

# Presidential Political Era 5B Elections 1976-2012 Party Control Flip-Flops But Some Progress Made

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Presidential Elections	Republicans	Democrats	"And Now the Rest of the Story"
<p><a href="#">Election 1976</a> had Ford who was not able to secure the nomination over R. Reagan until the Party Convention and then he lost to relatively unknown former Georgia Governor J. Carter.</p>			<p><a href="#">Jimmy Carter's</a> 1978 <a href="#">Camp David Accords</a> was the high point of recent Middle East peace efforts. Carter inherited stagflation. The inflation part was solved with the pain of two recessions orchestrated by his FED Chairperson Paul Volker. Economic growth had to wait until after Ronald Reagan tax cuts.</p>
<p><a href="#">Election of 1980</a> saw Carter attacked Reagan as a dangerous right-wing radical while Reagan won easily as he pledged to uplift the nation's pessimistic mood. Simultaneous Congressional elections went, Republicans for the first time in 28 years which began the "Reagan Revolution which signified a conservative national political realignment. <a href="#">Election 1984</a> went Republican as the economic stagflation of low growth with high inflation was over.</p>			<p><a href="#">Ronald Reagan</a> cut taxes, increased defense spending, ignored federal <a href="#">Deficits</a> which today look insignificant because of economic growth. His <a href="#">Supply Side Economics</a> sought economic growth through more efficient production caused by less regulation and low taxes rather than government supported demand. His low taxes and large military spending caused demand supported growth that soon lowered the relative size of the annual federal deficit and accumulated debt. The later had stayed below 40% of GDP until the New Deal and WW2 spending caused it to peak at 120%. The <a href="#">Penn Square 1982 Bank bailout</a> began a <a href="#">new chapter</a> in the long history of government helping business.</p>
<p><a href="#">Election of 1988</a> saw a good economy, a stable international stage, and Reagan's popularity foster the third consecutive presidential victory for the <a href="#">Republican Party</a>. It was the first time that a party had won more than two consecutive presidential elections since the Democrats won five straight elections from 1932-1938.</p>			<p><a href="#">George H. W. Bush</a> popularity peaked early because his 1990 <a href="#">Coalition of the First Gulf War</a> repelled Iraq's Kuwait invasion. Not always conservative, he signed the <a href="#">Immigration Act of 1990</a> that led to a 40 percent increase in legal immigration and his temporary ban on certain important semiautomatic rifles cost him NRA endorsement.</p>
<p><a href="#">Election 1992</a> went to Clinton as Bush broke his <a href="#">no new taxes pledge</a>, the economy was in <a href="#">recession</a> and Bush's perceived foreign policy strength was less important with the fall of the Soviet Union and Middle East peace after the Gulf War victory. Economic conservative Ross Perrot got 19% of the vote helping Democrat Clinton. <a href="#">Election of 1996</a> had a 49.0% turnout which was lowest since 1924 as a strong economy helped Clinton who again, with the help of <a href="#">Reform Party</a> candidate businessman <a href="#">Ross Perot</a> beat Republican <a href="#">Bob Dole</a>.</p>			<p><a href="#">Bill Clinton</a> was another <a href="#">contentious</a> president who survived the <a href="#">Lewinsky scandal</a> as twenty-five years of continued prosperity had made the U.S. a more tolerant nation. This allowed him to appoint more women and minority judges than white male judges to the federal courts and also have a very diverse cabinet. The longest economic expansion in American history allowed for increase educational opportunities, lower crime and increase homeownership. The little noticed 1999 <a href="#">Gramm, Leach, Bliley Act</a> Initiated by Republicans and signed by President Clinton substantially liberalized financial regulation adding to the many causes of <a href="#">The Great Recession</a>.</p>
<p><a href="#">Election of 2000</a> was one of the most contentious in history as it marked the fourth time the winner failed to win a plurality. See <a href="#">1824</a>, <a href="#">1876</a>, and <a href="#">1888</a>). A <a href="#">Florida recount</a> that required Supreme Court intervention followed party lines. The <a href="#">Green Party</a> adversely affected Democratic <a href="#">Al Gore</a>. <a href="#">Election of 2004</a> was another G.W. victory <a href="#">John Kerry</a>.</p>			<p><a href="#">George W. Bush</a> reacted to <a href="#">September 9/11 attacks</a> with a <a href="#">War on Terror</a>, a <a href="#">War in Afghanistan</a> and the <a href="#">Iraq War</a>. His major tool was the <b>USA PATRIOT Act that established Department of Homeland Security. He also implemented</b> 1) <a href="#">tax cuts</a> 2) No Child Left Behind 3) Medicare Part D but vetoed State Children's Health Insurance Program legislation s 4) promoted the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban and Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and 5) government activities to</p>
<p><a href="#">Election of 2008</a> saw leading Democrat <a href="#">Hillary Clinton</a> lose when the campaign switched focus from <a href="#">The War On Terror</a> to economic concerns. This was the first election in which 1) neither major candidate was born in the <a href="#">contiguous U.S.</a> (Obama/ Hawaii and McCain/Panama military base), 2) a woman presidential candidate ran in every primary/caucus and 3) <a href="#">Sarah Palin</a> was the first female Republican VP candidate. <a href="#">Geraldine Ferraro</a> was first major party's presidential candidate. <a href="#">Election of 2012</a> saw Mormon <a href="#">Mitt Romney</a> lose by four points.</p>			<p><a href="#">Barack Obama's</a> 2010 <a href="#">Affordable Care Act</a> finally fulfilled Democratic efforts for a <a href="#">national health insurance program</a> that had begun with Harry Truman. Major federal health care involvement had begun during WW 2 when <a href="#">employer provided health insurance</a> was exempted from federal income tax. His to-date successfully completion of governmental attempts to negate effects of <a href="#">The Great Recession</a> will be balanced against <a href="#">Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act</a> possible successes.</p>

