

## President Harry Truman (1945-1953)

### **Election Results:**

1948 Election-

Harry Truman: Popular Vote 24,179,345 Electoral Vote 303

Thomas Dewey: Popular Vote 21,991,291 Electoral Vote 189

Strom Thurmond: Popular Vote 1,176,125 Electoral Vote 39

### **Ideas or Acts Passed During Administration:**

Truman adopted a strategy of rapid demobilization after World War II, mothballing ships and sending the veterans home. The reasons for this strategy, which persisted through Truman's first term and well into his second, were largely financial. To fund domestic spending requirements, Truman had advocated a policy of defense program cuts for the U.S. armed forces at the end of the war.

The Labor–Management Relations Act is a United States federal law that monitors the activities and power of labor unions. The act, still effective, was sponsored by Senator Robert Taft and Representative Fred A. Hartley, Jr. and legislated by overriding U.S. President Harry S. Truman's veto on June 23, 1947; labor leaders called it the "slave-labor bill" while President Truman argued it would "conflict with important principles of our democratic society," though he would subsequently use it twelve times during his presidency.

The American Housing Act of 1949 was a landmark, sweeping expansion of the federal role in mortgage insurance and issuance and the construction of public housing. It was part of Harry Truman's program of domestic legislation, the Fair Deal.

The National Security Act of 1947 was signed by United States President Harry S. Truman on July 26, 1947, and realigned and reorganized the U.S. Armed Forces, foreign policy, and Intelligence Community apparatus in the aftermath of World War II.

### **Administration:**

*Vice President:* Alben W. Barkley

*Secretary of State:* Edward R. Stettinius Jr, James F Byrnes, George C. Marshall

*Secretary of the Treasury:* Henry Morgenthau Jr, Frederick M. Vinson, John W. Snyder

*Secretary of War:* Henry L. Stimson, Robert P. Patterson, Kenneth C. Royall

*Secretary of Defense:* James V. Forrestal, Louis A. Johnson, George C. Marshall  
*Attorney General:* Francis B. Biddle, Thomas C. Clark, J. Howard McGrath

*Postmaster General:* Frank C. Walker, Robert E Hannegan, Jesse M. Donaldson

*Secretary of the Navy:* James V. Forrestal

*Secretary of the Interior:* Harold L. Ickes, Julius A. Krug, Oscar L. Chapman

*Secretary of Agriculture:* Claude R. Wickard, Clinton P. Anderson, Charles F. Brannan

*Secretary of Commerce:* Henry A. Wallace, William Averell Harriman, Charles Sawyer

*Secretary of Labor:* Frances Perkins, Lewis B. Schwellenbach, Maurice J. Tobin

**Issues Faced:**

Although Truman cooperated closely with the Republican leaders on foreign policy, he fought them bitterly on domestic issues. He failed to prevent tax cuts or the removal of price controls.

In 1948 Truman ordered a controversial addition to the exterior of the White House: a second-floor balcony in the south portico that came to be known as the "Truman Balcony." The addition was unpopular.

**Trivia:**

There has been considerable controversy regarding the use of a period after the S in Truman's name

Truman was the third left-handed president of the United States.