



Harry L. Davis

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

Republican Harry Lyman Davis (1878-1950) was Ohio's 49th Governor, serving from 1921 to 1923. He also served as Cleveland's treasurer and twice as Cleveland's mayor. As mayor of Cleveland during World War I, he helped mobilize local efforts to support the war effort overseas and led the city through the First Red Scare and the May Day Riots of 1919. Davis served only one term as governor, during which the Administrative Reorganization Code of 1921 was passed. This led to a smaller and more efficient state government as well as increased power for the governor who was now able to appoint directors for eight administrative departments. After his term ended in 1923, Davis established the Harry L. Davis Insurance Company in Cleveland. He died of a sudden blood clot in 1950 and is buried in Cleveland's Lake View Cemetery.

Important Dates

- January 25, 1878: Harry Lyman Davis is born to Evan and Barbara Jones Davis in Cleveland, Ohio.
- 1909-1911: Davis serves as treasurer of Cleveland.
- 1915-1920: Davis serves as Cleveland's 38th mayor.
- 1917: Davis establishes the Mayor's Advisory War Committee to aid the U.S. effort in World War I.
- May 1, 1919: May Day Riots in Cleveland.
- June 2, 1919: The Davis home is bombed by radical anarchists/communists.
- January 10, 1921-January 8, 1923: Davis serves as the 49th Governor of Ohio.
- April 1921: The Administrative Reorganization Code of 1921 is signed into law.
- 1924: Davis runs for governor against incumbent A. Victor Donahey and loses.
- 1933-1935: Davis serves as Cleveland's 44th mayor.
- May 21, 1950: Davis passes away in Cleveland, Ohio.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Search the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), as phrases or in proximity: Harry Davis, Governor Davis, Davis, mayor, Cleveland, election, bomb, Ohio.
- Use date limits to find information about specific events or legislation.
- When searching newspapers outside Ohio, include "Ohio" or "Cleveland" as a search term. Harry Davis is a common name.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["Republicans Elect Mayor"](#) *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), November 4, 1915, Image 5, col. 3.
- ["Ten-Round Boxing Matches Prove Great Success in Ohio"](#) *Chattanooga News* (Chattanooga, TN), January 10, 1919, Image 14, col. 6-7.
- ["A 'Success' Story"](#) *Toiler* (Cleveland, OH), March 19, 1920, Image 3, col. 1-2.
- ["Harry L. Davis Splendidly Fitted for Governorship"](#) *Fulton County Tribune* (Wauseon, OH), October 22, 1920, Image 9, col. 6-7.
- ["Harry Davis is Made Governor"](#) *Democratic Banner* (Mt. Vernon, OH), January 11, 1921, Image 1, col. 1-4.
- ["A History Making State Event"](#) *Fulton County Tribune* (Wauseon, OH), May 12, 1921, Image 10, col. 2-4.