

Athenian Democracy MVPs

Archons - In place of King they elected Archons (9 elected for a year) powers increased and they became tyrant

Draco - noble Archon

624 BCE codified laws into writing, punishment was very harsh
penalty of death even for small crimes
highly criticized for these hard laws. "Draconian Laws"

Solon - elected in 594 BCE, wise nobleman, politician, war general
brought about many reforms: relieved debt, freed slaves, restrictions on spending, save for times of crisis
laid foundation of democracy

Peisistratus - advanced the growth of democracy, champion of those oppressed by some nobles, banished them and redistributed their wealth to the people.
Promoted growth of agriculture, trade and commerce, art, architecture and literature

Cleisthenes - regarded as "the father of democracy" 508 BCE gave power to all citizens to cast their vote, opened positions in the government for all classes, promoted "ostracism"
to keep Athens safe from Tyranny.