

HANDOUT

1944 ELECTION



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

and Harry Truman

POPULAR VOTE: 25,602,504

ELECTORAL VOTE: 432

DEMOCRAT



Library of Congress
Prints & Photographs Division
[LC-USZ62-98170]

FDR was the **incumbent President**.

Mudslinging by both sides characterized the meanest election FDR had experienced.

FDR's health was a concern for many who feared that he would not survive a 4th term, which he didn't. Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage on April 12, 1945.

FDR countered Republican **attacks on his health** by touring New York City all day in an open car.

Roosevelt replaced his Vice President, Henry Wallace, with a less liberal running mate, **Harry Truman**, a Missouri Senator.

Powerful **labor unions** worked hard to reelect Roosevelt.

With **World War II** still raging in Europe and the Pacific, Roosevelt had an advantage as an internationally respected leader.

Both FDR and Dewey supported the creation of the **United Nations** and a **Jewish homeland** in Palestine.



Library of Congress
Prints & Photographs Division
Photograph by Harris & Ewing
[LC-USZ62-83075]



THOMAS DEWEY and John Bricker

POPULAR VOTE: 22,006,285

ELECTORAL VOTE: 99

REPUBLICAN

Dewey was **Governor of New York**.

Dewey pitched the need for **new blood** to "replace tired old men."

Photos of FDR looking tired were often printed in Republican newspapers.

Polls were used by Dewey to identify popular issues.

Dewey suggested there was **Communist influence** among FDR's advisors.

Republicans accepted **New Deal** programs but said they could manage them better.

The Pacific war hero, **Douglas MacArthur**, had considered being the Republican candidate.

Republicans tried to woo **African Americans** back to the party with strong stands against lynching and discrimination.

Radio was used by both campaigns with \$2.5 million spent on spots that focused more on entertainment than on issues.

DID YOU KNOW? It had been 80 years since the last wartime presidential election. In 1864, Abraham Lincoln had declared that the elections should go on in the midst of the Civil War. In 1944 there were rumors that Roosevelt would suspend elections himself since World War II was still raging in Europe and the Pacific. Many British observers were shocked that the U.S. still held elections since they had postponed elections in England because of the war.