



## James M. Cox

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

### Introduction

Democrat James Middleton Cox was Ohio's 46th and 48th Governor, serving from 1913 to 1915 and from 1917 to 1921. Cox also served as a United States Representative for Ohio's 3rd District from 1909 to 1913. Committed to progressive reforms, he instituted a number of changes during his first term as Governor of Ohio including the adoption of a direct primary law and several acts of humanitarian legislation. He lost his bid for re-election in 1914, but defeated Republican incumbent Frank B. Willis in 1916. In 1920, James M. Cox secured the Democratic Party nomination for President (Franklin D. Roosevelt was his running mate), but lost to fellow Ohioan, Warren G. Harding. In addition to his political activities, Cox was a newspaperman who established Cox Enterprises, Inc. in 1898 with his purchase of the Dayton Evening News. He remained active in the mass media world until his death in 1957.

### Important Dates

- March 31, 1870: James Middleton Cox is born in Jacksonburg, Ohio.
- March 4, 1909 – January 12, 1913: Cox represents Ohio in U.S. House of Representatives.
- January 13, 1913: Cox inaugurated as the 46<sup>th</sup> Governor of Ohio.
- 1914: Cox works with the state legislature to institutes a series of reforms.
- January 11, 1915: Frank B. Willis inaugurated as the 47<sup>th</sup> Governor of Ohio.
- January 8, 1917: Cox inaugurated as the 48<sup>th</sup> Governor of Ohio.
- June 28 – July 6, 1920: The 1920 Democratic National Convention nominates Cox for U.S. President.
- November 2, 1920: Cox loses to Warren G. Harding in the U.S. Presidential Election.
- January 10, 1921: Cox's term as governor of Ohio ends.
- July 15, 1957: Cox passes away in Kettering, Ohio.

### Suggested Search Strategies

- Search the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), as phrases or in proximity: James Cox, Governor Cox, Cox, congressman, congress, vote, election, prison, legislation, labor.
- Use date limits to find information about specific events or legislation.

### Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["Cox Endorsed By Democrats"](#) *Marion Daily Mirror* (Marion, OH), December 31, 1910, Image 1, col. 7.
- ["How Fame and Fortune Came to Poor Ohio Boy"](#) *Democratic Banner* (Mt. Vernon, OH), April 16, 1912, Image 4, col. 2-4.
- ["Now Before the Solons"](#) *Democratic Banner* (Mt. Vernon, OH), February 14, 1913, Image 1, col. 7.
- ["Ohio Czar Has Spoken"](#) *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), February 13, 1914, Image 1, col. 2.
- ["Gov. Cox Fails to Put O-K on Bills"](#) *Mahoning Dispatch* (Canfield, OH), April 6, 1917, Image 1, col. 1.
- ["Governor Cox is Nominated"](#) *Democratic Banner* (Mt. Vernon, OH), July 6, 1920, Image 1.
- ["Gov. Jas. M. Cox For President"](#) *North Platte Semi-Weekly Tribune* (North Platte, NE), October 29, 1920, Image 14.
- ["Cox Is Revealed As Poor Loser; Clings to West"](#) *New York Tribune* (New York, NY), November 3, 1920, Image 3, col. 4-5.