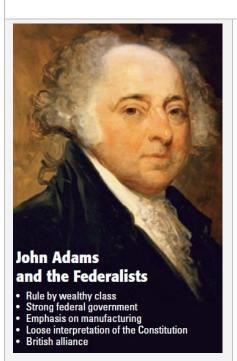
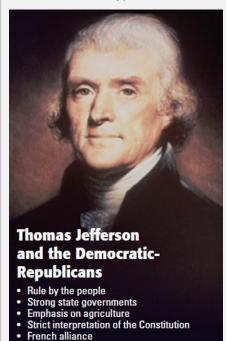
## 1800 Presidential Election



(John Adams vs. Thomas Jefferson)



#### Vs.



### **Running Mates**

**Federalist**: Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (former U.S. Minister to France from South Carolina)

**Democratic-Republican**: Aaron Burr (former U.S. Senator from New York)

### Context

### **Political Uncertainty**

- The national government was a work-in-progress
  - o Political crises raised fears of disunion and civil war
- United State Constitution adopted on September 17, 1787
- Washington's departure in 1976 prompted many to fear the nation's imminent collapse
- The 1976 election was a precursor to the 1800 election with Adams defeating Jefferson who would become the vice-president
  - First contested American presidential election and the only one in which a president and vice president were elected from opposing tickets

#### Major Political and Public Controversy

- 1797–1798 XYZ Affair prompted by a French attempt to get bribe money from American diplomats
  - Quasi-War of 1798 with France stemming from French seizure of American ships and the XYZ Affair
- The war encouraged the passing of the 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts. A wartime measure to deport threatening aliens and silence attacks on the government
  - The costly war resulted in the Fries's Rebellion of 1799. An armed tax revolt among Pennsylvania Dutch farmers.

### The Candidates

The 1800 election was a re-match of the 1796 election. The campaign was vicious and characterized by rhetoric, slander, rumors and personal attacks.

Rather than intense party unity, there was a jumble of suspicions and conflicting loyalties—personal, ideological, and regional, as well as partisan.

Vs.!

#### **Federalist**

(John Adams)

**Accused**: Republicans as radicals who would ruin the country based on their support for the French Revolution.

**Feared**: The return power to the states, dismantling the army, navy, and Hamilton's financial system.

**Attacked**: Within Adams own party particularly on behave of Hamilton who though Adams was to moderate and aligned his support with Pinckney.

#### **Democratic-Republicans**

(Thomas Jefferson)

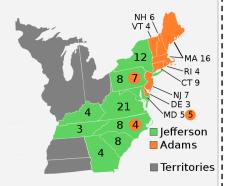
**Accused**: Federalists of destroying republican values since Adams foreign policy was favorable toward Britain.

Feared: The new army called up for the Quasi-War would oppress the people.

Attacked: The Alien and Sedition Acts

**Attacked:** The Alien and Sedition Acts as violations of states' rights and the Constitution. Also attacked new taxes to pay for war as demonstrated by Frie's Rebellion.

# Electoral College Vote Count



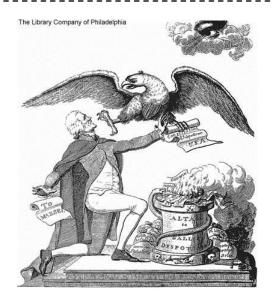
| Nominee        | Jefferson | Adams  |
|----------------|-----------|--------|
| Electoral Vote | 73        | 65     |
| States Carried | 8         | 7      |
| Popular Vote   | 41,330    | 25,952 |
| Percentage     | 61.4%     | 38.6%  |

### The Results

- Jefferson and Burr tied for first place with 73 electoral votes each creating a tied election in which both candidates were entitled to claim the presidency.
  - In the Electoral College at the time, all electors were given two votes to cast.
     The person with the most votes became President, and the second place finisher became Vice President.
- The election then turned to the House of Representatives. Unlike today, the outgoing House decided the election at this time. This meant that a Federalist-controlled House had to choose which Democratic-Republican candidate to place in office.
  - After 36 ballots over the course of a week, the House of Representatives
    declared Jefferson the winner. The election was ultimately decided by James
    Bayard from Delaware a Federalist who abandoned his political loyalties,
    putting his loyalty to his home state above all else.
- Alexander Hamilton once again heavily influenced, by writing many letters to Representatives urging them to vote against Aaron Burr.

## The Long-Term Implications

- Passage of the Twelfth Amendment in 1804
  - The 12th Amendment specifies that the Electors now chose a candidate for President and a separate candidate for VP. Ties for President are decided by the House. Ties for the VP are decided by the Senate.
- Demise of the Federalist party
  - They lost both their control of the Presidency and most of their seats in Congress in 1800, as most Americans began to dislike outdated Federalist policies.
- The United States proved that it could survive the exchange of power between opposing parties. It was the first time in world history that a republic had power change hands from one party to another and remained a republic.



This cartoon was run during the Presidential campaign of 1800, and the kneeling man is Thomas Jefferson, who was being attacked as an infidel by the Federalists. It is titled The Providential Detection, author unknown.