

**Name:** James Knox Polk

**# 11**

**Terms:** March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1845 to March 4<sup>th</sup> 1849

**Election Results:**

Year	Candidate	Popular Votes	Electoral Votes
1848	James K. Polk	1,338,464	170
1844	Henry Clay	1,300,097	105

**Four ideas or acts:**

-Treaty of 1848 with Mexico. It gave the U.S. control over California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and parts of Colorado and Wyoming.

-Walker Tariff Act of 1846. It reduced tariffs, or taxes, on goods imported from other countries so foreign products could compete in cost with those made in the United States.

-Independent Treasury Act of 1846. This act created a bank to handle federal funds that was separate from private businesses and state banks. The Treasury Act became the foundation of the present U.S. banking system.

-In 1846, Polk signed a treaty with Britain, gaining control of the entire Oregon territory. The new treaty created a boundary between Canada and the United States at the 49th parallel of latitude.

**Administration:**

**Vice President:** George M. Dallas (1845-1849)

**Cabinet:**

**Secretary of State**

James Buchanan (1845-1849)

**Secretary of the Treasury**

Robert J. Walker (1845-1849)

**Secretary of War**

William L. Marcy (1845-1849)

**Attorney General**

John Y. Mason (1845-46)

Nathan Clifford (1846-48)

Isaac Toucey (1848-49)

**Postmaster General**

Cave Johnson (1845-1849)

**Secretary of the Navy**

George Bancroft (1845-46)

John Y. Mason (1846-49)

**Problems encountered:**

-On May 13, 1846, the United States went to war against Mexico over Texas.

-He walked into troubles with foreign affairs. Problems with not only Mexico but also Britain over boundary lines in North America dealing.

**Trivia facts:**

**-He had the shortest post-term life. He died of diarrhea three months after leaving office.**

**-Gold was discovered in the West during his presidency.**

**Name: Benjamin Harrison**

**# 23**

**Terms: 1889-1893**

**Election Results:**

Year	Candidates	Popular Votes	Electoral Votes
1888	*Benjamin Harrison	5,447,129	233
	Grover Cleveland	5,537,857	168
1892	Benjamin Harrison	5,182,690	145
	*Grover Cleveland	5,555,426	277
	James B. Weaver	1,029,846	22

**\*winner**

**Four ideas or acts:**

- The landmark **Sherman Antitrust Act**, the first bill ever to attempt to limit the power of America's giant corporations

- Harrison lobbied successfully for the passage of the **Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890**, which required that silver be used in federal coinage, a concession to the western silver interests. However, this plan was badly conceived and nearly depleted the U.S. Treasury of its gold reserves.

- The **Dependent Pension Act**, which benefited all Civil War veterans who could not perform manual labor, was passed despite the fact that the resulting cost of pensions would rise from \$88 million in 1889 to \$159 million in 1893.

- The **McKinley Tariff Act**, setting tariffs at record highs, was designed mainly to protect American manufacturers during a period of rapid industrialization.

**Administration:**

**Vice President: Levi P. Morton**

**Cabinet:**

**Secretary of State**

**James G. Blaine (1889-92)**

**John W. Foster (1892-93)**

**Secretary of the Treasury**

**William Windom (1889-91)**  
**Charles Foster (1891-93)**  
**Secretary of War**  
**Redfield Proctor (1889-91)**  
**Stephen B. Elkins (1891-93)**  
**Attorney General**  
**William H. H. Miller (1889-93)**  
**Postmaster General**  
**John Wanamaker (1889-93)**  
**Secretary of the Navy**  
**Benjamin F. Tracy (1889-93)**  
**Secretary of the Interior**  
**John W. Noble (1889-93)**  
**Secretary of Agriculture**  
**Jeremiah M. Rusk (1889-93)**

**Problems encountered:**

**-Harrison faced domestic problems during his time in office. The administration attempted to solve pressing economic and social problems by passing four important laws in 1890. (see above)**

**-Southern problems rooted in Reconstruction**

**Trivia facts:**

**-Only president to be the grandson of a president.**

**-May be first president whose voice was recorded.**