

## Chapter 83 -- Andrew Jackson Becomes America's Sixth President



**Dates:**  
1828

**Sections:**

- As Suffrage Expands, The Popular Vote Determines Election Results
- Jackson Beats JQ Adams In Convincing Fashion
- Andrew Jackson: Personal Profile

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Time: 1788 – 1965

### As Suffrage Expands, The Popular Vote Determines Election Results



The increase in public participation in the 1828 presidential election is profound, with the change tracing mainly to fewer restrictions on who is qualified to vote.

According to the Constitution, decisions about voter qualifications are left up to individual state legislatures -- and the answer since 1788 has been “white men who own property and are 21 years of age or older.”

In 1828, many states drop the requirement to own property.

The result is a fourfold jump in turn-out to 1,148,018, from only 365,833 in 1824.

The Common White Man Gets To Vote

**Popular Voting For President & Number Of States Where Electors Chosen By Their Votes**

<b>1800</b>	<b>1804</b>	<b>1808</b>	<b>1812</b>	<b>1816</b>	<b>1820</b>	<b>1824</b>	<b>1828</b>
67,282	143,110	192,691	278,786	112,370	106,701	365,833	1,148,018
6 of 16	11 of 17	10 of 17	9 of 18	10 of 19	15 of 24	18 of 24	22 of 24*

\* State legislators in Delaware and South Carolina still choose electors in 1828

For the first time, it becomes crystal clear that all future presidents will be chosen by the popular vote, rather than by state politicians working deals with each other to choose electors.

Once this much is established, the issues will turn to voter qualifications.

As of 1842 all states will have dropped the “property test” – meaning that all white males over 21 years old are qualified to cast ballots.

This won’t change until after the Civil War when black men are given the vote through three “Reconstruction Amendments” -- the 13<sup>th</sup>, outlawing slavery, the 14<sup>th</sup>, granting citizenship to non-whites and the 15<sup>th</sup>, and granting eligibility to all men, regardless of race.

By 1870, three states (Wyoming, Colorado and Montana) take the lead in extending suffrage to include women.

From there, however, the tide reverses for some fifty years.

In 1876, several state legislatures maneuver around the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment by adding new “qualifications” aimed at excluding Negroes and Indians.

The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act bans all further immigration from Asia and prohibits those already here from becoming naturalized citizens.

It is not until 1920, after “suffragette” battles and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, that women are given the vote.

In 1924 Native American are included via the Indian Citizenship Act – although the state of Utah refuses to enforce this law until 1956.

For both African-Americans and Asian-Americans the “wait” will extend all the way to the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which finally and firmly enfranchises both groups.

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Time: 1828

**Jackson Beats JQ Adams In Convincing Fashion**



Andrew Jackson (1767-1845)

In this first more “open” election, the common man of the west, Jackson, prevails over the patrician eastern intellectual, Adams, by a comfortable margin.

**Results Of The 1828 Presidential Election**

Candidates	State	Party	Pop Vote	Tot EV
Andrew Jackson	Tn	Democrat	642,553	178
John Quincy Adams	MA	National Republican	500,897	83
Unpledged			4,568	0
Total			1,148,018	261
Needed to win				131

The General sweeps the “emerging western states” by a 65-0 electoral count – and takes the “slave states” by 105-9, losing only in Delaware while splitting Maryland with Adams.

He also cuts into Adams’s hold on the northeast, winning Pennsylvania 28-0 and, with Van Buren’s help, taking New York by 20-16.

**Shifting State Alignments: Old/New And Slave/Free**

	Slavery Allowed (12)	Slavery Banned (12)
Old Established East Coast States (15)	64 Jackson 9 Adams 73 Total	74 Adams 49 Jackson 123 Total
Emerging States West Of Appalachian Range (9)	41 Jackson 0 Adams 41 Total	24 Jackson 0 Adams 24 Total

**Note:** East Coast slave states (Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, NC, SC, Georgia); east coast free (Maine, Mass, NH, Vt, Conn, Penn, RI, NY, NJ); west slave (Ky, Tenn, Ala, Miss, La, MO); west free (Ohio, Ind, IL)

On a state by state basis, the General shifts five states – Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio and Missouri – into the Democrat Party column.

### Party Power By State

South	1824	1828	Pick Ups
Virginia	Dem-Rep (Cr)	Democrat	Democrat
North Carolina	Democrat	Democrat	
South Carolina	Democrat	Democrat	
Georgia	Dem-Rep (Cr)	Democrat	Democrat
Alabama	Democrat	Democrat	
Mississippi	Democrat	Democrat	
Louisiana	Democrat	Democrat	
Tennessee	Democrat	Democrat	
Border			
Delaware	Democrat	Nat-Rep	Nat-Rep
Maryland	Democrat	Nat-Rep	Nat-Rep
Kentucky	Dem-Rep (Cl)	Democrat	Democrat
Missouri	Dem-Rep (Cl)	Democrat	Democrat
North			
New Hampshire	Dem-Rep (Ad)	Nat-Rep	
Vermont	Dem-Rep (Ad)	Nat-Rep	
Massachusetts	Dem-Rep (Ad)	Nat-Rep	
Rhode Island	Dem-Rep (Ad)	Nat-Rep	
Connecticut	Dem-Rep (Ad)	Nat-Rep	
New York	Democrat	Democrat	
New Jersey	Democrat	Nat-Rep	Nat-Rep
Pennsylvania	Democrat	Democrat	
West			
Ohio	Dem-Rep (Cl)	Democrat	Democrat
Indiana	Democrat	Democrat	
Illinois	Democrat	Democrat	

(Notes: Cr = Crawford, Cl = Clay; Ad = JQA; NA = National Republicans/JQA)

Jackson's coattails are strong in 1828, with the Democrats solidifying control over both chambers of Congress by 2-1 margins, thus assuring his capacity to start dismantling many of what he regards as Adam's pro-Federalist policies.

### Congressional Election Trends

U.S. House	1825	1827	1829
Pro-Jackson	49%	53%	64%
Pro-Adams	51	47	36
U.S. Senate			
Pro-Jackson	49%	53%	64%
Pro-Adams	51	47	34
Other			2
President	JQA	JQA	AJ

John Quincy Adams is dismayed over what he regards as his failure in office followed by his humiliating defeat at the hands of the lesser man, Andrew Jackson. As he writes:

*No one knows, and few conceive, the agony of mind that I have suffered from the time that I was made by circumstances, and not by my volition, a candidate for the Presidency till I was dismissed from that station by the failure of my election.*

He leaves Washington without attending Jackson's inaugural and heads back home, not realizing that a remarkable political future lies ahead after his return to the U.S. House.

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Time: 1767-1825

### **Andrew Jackson: Personal Profile**

Andrew Jackson's narrative is familiar in American political history – the military hero turned president and commander-in-chief.

His roots are “log cabin humble” and in the western soil -- unlike the refined, eastern elites who have run the country up to his time.

Born in 1767, Jackson and his widowed mother are taken in by relatives in Waxhaw, SC, where, at age 14, he is wounded and imprisoned by the British General Tarleton, during the Revolutionary War.

At twenty-one he moves to Nashville, and in 1790 marries into the renowned Donelson family. With their backing, Jackson's career takes off in Tennessee.

He becomes a successful lawyer; goes to DC as a member of the House in 1796 followed by a year in the Senate before returning home as a state Supreme Court justice. There he invests his wealth in The Hermitage, a cotton plantation whose slave count he expands from nine in 1804 to about 160 by 1820.

From the beginning Jackson is clear and outspoken in his beliefs about the inferiority of black Africans and brown Indians, and the white man's need to forcefully suppress both.

He is also known for his hair trigger temper and penchant for dueling. His first duel with an opposing lawyer ends harmlessly. In 1802 he confronts an ex-Governor of Tennessee, but the fight is called off. His next duel, in 1806 over a horse racing wager, ends with his 26 year old opponent, James Dickinson, dead and a bullet permanently embedded in Jackson's chest. In 1813 he is again nearly killed in a saloon gun fight with Jesse Benton and his brother, soon-to-be Senator Thomas Hart Benton.

Like George Washington before him, Jackson's business and political careers run parallel to his military career. By 1801 he is colonel in the Tennessee militia, and a supporter of using force to secure the “sacred union” and its borders. The War of 1812 thrusts him into active combat against a host of foes, the British army, the Creek tribe and the Seminoles.

Having witnessed Indian attacks on settlers, Jackson is ruthless in retribution. In 1814 he defeats the Red Stick Creeks – who are allied to the British – at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, in central Alabama, with support from Lt. Sam Houston. In the 1814 Treaty of Ft. Jackson peace which follows, the Creeks cede 23 million acres of land in Alabama and Georgia to the U.S. government.

Jackson's future destiny is sealed, however, on January 8, 1815.

On that day he becomes a national hero by leading his 5000 troops to victory over a 7500 man force of British regulars at New Orleans, ending the War of 1812 and earning a special “Thanks of Congress” award for this action.

From then on, he is “Old Hickory,” with his supporters touting him for the presidency.