

BLACK OFFICEHOLDERS IN THE SOUTH

The following seven tables provide information about the numbers of African American officeholders in the South during Reconstruction and the backgrounds of those officeholders.¹

TABLE 1 Black Officeholders during Reconstruction by State

Alabama	173
Arkansas	46
District of Columbia	11
Florida	58
Georgia	135
Louisiana	210
Mississippi	226
Missouri	1
North Carolina	187
South Carolina	316
Tennessee	20
Texas	49
Virginia	85
Total	1,510*

* Historians estimate the total number of black officeholders is closer to 2,000, but these numbers reflect only those for whom definite records exist.

TABLE 2 Black Officeholders during Reconstruction: Federal

Ambassador	2
Census Marshal	6
Census Taker	14
Clerk	12
Congressman: Senate	2
Congressman: House of Representatives	14
Customs Appointment	40
Deputy US Marshal	11
Engineer	1
Mail Agent	14
Pension Agent	1
Postmaster / Post Office Official	43
Register of Bankruptcy	1
Timber Agent	1
US Assessor	10
US Grand jury	3
US Land Office	5
US Treasury Agent	3
Unidentified Patronage Appointment	2

TABLE 3 Black Members of Congress during Reconstruction

<p>Alabama Jeremiah Haralson James T. Rapier Benjamin S. Turner</p> <p>Florida Josiah T. Walls</p> <p>Georgia Jefferson Long</p>	<p>Louisiana Charles E. Nash</p> <p>Mississippi Blanche K. Bruce* John R. Lynch Hiram Revels*</p> <p>North Carolina John A. Hyman</p>	<p>South Carolina Richard H. Cain Robert C. DeLarge Robert B. Elliott Joseph H. Rainey Alonzo J. Ransier Robert Smalls</p>
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* = Served in US Senate

¹ All data adopted from Eric Foner, *Freedom's Lawmakers: A Directory of Black Officeholders during Reconstruction*, revised ed. (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1996), xi–xxxii.

TABLE 4 Black Officeholders during Reconstruction: State

Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture	1
Assistant Secretary of State	3
Assistant Superintendent of Education	2
Board of Education	1
Constitutional Convention 1867–69: Delegate	267
Constitutional Convention 1875: Delegate (North Carolina)	7
Deaf and Dumb Asylum, Superintendent	1
Governor	1
Justice of Supreme Court	1
Land Commission, including County Agents (South Carolina)	10
Legislative Clerk	7
Legislator: House of Representatives	683
Legislator: Senate	112
Lieutenant Governor	6
Lunatic Asylum, Assistant Physician	1
Lunatic Asylum, Board of Regents	7
Militia Officer	60
Orphan Asylum, Board of Trustees	6
Secretary of State	9
Speaker of House	4
State Commissioner	5
Superintendent of Education	4
Treasurer	2

TABLE 5 Major Black State Officials during Reconstruction

<p>Governor <i>Louisiana</i> P. B. S. Pinchback</p> <p>Lieutenant Governor <i>Louisiana</i> Caesar C. Antoine Oscar J. Dunn P. B. S. Pinchback <i>Mississippi</i> Alexander K. Davis <i>South Carolina</i> Richard H. Cleaves Alonzo J. Ransier</p> <p>Treasurer <i>Louisiana</i> Antoine Dubuclet <i>South Carolina</i> Francis L. Cardozo</p>	<p>Superintendent of Education <i>Arkansas</i> Joseph C. Corbin <i>Florida</i> Jonathan C. Gibbs <i>Louisiana</i> William G. Brown <i>Mississippi</i> Thomas C. Cardozo</p> <p>Speaker of the House <i>Mississippi</i> John R. Lynch Isaac D. Shadd <i>South Carolina</i> Robert B. Elliott Samuel J. Lee</p>	<p>Secretary of State <i>Florida</i> Jonathan C. Gibbs <i>Louisiana</i> Pierre G. Deslonde <i>Mississippi</i> Hannibal C. Carter James Hill James Lynch M. M. McLeod Hiram Revels <i>South Carolina</i> Francis L. Cardozo Henry E. Hayne</p>	<p>Supreme Court <i>South Carolina</i> Jonathan J. Wright</p> <p>State Commissioner <i>Arkansas</i> William H. Grey, Commr. of Immigration and State Lands James T. White, Commr. of Public Works <i>Mississippi</i> Richard Griggs, Commr. of Immigration and Agriculture <i>South Carolina</i> Robert G. DeLarge, Land Commr. Henry E. Hayne, Land Commr.</p>
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TABLE 6 Black Officeholders during Reconstruction: County or Local

Assessor	32	Harbor Master	3
Auditor	7	Health Officer	1
Board of Education	79	Inspector	10
Board of Health	1	Jailor	9
Chancery Clerk	1	Judge	11
Charitable Institutions, Supervisor of	1	Jury Commissioner	1
City Attorney	1	Justice of the Peace or Magistrate	232
City Clerk	1	Lumber Measurer	1
City Council	146	Mayor	5
City Marshal	7	Notary Public	5
City Office (unidentified)	3	Ordinary	3
City Public Works Commissioner	2	Overseer of Poor	7
Claims Commissioner	1	Overseer of Roads	1
Clerk	12	Park Commission	1
Clerk of Court	24	Police Officer	71
Clerk of Market	2	Recorder	9
Constable	41	Register of Bankruptcy	1
Coroner	33	Register of Deeds	2
County Attorney	1	Register of Mesne Conveyances	1
County Clerk	2	Registrar	116
County Commissioner*	113	Sheriff	41
County Superintendent of Schools	14	Solicitor	1
County Treasurer	17	Street Commissioner	5
Deputy Sheriff	25	Streetcar Commissioner	1
Detective	2	Tax Collector	35
District Attorney	1	Trustee	2
District Clerk	1	Warden	4
Election Official	52	Weigher	4

TABLE 7 Antebellum Status of Black Officeholders during Reconstruction

State	Slave	Free	Both	Unknown
Alabama	42	9	8	114
Arkansas	12	5	3	26
Florida	15	8	2	32
District of Columbia	0	6	2	3
Georgia	20	15	5	95
Louisiana	33	81	2	93
Mississippi	59	28	6	131
Missouri	0	0	1	0
North Carolina	22	34	3	126
South Carolina	131	88	5	91
Tennessee	4	7	2	7
Texas	28	6	4	11
Virginia	21	40	12	12
Total	387	327	54	741