The Election of 1912

The Rise of the Bull Moose: The Progressive Party
Who formed the National Progressive League?

- Senator Robert La Follette.
- Nervous collapse left him unable to lead the party in 1912.
- Runs for President in 1916 and 1920.
Republican Convention of 1912
Chicago, Illinois

- National Convention in June
- Conservatives rally behind Taft.
- Progressive Republicans rally behind Roosevelt.
- Roosevelt in areas where there were direct primaries Roosevelt was generally the choice of the voters.
What advantage did Taft have over Roosevelt at the convention?

- Controlled the party machinery.
- Elihu Root kept a tight hold on the proceedings that he was accused of driving a steamroller over Roosevelt’s forces.
What was the final results of the Credentials Committee?

Taft received 235 of 254 convention seats.

This gives Taft the nomination of the Republican party.
A cartoonist sympathetic to Roosevelt claimed that Taft and his supporters were driving the party to destruction.
What was the new party?

- The Progressive Party
- The Bull Moose Party

![Image of Bull Moose Party poster](image_url)
Mix of people in the Progressive Party

- College Professors
- Social Workers
- Newspaper Editors
- Rough Riders
- Wealthy People motivated by social conscience.
- Professional Politicians
Senator Albert Beveridge

- Nobler America
- Social Brotherhood as opposed to savage industrialism.
- Representative government that represents the people as opposed to invisible government controlled by corrupt bosses and the robber interest.
Progressive Party Platform

- Direct Democracy through initiative and referendum.
- Conservation of natural resources for the general welfare.
- Women suffrage
- Labor reforms such as child labor laws.
- Revision of the currency system.
- Introduction of an inheritance tax.
The Bull Moose Party
Who was responsible for the progressivism of the Democratic Party?

- William Jennings Bryan
- He was responsible for seeing that the Democratic party was as progressive as the Bull Moose party.
- Helps Wilson get the nomination of the party after 46 ballots.
Differences between the New Freedom and the New Nationalism

The New Freedom
- Views monopolies as enemies of free competition.
- Advocates the use of federal power to ensure more equality of opportunity.

The New Nationalism
- Accepts big business as a fact of life.
- Proposes a more powerful federal government and a strong executive to keep it under control.
Differences between Wilson and Roosevelt.

- Wilson
  - A former university president and college professor.
  - Only three years on the political scene.
  - Often aloof.

- Roosevelt
  - Long been the best-known political figure in the United States.
  - Strong fighter in a war against privilege.
  - Enjoyed mixing with lots of people.
What other party was involved in 1912?

- The Socialist Party
- Eugene Debs ran for President
- The Socialist Party had grown in the last decade boasting 100,000 paying members, and over 700,000 votes in the last election nationwide.
The Issues in the Campaign of 1912

- Should America be capitalist or socialist?
- Should government protect the social welfare of citizens?
- Should women vote, and participate as full citizens in the life of the nation?
- Should Americans expand their democracy in other ways?
- Should government exercise more control over businesses?
- Should government try to solve the conflict between "capital" and "labor?"
- Should the government work vigorously for the conservation of natural resources?
The Results of the 1912 Election
## The Election of 1912

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Popular Vote</th>
<th>% of Popular Vote</th>
<th>Electoral Votes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>6,296,547</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>435</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roosevelt</td>
<td>Progressive</td>
<td>4,118,571</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taft</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debs</td>
<td>Socialist</td>
<td>900,672</td>
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