

Assassination Records Review Board

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Assassination Records Review Board

The Assassination Records Review Board is an independent federal agency created to oversee the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Review Board was established by The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (the Act) (PL 102-526), and was signed into law by President Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994.

The Review Board is part of a larger process of agency record review and release established by the Act. All federal agencies are required to identify records in their possession that may relate to the assassination and determine whether these records may be disclosed immediately or whether disclosure should be postponed. The Board independently evaluates all agency decisions to postpone the release of records and makes its own determinations, which are then sent to the President.

The Act also gives the Board the responsibility and broad powers to identify and secure any additional assassination records held by federal, state, and local governments.

The Board has promulgated definition guidance on what constitutes an "assassination record" and is in the process of reviewing assassination records which federal agencies have recommended for postponement. A significant volume of additional records has been obtained and will become part of the Collection. In addition, public hearings have been conducted in Washington, Dallas, Boston and New Orleans, to allow members of the public, researchers and historians to provide information to the Board on the existence and location of assassination records.

The Review Board, consisting of five private citizens representing the legal, historical, and archival professions, serving in a part-time capacity, is supported by a staff of 30.

The sunset provision in the Act requires that the Board cease operations by September 30, 1997 at the latest.