

The 2000 Presidential Election

The 2000 Election is the most controversial election in American history.

At the Democratic Convention the party's nomination went to Bill Clinton's Vice-President, **Al Gore** as their candidate.

The Republican Party went through a volatile series of debates between **John McCain** (Senator from Arizona) and the Texas Governor **George W. Bush** (the son of the former President). It was George W. Bush who was finally endorsed as the Republican Candidate.



George W. Bush

Al Gore

The key issue in the debates between Gore and Bush was how to best use the budget surplus accumulated during the Clinton era. Gore vowed to preserve Social Security while Bush promised to reform the system and initiate a broad tax cut.

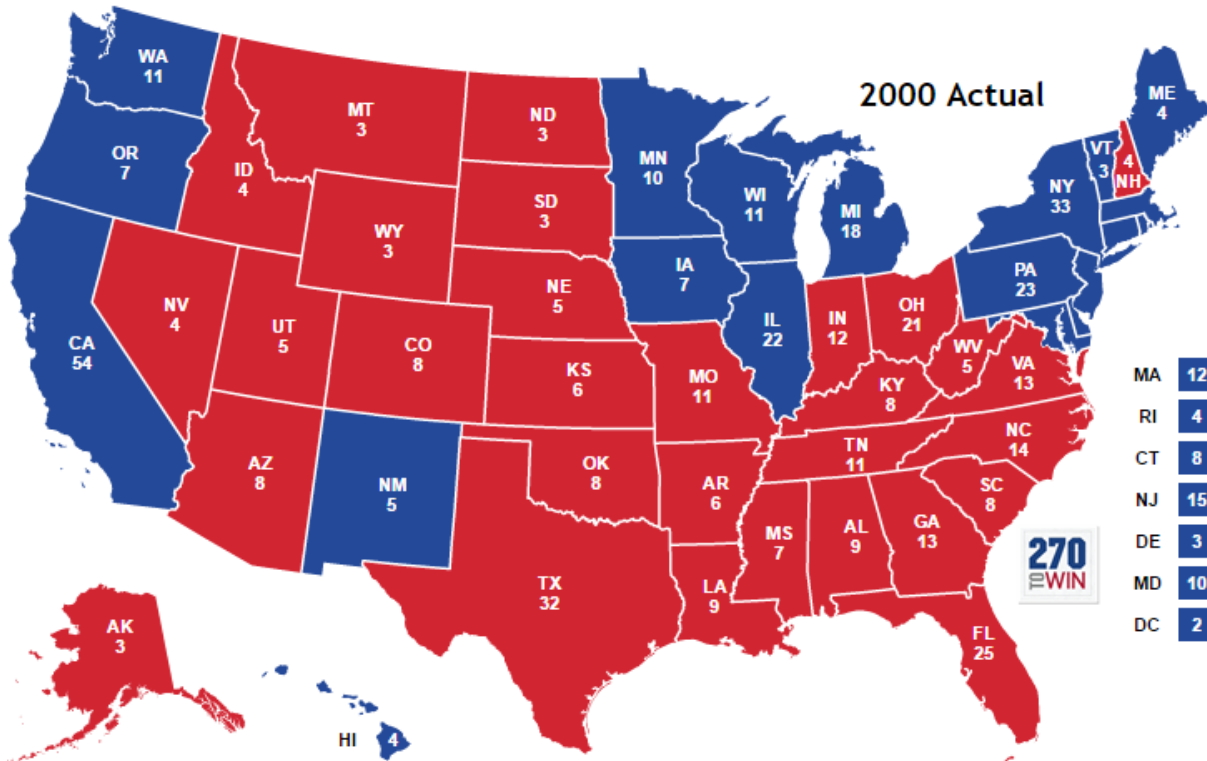
On Election Day in November 2000, the Republican Party maintained their control in the House of Representatives yet only had a one-vote majority in the Senate.

It was the presidential results that showed the **closest election since 1876** and it would be a race that was contested by both candidates. It would eventually end with a decision in the Supreme Court and Al Gore finally conceding to Bush.

Vice-President Gore won the Popular Vote but neither candidate had a clear majority of electoral votes. The outcome of the election was to be decided in the **State of Florida which held 25 Electoral Votes**. The initial results seemed to favor Bush but the vote count was too close to call. The election system in Florida was not efficient and it was riddled with problems. Recounts were ordered by the Florida election authorities.

For a month, accusations over voting and recount irregularities were the cause of arguments and political battles between both parties. A flurry of legal maneuvers and state court orders launched, then blocked new recounts. Appeals over proper interpretation of state laws led to the **Supreme Court** case **Bush v. Gore** where the court ruled that the Florida state courts had acted questionably in reexamining only certain ballots, and it ordered the recount stopped.

At this point, with the current vote counts favoring Bush, **Al Gore conceded the election**. Florida officials finally certified Bush the winner just before the Electors met to cast their ballots in the 50 state capitals. **George W. Bush was now the 43rd President of the United States of America.**



The 2000 Presidential Election Results

Candidate	Party	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes
George W. Bush	Republican	271	50,456,062
Albert Gore, Jr.	Democratic	266	50,996,955
Ralph Nader	Green	0	2,882,955