

President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)

**Election Results:**

1952 Election-

Dwight D. Eisenhower: Popular Vote 33,936,234 Electoral Vote 442

Adlai E. Stevenson: Popular Vote 27,314,992 Electoral Vote 89

1956 Election-

Dwight D. Eisenhower: Popular Vote 35,590,472 Electoral Vote 457

Adlai E. Stevenson: Popular Vote 26,022,752 Electoral Vote 73

**Ideas or Acts Passed During Administration:**

The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, popularly known as the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act, was enacted on June 29, 1956, when Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill into law. With an original authorization of 25 billion dollars for the construction of 41,000 miles of the Interstate Highway System supposedly over a 20-year period, it was the largest public works project in American history through that time.

The Civil Rights Act of 1875 was a United States federal law proposed by Republican Senator Charles Sumner and Republican Congressman Benjamin F. Butler in 1870. The act was passed by Congress in February, 1875 and signed by President Grant on March 1, 1875. It was declared unconstitutional by the US Supreme Court in 1883. Many of the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1875 were passed into law in the 1960s with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act using the federal power to regulate interstate commerce.

**Administration:**

*Vice President:* Richard M. Nixon

*Secretary of State:* John Foster Dulles, Christian A. Herter

*Secretary of the Treasury:* George M. Humphrey, Robert B. Anderson

*Secretary of Defense:* Charles E. Wilson, Neil H. McElroy, Thomas S. Gates

*Attorney General:* Herbert Brownell, Jr., William P. Rogers

*Postmaster General:* Arthur E. Summerfield

*Secretary of the Interior:* Douglas J. McKay, Frederick A. Seaton

*Secretary of Agriculture:* Ezra Taft Benson

*Secretary of Commerce:* Sinclair Weeks, Lewis Strauss, Frederick H. Mueller

*Secretary of Labor:* Martin P. Durkin, James P. Mitchell

**Issues Faced:**

The Eisenhower administration declared racial discrimination a national security issue, meaning that the Communists around the world were using racial discrimination in the U.S. as a point of propaganda attack.

In September 1955, while vacationing in Colorado, he had a serious heart attack that required several weeks' hospitalization.

**Trivia:**

Last president to be born in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

He was serving as the chief of staff to General Walter Krueger at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack