

HISTORY CLUB PRESENTATION

JULY 25, 2023

SLIDE 4

*Election Day, November 2, 1948. Dewey was the favorite to win the election. With a pending printers strike the next day, several well-known and influential news paper columnists wrote their next day articles on election night

SLIDE 5

*With the economy changing from military operations to private consumption; rising inflation; labor unrest; Democrats losing control of both chambers of Congress in 1946 for the first time 14 years; divisions within his own political party; his civil rights initiatives (integrating the military)

SLIDE 9

*The 1960's, the decade of change. The 1960 election had many firsts
A new era of youthful leadership in the U.S.

Kennedy (43) Eisenhower (70)

Kennedy was youngest person to be elected president.

Teddy Roosevelt was 41 years old when he became president after the assassination of President McKinley

Nixon was 47 years old during the presidential campaign in 1960

The first time 50 states participated in an election which now required 270 electoral votes for victory (total available electoral votes 538)

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Media exposure became essential for a successful political campaign and crafting a public image

Fact: Kennedy's and Nixon's offices were across the hall in the Senate building.
Close friends during their time as senators

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On September 10, 1960, Kennedy and Nixon had the first televised presidential campaign debate in American history.

There were four debates during the campaigns, the first time the entire populace could see the candidates on the stage at the same time

These debates put television at the forefront of the role it would play in the democratic process

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Whispers of powerful organized crime members in Chicago influenced the results of the election

Nixon won 26 states while Kennedy won 22

Kennedy received 49.72% versus Nixon's 49.55% of the popular vote, a difference of approximately 118,000 votes or 2%

Kennedy is ranked among the top ten presidents

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Bush b July 6, 1946 54 years old when elected president

Gore b March 31, 1948 52 years old

The 2000 presidential election was the second time in our nation's history the United States Supreme Court became involved in deciding the winner of a presidential election.

SLIDE 15

A state official examining a ballot

Roy Saltman, the federal government's leading expert on computerized voting,

Published a 132-page federal report in 1988 warning that the use of pre-scored punch card ballots be ended since the bits of cardboard might remain

His warning was ignored

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*In the early hours of the following morning, Gore's campaign staff realized the race was much closer than they had believed

Bush's lead was 527 votes

Gore called Bush to retract his concession.

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*Katherine Harris wanted to certify the election on November 14th but the Florida Supreme Court ruled that hand recounts of questionable ballots should proceed in four counties. The hand counts must be included in the state's final count

In the month following the election, 50 individual suits were filed concerning the various counts, recounts and certification deadlines

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** on December 11, Bush's legal team [asserted](#) that the [Florida](#) Supreme Court had exceeded its authority by ordering the manual recount of undervotes, while Gore's team contended that the case, having already been decided at the state level, was not a matter for consideration at the federal level

The following day, the U.S. Supreme Court found (7-2), Florida court's order of a manual recount amount to a violation of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment

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WHY DISCUSS THIS ELECTION

*Florida – sound familiar

** Since their enfranchisement in 1865, Black voters overwhelmingly supported the Republican Party

White Southerners supported the Democratic Party and resented the federal government's post-war policies such as Reconstruction which commenced in 1867 with the passage of the Reconstruction Act until 1877 when it was overturned

SLIDE 24

*A total of 16 years

**A total of 24 years

**Republicans were the majority in the Senate from 1861 through 1879 18 years

Republicans were the majority in the House from 1861 through 1875 14 years

The first time the United States Supreme Court was involved in the election of the President of the United States

The State of Florida played a major role in the outcome of the election

There were charges of fraud, intimidation, lost ballots, and racism

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*The family had four children, two before the move and two after the move; two boys and two girls

One daughter and one son died before each reached the age of 10

*He worked in a law office in Columbus, Ohio where he was extremely disappointed in his menial work assignments

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- *He was quite successful, and his practice flourished
- **While defending the runaway slaves he became attracted to politics as a Republican
- ***They married on December 30, 1852, he 30 years old, she 22 years old. They had 8 children

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- *brevet Major General is bestowed on a field officer as a reward for outstanding service
- ** When he returned home, his popularity led him to be elected to represent Ohio in Congress. He was also a three-term governor of Ohio

SLIDE 30

- *38 miles from Albany, NY
- **Samuel was the fifth child and youngest son
- ***Caused him to be home schooled since he was unable to attend school regularly.

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- *To continue his schooling and to receive more professional medical attention
- **Tilden's father was well connected to Martin Van Buren and used this connection to help his son achieve his political ambitions
- ***He returned to New York City, occasionally taking classes at the University of the City of New York (now known as the City University of New York) focusing primarily on writing about politics
- ****He completed his law degree in three years and passed the bar exam in 1841

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- *Began advising railroad companies on legal ways to finance operations and reorganize their businesses to maximize profits. He became so popular as a legal advisor to railroads that he made a fortune during the boom in railroad building from the 1850s to the 1870s
- ** At this time, he became involved with national politics and helped campaign for Democrats running for Congress

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- *Grant's administration had numerous scandals; Grant was a poor judge of character and his appointments were instrumental in the continuous scandals that plagued his administration

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SLIDE 33 Continued

**Tilden turned his attention to maintaining the strength of the Democratic Party in Congress since a majority of the Representatives and Senators were from the Southern States

***White Southerners resented the federal government's post-war policies, used intimidation and violence to disenfranchise Black voters

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*Promising to clean up civil service and serve for only one term.

**Supported Radical Reconstruction Legislation (also known as Congressional Reconstruction), and favored African American suffrage

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*He was successful in convicting Boss Tweed, the corrupt boss of Tammany Hall political machine in New York City, for stealing an amount estimated between \$25 million and \$45 million

Also prosecuted the Canal Ring, a group of corrupt contractors and their political supporters who defrauded the State of New York by overcharging for repairs and improvements of the state's canal system

**At the 1876 Democratic National Convention, held in St. Louis, Missouri in June 1876 (first political convention west of the Mississippi River), Tilden easily won the required two-thirds of delegates to win the nomination on the first ballot

***The Specie Payment Resumption Act

On January 14, 1875, the Act became law in the **United States** which restored the **nation** to the **gold standard** through the redemption of previously-unbacked **United States Notes**

****Reaffirmed the Reconstruction Amendments

The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth which were a part of the Reconstruction of the South

*****Civil Service Reform

A major issue in the late 19th century at the national level. Proponents denounced the distribution of government offices—the "spoils"—by the winners of elections to their supporters as corrupt and inefficient.

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*Democrats believed Colorado would vote for Tilden and pushed the bill through Congress, instead its electors were given to Hayes, a disappointing misjudgment by the Democrats and a decisive margin for Hayes' victory

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*Tilden was painted as a diseased drunkard who planned to pay off the former Confederacy's debts

A journalist described Tilden as "a very nice, prim, little, withered-up, fidgety old bachelor, about one-hundred and twenty-pounds, who never had a genuine impulse for many nor any affection for woman.

Hayes enemies claimed he had stolen money from his brothers in arms during the Civil War

A journalist described Hayes as "a third-rate nonentity whose only recommendations are that he is obnoxious to no one."

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*Tilden won 250,000 more popular votes than Hayes with 184 electoral votes to 165 for Hayes where 185 electoral votes were required to win the election. If Tilden won just one of these four states, he would have won enough electoral votes to win the election.

**Florida (4), Louisiana (8), and South Carolina (7), a total of 19 electoral votes and 1 electoral vote in Oregon when one elector was replaced after being declared illegal. Originally all three of Oregon's electoral votes were won by Tilden

The question of who should have been awarded those 20 electoral votes is the source of the controversy

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*President Grant sent Republican delegations to follow the Democratic observers

**Two sets of returns (one Democratic, one Republican) were sent to Washington, D.C. from these four states

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*The commission was solely established to resolve the stalemate in the 1876 election. It's findings were final unless overruled by both chambers of Congress.

**5 members from the Senate (3 Republicans, 2 Democrats)

5 members from the House (2 Republicans, 3 Democrats)

5 members from the Supreme Court (2 Republicans, 2 Democrats, 1 independent selected by the other 4 justices)

***David Davis, the independent jurist, surrendered his seat on the Supreme Court since he was elected to the vacant U.S Senate seat in Illinois. He was replaced by a Republican jurist, Joseph P Bradley, whose record made him acceptable to the Democrats. Republicans now had an 8 to 7 majority on the Commission

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*Bradley leaned towards Tilden's convincing claim to Florida's vote. Republicans began pressuring Bradley who eventually agreed Hayes won Florida's electoral votes in an 8 to 7 decision favoring the Republicans

Afterwards Bradley was vilified by the press, received death threats

**Democrats agreed not to block Hayes' victory on the condition Republicans withdrew all federal troops from the South.

This agreement allowed the Democrats to consolidate control over the region

All 20 contested electoral votes went to Hayes which resulted in a 185 to 184 victory for Hayes

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*Hayes became the first and only presidential candidate to be sworn into office twice

Hayes took the oath of office in the Red Room of the White House to be the 19th president of the United States. He was the first president to take the presidential oath of office in the White House

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*Lived as a near-recluse at his 110-acre estate, Greystone, in Yonkers, NY.

**His estate was valued at \$7 million (equivalent to \$230 million in 2022) of which \$4 million was bequeathed for the establishment and maintenance of a free public library and reading room in the City of New York.

In 1895, the Tilden Trust was combined with the Astor (a public library in the Village) and Lenox Libraries (a public library on the upper East Side of Manhattan) to found the New York Public Library.