

The Delray Democrat

A Century of Republican Incompetence and Racism A Century of Democratic Competence and Inclusion¹

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Republicans Cause the Great Depression Democrats Create the Safety Net

1929-1932: Republicans control both Congress and the White House in 1929 as the country careens into the Great Depression. The government does nothing to alleviate suffering as unemployment reaches 25% and millions become homeless: "Hoover feared that providing direct aid to people in need would cause them to lose their incentive to work hard."

The next two times Republicans will control both Congress and the White House will be in the runup to George W. Bush's Great Recession and after the election of Donald Trump.

1933-1944: FDR announces a "New Deal" that includes a massive public works program, a "safety net" for desperate Americans, and regulation of the economic titans that caused the Great Depression. In his final State of the Union, FDR explains "that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence" and proposes a [Second Bill of Rights](#).

"We cannot be content, no matter how high that general standard of living may be, if some fraction of our people—whether it be one-third or one-fifth or one-tenth—is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed, and insecure." The dream dies with FDR's death 2 months later.

Democrats Expand the Safety Net

Republicans Resort to Red-Baiting and Racism

1964: Democrats pass Medicare and Medicaid. Ronald Reagan, shilling for the AMA, warns that if Medicare passes, "you and I are going to spend our sunset years telling our children, and our children's children, what it once was like in America when men were free."

1964-1965: Democrats pass the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts. LBJ warns "we have lost the South for a generation." It is a gross underestimate.

1968: Dick Nixon launches his "Southern Strategy," using racist dog whistles to capture the presidency.

1981-1992: Reagan opens his campaign with an appeal to "States Rights" in the same Mississippi county where the Klan murdered Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney. He promotes racist tropes: "welfare queens"

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), August 2024, page 15.

driving Cadillacs" and "strapping young bucks buying T-bone steaks with Food Stamps." Bush follows suit with Willie Horton. The Solid South flips, the Raw Deal replaces the New Deal, and the federal debt quadruples

1993-2001: Bill Clinton raises taxes and creates 23 million jobs during his tenure. The annual budget shows a surplus for his last three years in office.

Democrats Continue to Clean up Republican Messes

2001-2008: George W. Bush ignores CIA warnings regarding Osama bin Laden. He invades Afghanistan and comers but loses bin Laden in the mountains. He launches a \$3-trillion war against Iraq based on lies and in violation of international law. He spies on Americans unlawfully. He doubles the federal debt.

He signs two tax cuts benefitting the wealthiest Americans. He tries but fails to privatize Social Security. He bungles the response to Katrina. He lets banksters run wild and they cause the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, Four million Americans lose their jobs and 10 million (disproportionately POC) lose their homes.

2009-2016: Republicans monolithically oppose Barack Obama's efforts to repair the economy. Only three Republican vote for The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It averts a second Great Depression, but another 4 million jobs are lost before the economy begins to recover. The U.S. credit rating is downgraded and the government shut down in phony debt ceiling crises engineered by Republicans. Still, 11 million jobs added by Obama

Democrats pass the Affordable Care Act, insuring 20 million previously uninsured Americans and saving tens of thousands of lives. Bin Laden is killed.

2016-2020, Behold the Beast: Dismissed as a joke by a craven, clueless corporate media, Donald Trump presides over the most ruinous presidency in American history. His single legislative achievement is a tax cut for plutocrats and multinationals. Inheriting the greatest postwar expansion, he adds nearly as much debt in 4 years as Obama added in 8. His incompetent response to COVID exacerbates the death toll and plunges the country into a Second Great Depression. He loses 9.3 million jobs in his final year, becoming the first president to preside over a net job loss during his tenure.

2021-24: Democrats pass the American Recovery Plan and Inflation Reduction Act. Biden signs the largest infrastructure bill in decades, the first gun safety legislation in nearly three decades; the biggest expansion of veterans' benefits in over three decades, and an investment in microchip production to make America more competitive with China.

Biden adds over 15 million jobs in 40 months and reduces unemployment to lowest rate in 54 years, and Black unemployment to its lowest level ever. Inflation spikes, as economy reopens after Covid but returns to pre-pandemic levels as Biden's job-creation machine allows economy to withstand 11 Fed rate increases.