

# Warm-Up: Election of 1992



<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Bill Clinton</b>	George H. W. Bush	Ross Perot
<b>Party</b>	Democratic	Republican	Independent
<b>Running mate</b>	<b>Al Gore</b>	Dan Quayle	James Stockdale
<b>Electoral vote</b>	<b>370</b>	168	0
<b>Popular vote</b>	<b>44,909,806</b>	39,104,550	19,743,821
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>43.0%</b>	37.5%	18.9%

After the victory in the Persian Gulf War, President Bush Sr.'s popularity soared. Problems with the economy however, hurt Bush's chances for re-election in 1992. While running for President 4 years earlier, Bush had made the promise of "No New Taxes" in speeches across the country. However, to save some popular programs, he was forced to raise some taxes and many people felt let down.

The Democrats nominated Governor Bill Clinton from Arkansas to run against President Bush. The Clinton campaign focused on the economy and the high unemployment rate we were experiencing. Unhappy with the way things were going in Washington, Texas billionaire Ross Perot also ran for President in 1992. Perot stressed the need to end the government's policy of deficit spending. In the end, Clinton was elected with just 43% of the popular vote. Bush received 38% and was hurt by the fact that some Republicans used their votes for Perot, who finished with 19% of the ballots cast.

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1. Why were many people upset with George H.W. Bush in 1992?
  2. Bill Clinton was a "dark horse" candidate in 1992. What does this term mean?
  3. What was Ross Perot's reason for running for President in 1992?
  4. How was Bill Clinton able to win the 1992 Presidential Election with only 43% of the popular vote?
  5. What does this election show us about the role of third party candidates (Ross Perot) in presidential elections?