

HANDOUT

1900 ELECTION



WILLIAM McKinLEY and Theodore Roosevelt

POPULAR VOTE: 7,207,923
ELECTORAL VOTE: 292

REPUBLICAN



McKinley was the **incumbent President**.

Republicans continued to receive huge **donations** from **major corporations**, including \$250,000 from Standard Oil.

Roosevelt adopted Bryan's "**Whistle-Stop**" Campaign style, traveling more than 20,000 miles and making 673 speeches in 567 towns.

Some Republicans **opposed Roosevelt** as Vice President, fearing he was too unpredictable and flashy.

McKinley turned down African Americans' requests to speak out against **lynching**.

McKinley supported extending the **U.S. Empire**.

McKinley favored **corporate expansion**.

Images of Teddy Roosevelt as a "**Rough Rider**" on horseback during the Spanish-American War (1898) appeared on bandanas, badges, and playing cards.

Western voters were attracted to Roosevelt's "Rough Rider" image.



Library of Congress
Prints & Photographs Division
[LC-USZ62-95709]



WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

and Adlai E. Stevenson

POPULAR VOTE: 6,358,133
ELECTORAL VOTE: 155

DEMOCRAT

Bryan was the **Democratic presidential candidate** in 1896.

Democrats attacked McKinley for his cozy relationship with big business.

Bryan continued to **stump** throughout the country, speaking in hundreds of towns from the back of rail-road cars.

Bryan continued to endorse **Free Silver** but the **Gold Standard Act of 1900** made the issue less important.

Bryan was advised against supporting **voting rights for African Americans**.

Bryan wanted to regulate **trusts**.

Bryan accused McKinley of **imperialism**.

Progressives pushed for human values over industrial growth and supported Bryan.

Irish and German voters liked Bryan because of his support for South African Boers (Dutch/German farmers) in their war against the British.

The Prohibition Party's main platform was opposition to alcohol. It started in 1869 and continues to this day, making it the longest standing 3rd party in history. The Prohibition Party candidate won 200,000 votes in 1900.

DID YOU KNOW? McKinley's campaign advisor Mark Hanna was strongly opposed to Roosevelt becoming the vice-presidential candidate. At the convention Hanna called out, "Don't any of you realize that there's only one life between that madman and the presidency?" When Roosevelt was nominated, Hanna told McKinley, "Your duty to the country is to live for four years from next March." It was not to be. McKinley was assassinated in September, 1901 and Roosevelt assumed the presidency.