

# 1812

## Democratic-Republicans (James Madison)

- War of 1812 was declared in June 1812, & this was the major issue of the election
- Northern Republicans were greatly concerned about the domination of the Virginia dynasty (they wanted to nominate George Clinton, but he died on April 20, 1812)
- Republican congressional caucuses gave their support to Madison
- a 2nd Republican caucus selected Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts as the Vice-Presidential candidate
- former President John Adams from Massachusetts became an elector for Madison, rejecting the anti-war Federalists
- Madison pretty much remained aloof from the campaign
- anti-Clinton newspapers suggested that Clinton had used public funds to support newspapers in New York supportive of him
- Republican Party discipline seemed to carry the unity of the party to victory
- Pennsylvania was the battleground state that gave the election victory to Madison

**EV = 128**

13th Congress -> House [Dem-Rep] = 112; Senate [Dem-Rep] = 27  
14th Congress -> House [Dem-Rep] = 117; Senate [Dem-Rep] = 25

## Federalists (DeWitt Clinton)

- Federalists selected DeWitt Clinton although they weren't too thrilled with his candidacy
- Federalists issued what appeared to be a "platform," calling for unity between the North & West, and also tried to exploit the fact that Virginians had held the Presidency for 20 out of 24 years
- Federalists accused Madison of having rushed the nation into war
- Federalist newspapers tried to show that Clinton had the nation's interests at heart: commerce, internal improvements, & agriculture
- New York Republicans gave their support to Clinton
- Federalist newspapers suggested that Madison was responsible for General Hull's surrender in Detroit
- even though the Federalists lost the presidency, they made gains in both the House and the Senate from the 1808 election and 1810 mid-term elections

**EV = 89**

13th Congress -> House [Fed] = 68; Senate [Fed] = 9  
14th Congress -> House [Fed] = 65; Senate [Fed] = 11

