

## **CLOSE AND CONTROVERSIAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS - ONLINE**

**Wednesdays, September 19 – November 6, 2024**

**1:00 pm – 3:00 PM**

Session 1—1800 election between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Jefferson won over 60% of the popular vote and the majority of electoral votes. However, because of an error by one of Jefferson's electors, the election was sent to the House of Representatives. It took 36 ballots for the House to confirm the will of the voters.

Session 2—1824 election among Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, William Crawford, and Henry Clay. Jackson received a significant plurality of the popular vote and electoral college. However, he did not receive a majority of electoral votes, so the House decided who would be president. It voted for Adams.

Session 3—1860 election among Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, John Breckenridge, and John Bell. The Democrats split into two parties, a northern and southern party. This allowed the Republican Lincoln, who secured less than 40% of the popular vote, to garner the majority of electoral votes. His election led to Southern secession.

Session 4—1876 election between Rutherford Hayes and Samuel Tilden. The largest turnout of eligible voters in American history (82.6%) voted for Tilden over Hays, 51% to 48%. The initial electoral count was 184 – 165 in favor of Tilden. However, 20 votes from states in the former confederacy were contested. A special electoral commission dominated by Republicans awarded all 20 votes to the Republican Hayes making him the winner by a single electoral vote.

Session 5—1912 election among Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Eugene Debs. The Republican vote was split by TR's third-party candidacy. Although Taft and Roosevelt together won a significant majority of the popular vote, Wilson garnered 82% of the electoral votes.

Session 6—2000 election between Al Gore and George W. Bush. Gore apparently won the election except that hundreds of Florida votes were rejected because the construction of the ballot left many with incomplete hole punches (hanging chads). Numerous court challenges kept the result in doubt for over a month until the US Supreme Court overruled a finding of the Florida Supreme Court with a 5 – 4 decision, ending a recount of the contested ballots and making Bush the winner.

Session 7—2020 election between Joseph Biden and Donald Trump. Biden wins by close margins in key battleground states and secures a clear majority of electoral votes. Trump does not concede and issues many challenges in state and federal courts. Even after courts affirm Biden's victory, Trump claims fraud.

Session 8—2024 election. ????