

# Operation Wildfire: Good Things Happen When YOU Vote

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## **Celebrating America 250: The Election of 1824 and President John Quincy Adams**

In contrast to the election of 1820, in which James Monroe basically ran unopposed, the election of 1824 featured a field of four candidates:

- Andrew Jackson
- John Quincy Adams
- William H. Crawford
- Henry Clay

The result was a splintered vote in which no candidate won a majority of the popular or electoral votes. Jackson won pluralities of both, securing almost 44 percent of the popular vote and almost 38 percent of the electoral vote.

As dictated by the Twelfth Amendment (which was enacted in 1804 in part to address earlier election snafus), the U.S. House of Representatives decided the election.

Amid allegations of corrupt bargains being struck, Adams secured the presidency, winning 13 states to Jackson's 7 and Crawford's 4. Four years later Jackson would exact his revenge, becoming the nation's seventh president.

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### Twelfth Amendment<sup>1</sup>

The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate;—the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted;—The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President.—]The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

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<sup>1</sup> Constitution of the United States, <https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-12/>