

## IMPORTANT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

- 1796 – 1<sup>st</sup> election with two political parties: Federalists (Adams) vs. Democratic-Republicans (Jefferson)
- 1800 – “Revolution of 1800”: 1<sup>st</sup> peaceful transfer of power between political parties; Jefferson; “We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists”; Aaron Burr ties Jefferson – leads to 12th Amendment
- 1816 – last election for Federalists who die afterward. Ushers in “Era of Good Feelings” with only one political party (Democratic-Republicans)
- 1824 – “The Corrupt Bargain”: Jackson has largest vote but loses election in House of Representatives when J.Q. Adams gets support from Henry Clay (who is appointed Secretary of State three days later)
- 1828 – Jackson is the first president from the West; Democratic-Republicans are renamed “Democrats”
- 1832 – Anti-Masonic Party is 1<sup>st</sup> third party in U.S. history
- 1836 – Whigs emerge from National Republican faction to form second major party
- 1840 – 1<sup>st</sup> election with mass political participation; “Log Cabin and Hard Cider”; “Tippecanoe and Tyler Too”
- 1860 – Republican Lincoln wins with a minority of the popular vote; Democrats are split; South Carolina secedes in December
- 1864 – Union Party wins election—coalition of Republicans and War Democrats
- 1876 – “Compromise of 1877” ensues when Republicans get Hayes elected in return for Union troop removal from South – ends Reconstruction
- 1892 – Populists wage impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> party campaign
- 1896 – McKinley defeats Bryan, thus ending Populist hopes of reforms; decline in farmer voting afterwards
- 1912—Democrat Wilson wins after Republican Party is split between Taft and Roosevelt; Roosevelt forms the “Bull Moose” Party and comes in second
- 1920 – Republicans win on Harding’s platform of “Normalcy”
- 1928 – Democrat Al Smith is first Irish-American nominated for president; he loses to Hoover
- 1932 – Franklin Roosevelt defeats Herbert Hoover promising a “New Deal”
- 1948 – Truman wins surprising victory over Thomas Dewey; “Fair Deal”
- 1960 – 1<sup>st</sup> time TV plays major role in election in debate between Kennedy and Nixon; JFK is first Catholic elected president
- 1964 – Democrat Johnson defeats Goldwater and launches “The Great Society”
- 1968 – Nixon defeats democrats and ushers in a conservative era in American politics; the “Vital Center” is shattered and politics becomes ever more divisive
- 1980 – Republican Ronald Reagan defeats Jimmy Carter and begins “Reagan Revolution”—a highly conservative agenda
- 1992 – Democrat Bill Clinton defeats George Bush when Ross Perot gets 19% of the vote and splits the Republican party
- 2000 – George W. Bush defeats Al Gore by 1 electoral vote. Supreme Court steps in during the recounting process and orders no further recounting of ballots in Florida.
- 2008 – Barack Obama elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> African-American president