

# The Delray Democrat

## A Century of **Republican Incompetence and Racism** Versus **Democratic Competence and Inclusion**<sup>1</sup>

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### **Republicans Cause the Great Depression** **Democrats Create the Safety Net**

1923-1932: Republicans control Congress and the White House as the country careens into the Great Depression. The government does nothing to alleviate suffering as unemployment reaches 25% and millions become homeless.

1933-1944: FDR's "New Deal" for America includes a massive public works program, a "safety net" for desperate Americans, and regulation of the economic titans who caused the Great Depression. In his final State of the Union FDR 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 two months **later**.

### **Democrats Expand the Safety Net** **Republicans Resort to Red-Baiting and Racism**

**1964:** Democrats pass Medicare and Medicaid. Shilling for the AMA, Ronald Reagan calls it socialized medicine and 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:** Richard Nixon launches his "Southern Strategy," using racist dog whistles to capture the presidency.

**1981-1992:** With an appeal to "States Rights," Reagan opens his campaign in the Mississippi county where the Klan murdered Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney. His presidency is marked by racist tropes ("welfare queens driving Cadillacs" and "strapping young bucks buying T-bone steaks with Food Stamps"). George H.W. 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 creates 23 million jobs during his tenure. The annual budget shows a surplus for his last three years in office. The Supreme Court stops the vote count and hands the presidency to George W. Bush. Al Gore concedes rather than foment an insurrection.

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Delray Democrat\*](#), June 2025, page 5.

## **Republicans Continue Creating Messes**

### **Democrats Continue Fixing Them**

**2001-2008:** George W. Bush ignores CIA warnings regarding Osama bin Laden, leading to 9/11. He invades Afghanistan and corners but then 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.

Bush signs 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:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 prevents a second Great Depression and Obama adds a net of 11 million jobs. 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 longest 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, A Consequential Presidency:** Democrats pass the American Recovery Plan and Inflation Reduction Act without any Republican votes. 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 16 million jobs (more than any president in a single term) and unemployment flirts with its lowest rate in 54 years, tames the COVID-created inflation, and turns over a strong economy to Donald Trump

**2025-?:** Trump begins to make good on his second chance to destroy the economy and his first real chance to destroy the Republic.