



A Look Back

Presidential election years can be heady times on college campuses. The stakes are great and the media frenzy even greater. For today's undergraduates, they are often a first opportunity to vote, and can yield heated debates, vigorous voter drives, and numerous predictions. A sampling of Adelphi's presidential election news reveals the changing colors of the times.

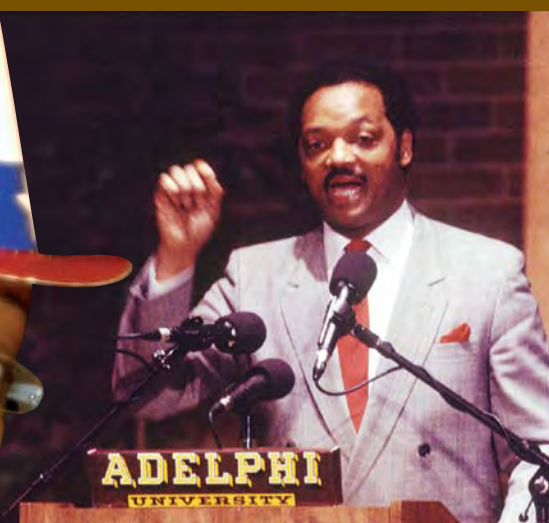
CAMPUS Politics

1948 Harry S. Truman v. Thomas E. Dewey

President Harry S. Truman soundly defeated his Republican rival Thomas E. Dewey in the 1948 election. Yet, many Adelphi students had a different ballot in mind when polled in May 1948. Of 854 students polled by the *Adelphi Guidon*, 370 of whom identified themselves as Republicans, 220 chose Republican hopeful former Minnesota Governor Harold E. Stassen as the favored candidate.

1956 Dwight D. Eisenhower v. Adlai E. Stevenson

College newspaper editors proved prescient in their choice of Dwight Eisenhower as the most likely winner of the 1956 presidential election. According to the *Delphian*, 77 percent of the 247 college editors who participated indicated that Ike would win in '56. Of those, 158 agreed that having Richard Nixon on the ticket hindered Ike's chances.



1984 Ronald Reagan v. Walter F. Mondale

Adelphi students and faculty gathered on election night 1984 to hear the news of President Ronald Reagan's sound defeat of his Democratic rival Walter Mondale. A prior campus poll had indicated a strong preference for Mr. Mondale. The *Delphian* reported "no cheers" among those who listened to the news of President Reagan's presumptive victory.

1988 George H. Bush v. Michael S. Dukakis

Adelphi students crowded the University Center on April 8, 1988, hoping to be admitted to a highly publicized forum with Democratic presidential candidates Michael Dukakis, Al Gore, and Jesse Jackson. Few of those who lined up were admitted to the mobbed question-and-answer session moderated by New York State Assembly member Earlene Hooper M.S.W. '76.

2004 George W. Bush v. John F. Kerry

Adelphi's student-run voter drive, V.O.T.E.R. (Voicing Our Thoughts, Exercising Our Rights) joined a nationwide effort to rally the youth vote. Spearheaded by graduate student Mark Ottaviano '01, M.A. '06 and undergraduates Chelle Buffone '05, Chantal Hamlin '07, (pictured left) and Evan Sarris '06, V.O.T.E.R. held student debates, discussion sessions, "Speak on a Soapbox" hours, and group viewings of debates and election results. As a result of V.O.T.E.R.'s efforts, 368 people completed voter registration forms, and 606 signed a pledge to vote in the general election.

By Bonnie Eissner
Based on research by University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian Eugene T. Neely and his staff.