castle enjoys volunteering for community organizations and is a member of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and the Association of Women Lawyers.

Oaths of Office
Statewide Elected Officials

Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe – Oath of office administered by Mary Russell, Missouri Supreme Court Judge

Secretary of State John R. (Jay) Ashcroft – Oath of office administered by Jon Beetem, Presiding Circuit Judge for the 19th Judicial Circuit

State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick – Oath of administered by Johnnie Cox, Associate Circuit Judge for the 39th Judicial Circuit

Attorney General Eric Schmitt – Oath of office administered by Thomas Albus, Circuit Judge for the 21st Judicial Circuit