


Chapter 51 -- Madison Wins A Second Term By A Narrow Margin

	Dates: 1812	Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reapportionment Following The 1810 Census • The Close Election Of 1812
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Time: 1811

Reapportionment Following The 1810 Census

The voting landscape for the election of 1812 reflects the reapportionment of seats in congress, and hence the electoral college, coming out of population changes in the 1810 Census and new state admissions.

The total population in 1810 is 7.240 million, up 36% from 1800.

U.S. Population (millions)

Year	Total	Whites	Free Blacks	Slaves
1800	5.308	4.306	0.108	0.894
1810	7.240	5.863	0.186	1.191
% Ch	+36%	+36%	+43%	+33%

One new state, Louisiana, joins the Union in April 1812. The nation now includes eighteen states, nine where slave ownership is permitted and nine where it is banned.

America's Eighteen States As Of 1812

Region	Slavery	States
South	Yes	Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana
Border	Yes	Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky
North	No	New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont
West	No	Ohio

With each state allotted two senators, the upper chamber totals 36 members.

Apportionment Of Senate Seats After The 1800 Census

	Total	South	Border	North	West
1790	26	8	4	14	0
1800	32	10 (Ten)	6 (Ky)	16 (Vt)	0
1810	34	10	6	16	2 (OH)
1812	36	12 (La)	6	16	2

The House allocations are more complicated. As people move from east to west, population shifts vary from state to state, affecting reapportionment. In the House, a total of 7 new seats are added between 1810 (prior to the Census update) and 1812 (after it). The North picks up five seats; the South loses seven; and the migration of settlers into Kentucky almost doubles Border state representation.

Apportionment Of House Seats After The 1800 Census

	Total	South	Border	North	West
1790	65	23	7	35	0
1800	106	38	11	57	0
1810	175	65	11	92	7
1812	182	58	21	97	6

In turn, the add-up of senate seats (36) and house seats (182) yields a total of 218 votes in the electoral college for the 1812 presidential race, assuming all delegates cast ballots. The nine non-slave states account for 121 or 56% of the total.

Apportionment Of Electoral College Votes As Of The 1812 Election

	Total	South	Border	North	West
1812	218	70	27	113	8

Time: 1812

The Close Election Of 1812



James Madison (1751-1836)

With the war starting badly for America, the Federalists hope to throw Madison out of office.

This possibility has been gaining credibility as cracks appear in the Democratic-Republican party over the failure to resolve tensions with France and Britain. When the initial Congressional Caucus meets in May, 1812, only 86 of the party's 134 House and Senate members participate, although they do nominate Madison. The question then turns to choosing a Vice-Presidential candidate to replace George Clinton who has recently died in office. Many favor his nephew, DeWitt Clinton, currently serving his third term as Mayor of New York city. But Clinton fails to jump at the chance, and the Republicans end up choosing Elbridge Gerry former Governor of Massachusetts, recently famous for redrawing district voting boundaries in his state ("gerrymandering").

Soon enough it becomes clear why DeWitt Clinton has passed up the Republican nomination – when the Federalists slate him at the top of their ticket! He is 43 years old, a former U.S. Senator, and master of New York politics. In 1812 he has already begun to lobby for a project that will forever be associated with his name – construction of the 325 mile Erie Canal, linking inland Albany with the port at Buffalo.

As expected, the campaign revolves around the embargos and the war, with the Democratic-Republicans defending their record and the Federalists attacking. In the North, Clinton focuses on the economic damage caused by Madison’s trade policies; in the South, he assails the President for mishandling the war effort.

After General Hull’s embarrassing losses in the west, it is only a few successes by the U.S. Navy in the Fall that restores some public faith in Madison, prior to the election.

The Federalist’s strategy almost succeeds. Clinton wins 49% of the popular vote, along with 89 of the total 217 electoral ballots cast. Madison dominates the South and gets a crucial win up North in Pennsylvania, to insure a second term.

Results Of The 1812 Presidential Election

1812	Party	Pop Vote	Electors	South	Border	North	West
James Madison	Dem-Rep	140,431	128	70	18	33	7
DeWitt Clinton	Federalist	132,781	89	0	9	80	0
Rufus King	Federalist	5,574	0	0	0	0	0
		278,786	217	70	27	113	7
Needed To Win			109				

Note: South (Virginia, NC, SC, Georgia, TN, La), Border (Delaware, Maryland, Ky), North (NH, Mass, NY, NJ, Penn, RI, Conn, Vt), West (Ohio) Total # electors = 217; must get more than half to win = 109.

Control over both chambers of Congress remain with the President, although Federalists do strengthen their hand in the House.

Congressional Election Of 1812

House	1811	1813	Chg
Democratic-Republicans	107	114	7
Federalist	36	68	32
Senate			
Democratic-Republicans	30	28	(2)
Federalist	6	8	2
President	Mad	Mad	
Congress #	12 th	13 th	

Meanwhile, in the Congress, the elections of 1810 and 1812 mark a profound “changing of the guard” in political leadership at the national level.

Three men in particular stand out here: Henry Clay of Kentucky and John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, who join the House in 1811, and Daniel Webster of Massachusetts who enters in 1813.

Together they will shape and debate key issues affecting the future of America over the next four decades – all the while chasing after, but never quite attaining, the presidency.

Key Events: Madison's Second Term: March 4, 1813 To March 4, 1817

1813	
March 11	Tsar Alexander offers to negotiate peace, but Britain rejects the overture
April 27	Americans capture and burn Canadian capital of York on Lake Ontario
Aug 30	Opening of Creek War provokes Andrew Jackson to call up Tennessee militia
Sept 10	Captain Oliver Hazard Perry wins major naval battle at Ft. Erie
Sept 18	British evacuate Ft. Detroit after Perry controls Lake Erie
Oct 5	Harrison defeats fleeing British at Battle of Thames; Tecumseh killed.
Nov 4	British PM Castlereagh suggests negotiations; Madison picks JQ Adams and Clay to lead.
Nov 16	Blockade of American ports along Atlantic coast extended and intensified
Dec 18	Ft. Niagara falls to British forces
1814	
Jan 27	Congress agrees to calling up a 62,000 man army, after Madison asks for 100,000.
Feb 9	Treasury Secretary steps down to travel to England for peace negotiations
Mar 27	General Andrew Jackson ends Creek War with victory at Horseshoe Bend
Mar 31	Madison recommends repeal of the Embargo and Non-Importation Acts
April 6	Napoleon is overthrown in France, freeing British forces to fight in America
July 3	General Jacob Brown's forces move north to take Ft. Erie from the British
July 5	An American victory at Chippewa slows the British advance south to re-take Ft. Erie
July 22	Harrison's Treaty of Grenville ends war with the dead Tecumseh's confederation
July 25	Britain's move toward Ft. Erie is delayed in the war's bloodiest battle at Lundy's Lane
August 8	Direct peace negotiations begin in northern Belgium at Ghent
Aug 24	In the east, American forces are routed at the Battle of Bladensburg
Aug 25	The British occupy Washington DC and burn parts in return for the earlier sack of York
Aug 27	Madison names James Monroe as interim War Secretary replacing Armstrong
Sept 14	Baltimore withstands attacks by land and sea; Key writes Star Spangled Banner poem
Sept 17	British abandon siege of Ft. Erie, ending war activities in the Canadian theater
Dec 15	Federalists issue secession threat at the Hartford Convention
Dec 24	The Treaty of Ghent officially ends the War of 1812
Year	Francis Lowell opens first U.S. textile mills, in Massachusetts
1815	
Jan 8	After the war is officially over, Andrew Jackson whips the British at New Orleans
Feb 7	Secretary of Navy position in the cabinet is created
Mar 3	Congress restores open trade with all nations
June 18	Napoleon is defeated at Waterloo
Aug 5	Captain Stephen Decatur negotiates peace treaty with Tunis to end naval conflicts
Dec 5	Madison urges congress to support a second US Bank, a strong army, infrastructure work
1816	
Jan 8	Clay and Calhoun now support US Bank, while Webster opposes it.
Mar 14	Congress approves Second Bank of US, to open January 1, 1817
Mar 16	Democratic caucus nominate James Monroe over William Crawford for presidential
April 11	Blacks in Philadelphia open African Methodist Church, first independent of white control
April 27	Tariff Act passed to protect American manufacturing, with Clay and Calhoun supporting
Oct 27	William Crawford named Secretary of the Treasury
Dec 4	James Monroe is elected president
Dec 11	Indiana is admitted to the Union (#19)
Dec 28	American Colonization Society founded to return Africans to Liberia
1817	
Jan 1	Second Bank of the US opens in Philadelphia
Mar 3	Madison vetoes a bill to spend Federal funds on infrastructure, calls it unconstitutional