



VERMONT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Meets annually

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WHEN VERMONT WAS A GOP STRONGHOLD

The last US presidential election took place a year ago and it is still three years to the next one in 2020, but already politicians are jockeying to see who will become each party's nominee.

Let's go back a few decades to the election of 1944. As we know the Democratic candidates were president Franklin D. Roosevelt and Missouri senator Harry S. Truman. The Republican candidates were New York governor Thomas E. Dewey and Ohio governor John Bricker (top right). Roosevelt and Truman won the election carrying both the popular vote with fifty-three to forty-six percent and the Electoral College by four hundred and thirty-two to ninety-nine.

According to Wikipedia, Vermont was one of twelve states which voted for Dewey. The margin in Vermont was fifty-seven percent to FDR's forty-three percent. Dewey carried ten of the fourteen counties, losing in Chittenden, Grand Isle, Franklin, and Essex.

For decades Vermont was a Republican party stronghold. The first national election in which a Republican was a candidate was the election of 1856. John C. Frémont vied with Democrat James Buchanan, and Millard Fillmore of the American Party. Buchanan won with one hundred and seventy-four electoral votes to Frémont's one hundred and fourteen, and Fillmore's eight votes from the state of Maryland. Frémont won most of the northern states except for Pennsylvania. This was to be the last time that a Democrat won the presidency until 1884. Of course, the next election in 1860 would be a watershed in the history of the United States with Republican Abraham Lincoln becoming president.

Frémont is shown on this 1856 campaign cover from East Brookfield, Vermont (middle), while a beardless Lincoln graces the 1860 Pawlet, Vermont, cover (bottom). ■

