

HANDOUT

# 1932 ELECTION



**FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT**

and John Nance Garner

POPULAR VOTE: 22,281,857

ELECTORAL VOTE: 472

**DEMOCRAT**



**HERBERT HOOVER**

and Charles Curtis

POPULAR VOTE: 15,761,841

ELECTORAL VOTE: 59

**REPUBLICAN**

The **Great Depression** began in 1929 with a **stock market crash** that led to a worldwide economic catastrophe lasting a decade. By 1932, steel plants were operating at 12% of capacity, one quarter of all U.S. workers were **unemployed**, many Americans were homeless, many were starving, and a 10-year drought had transformed parts of the South and Midwest into a **"dust bowl."** This was the state of the nation when incumbent President Herbert Hoover ran against New York Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) for the presidency.

Roosevelt was **Governor of New York**.

FDR offered a **"New Deal"** including relief for the poor and unemployed.

Republicans engaged in **"red-baiting"** against Roosevelt and suggested he was influenced by radical ideas.

The **South, West, and Great Plains states** that were especially hard-hit by the Depression went for FDR, as did the unemployed.

Roosevelt's **"Brain Trust"** of advisors were professors from major universities.

Hoover was the **incumbent President**.

Hoover was blamed for the Depression with shantytowns called **"Hoovervilles"** and turned out pants pockets called "Hoover Flags."

World War I veterans abandoned Hoover when he had the Army forcefully remove an encampment of veterans known as **"Bonus Marchers"** who were demanding their \$1000 bonus checks early.

Six **Northeastern states** were the only ones carried by Hoover. He had won 40 states just four years earlier.

## THIRD PARTIES

The **Socialist Party** ran Norman Thomas as presidential candidate for his second of six tries.

Both the Democrats and the Republicans supported a **balanced budget** and the **repeal of Prohibition** to legalize alcohol.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Roosevelt had contracted polio in 1921 at the age of 39 while on vacation in Canada. He lost full use of both legs and would use a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Throughout his presidency, Roosevelt did not allow photographs of himself in a wheelchair to be published, afraid that people would not see him as a strong and active President. When the FDR memorial was being designed for the nation's capital, the memorial commission insisted that the central sculpture not show Roosevelt in a wheelchair. Advocacy groups of the disabled fought to have Roosevelt shown and celebrated as wheelchair-bound. In 2001, a smaller statue of Roosevelt in a wheelchair was erected at the memorial site.