

The list of Athenian archons and the leading families of the Archaic Athens

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- ▶ Legendary kings - allegedly the family members of the Medontids;
- ▶ Lifelong archons - allegedly the family members of the Medontids;
- ▶ Ten year archons - the members of different families;
- ▶ The beginning of the list of annual archons is dated to 684/3 (all dates are BC) - the members of different families;
- ▶ the list of the annual archons was composed around 425.



Ο	Ν	Ε	Τ	Ο	Ρ	Ι	Δ	Ε	Σ	527/6		
Η	Ι	Π	Π	Ι	Α	Σ				526/5		
Κ	Λ	Ε	Ι	Σ	Θ	Ε	Ν	Ε	Σ	525/4		
Μ	Ι	Λ	Τ	Ι	Α	Δ	Ε	Σ		524/3		
Κ	Α	Λ	Λ	Ι	Α	Δ	Ε	Σ		523/2		
Π	Ε	Ι	Σ	Ι	Σ	Τ	Ρ	Α	Τ	Ο	Σ	522/1

Athenian Archon List, 527/6-522/1 BCE

A fragment of the eponymous archon list has been preserved on stone.

The annual archaic archons with identifiable family background until the 1st tyranny of Peisistratos (684/3 - ca. 561/0)

- ▶ 684/3 - Kreon, family unknown;
- ▶ 682/1 - Lysiades, family unknown;
- ▶ 680/79 - Tlesias, family unknown;
- ▶ 671/0 - Leostratos, family unknown;
- ▶ 669/8 - Peisistratos - a Peisistratid;
- ▶ 668/7 - Autosthenes, family unknown;
- ▶ 664/3, 659/8 - Miltiades - a Philaid;
- ▶ 645/4 - Dropides - a Medontid;
- ▶ 639/8 - Damasias, family unknown;
- ▶ 636/5 - Epainetos (*basileus*), family unknown;
- ▶ 632/1 - Megakles - an Alkmeonid;
- ▶ 621/0 - Aristaichmos, Drakon (*thesmothetes*), both family unknown;
- ▶ 615/4 - Heniochides, family unknown;
- ▶ 607/6 - Phrynon (*strategos*), family unknown;
- ▶ 605/4 - Aristokles- supposedly a Medontid;
- ▶ 600/599 - Kritias, Solon (*strategos*) - Medontidai ;
- ▶ 597/6 - Kypselos - a Philaid;
- ▶ 596/5 - Telekles or Telekleides, Nikias (envoy);
- ▶ 595/4 - Philombrotos, family unknown;
- ▶ 594/3 - Solon - a Medontid;
- ▶ 593/2 - Dropides - a Medontid;
- ▶ 591/0 - Eukrates, family unknown;
- ▶ 591/0 - Simon, Alkmeon (*strategos*) - an Alkmeonid;
- ▶ 588/7 - Philippos, family unknown;
- ▶ 582/1, 581/0, 580/79 - Damasias, family unknown;
- ▶ 577/6 - Arcestratides, family unknown;
- ▶ 570/69 - Aristomenes, family unknown;
- ▶ 566/5 - Hippokleides (archon)- a Philaid, Krates, Thasykles, Aristodikos, Bryson, Antenor (all *hieropoioi*), Kinesias (*grammateus*), all families unknown;
- ▶ 562/1 - Peisistratos (*strategos*) - a Peisistratid.

The recorded early archaic political activities

▶ Medontids

- the legislation of Solon;
- the archonships of Dropides (elder and younger), Kritias and Aristokles;

▶ Philaids:

- Miltiades (elder) & Kypselos - served as early archons;
- Hippokleides - archon and favourite at the wedding of Agariste (the daughter of the Sikyon's tyrant);
- Kimon - OM- winner, ally and enemy of Peisistratos;
- Miltiades - tyrant of Chersonese, opponent of Peisistratos;

▶ Alkmeonids:

- Megakles (elder) - archon, suppressed the coup of Kylon;
- Alkmeon - *strategos* during the First Sacred War;
- Megakles - ally and enemy of Peisistratos, the leader of the faction of *paralioi*;

▶ Peisistratids:

- Peisistratos (elder) - early archon;
- Peisistratos - later tyrant who served as *strategos*;
- ▶ Strongly present among the pre-tyranny archons.

- ▶ Myron of Phlya - the prosecutor against the Megakles' family (allegedly from the Lykomid family);

- ▶ Lykurgos, the Eteoboutad - opponent of Peisistratos, the leader of the faction of *pedieis* ;

- ▶ Kleinias - a friend of Solon from the Alkibiades' family who profited from *seisachteia* (allegedly one of the Salaminians);

- ▶ Hipponikos - a friend of Solon (Plut. Sol. 15.6), according to the recurrence of the name among the Kerykes might have been a member of the family.

- ▶ Not recorded among the pre-tyranny archons.

Cults & prominent Athenian families

No attested connection with ancient cults

- ▶ Alkmeonids;
- ▶ Medontids;
- ▶ Peisistratids;
- ▶ Philaids.

Connections with ancient cults

- ▶ Eteoboutads – possessed the control of the priesthoods of Athena Polias, Zeus Polios and Poseidon Erechtheus;
- ▶ Lykomids – supervised the cults of Apollo Daphnephoros and Demeter Eleusinia in Phlya;
- ▶ Eumolpids and Kerykes – provided the priests for the Eleusian cults of Demeter and Kore;
- ▶ Salaminians – were in charge of the cults of Athena Skiras and Skiros;
- ▶ Kephalids – took care of the cult of Apollo at Daphni/Aigaleo;
- ▶ Gephyreans – were associated with the cult of Apollo Patroos, Gephyraion and Daphnephoros along with the cults of Demeter (Kourotrophos) Achaia.

Conclusions

- ▶ Medontids, Alkmeonids, Peisistratids, Philaids, Lykomids, Eteoboutads, Gephyreans, Eumolpids, Kerykes, Kephhalids and Salaminians can be identified as active participants either in politics or religious activities of Archaic Athens.
- ▶ The kinship groups with the biggest number of identified archaic pre-tyranny archons are Philaids, Alkmeonids, Peisistratids and Medontids. Not one of them has an attested ancestral cult or religious festival;
- ▶ In mythical space Alkmeonids, Peisistratids and Medontids were known as 'newcomers' while Philaids had moved in mythical times from Salamis island to Athens. All these clans lacked ancestral power and prestige which might be the reason why they were politically so active compared to other clans which possessed powerful ancestral cults and festivals.