


# Saving America in 1932.

 **Mission:** solve the social, economic and political problems c1932.

It is 1932 and the Great Depression has ravaged America - **So what now what?**

Activity set up: assign student groups to play one of the roles on the place cards that follow. Note, it is not necessary to have every group represented and these are merely suggestions. Ideally groups should be given a lesson and a homework to formulate their ideas and arguments for their most important items.

The 'electorate' decides the outcome following each item discussion. The electorate is essentially the jury that decides on each item. They also call the items to order, maintain discipline and set a time limit ( 5 mins? ) per item. At the end of each item, they should be given a short time to decide then announce their decision. You may wish to use the 'Electorate Tokens' at the end of each item for the team that was most helpful or persuasive.

Show a large count down timer on a whiteboard of possible.

There are also additional game / power cards to spice up the activity if you wish to use them.

**1: Riots in New York:** workers and the unemployed are rioting in protest of what is happening to them. How should they be treated?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the 'electorate' to support your argument.

**2: Tax Rates:** what is the best tax rates for - Farmers - Workers -Middle Class - Big Business Owners? Decide as a percentage.



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the 'electorate' to support your argument.

**3: Low worker wages:** production has dropped 50% resulting in less profits for companies and cuts in wages. Raise them or not?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the 'electorate' to support your argument.

**4: Farmer's mortgage defaults:** famers are not making their mortgage repayments to the banks. Take their farms away?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the 'electorate' to support your argument.

**5: Homelessness:** Two million people in 1932. Solutions?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the t 'electorate' to support your argument.

**6: The Volstead Act / Prohibition:** the sale, consumption, manufacture and transporting of alcohol has been illegal since 1920. Repeal?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the 'electorate' to support your argument.

**7: Banks Dry:** Surviving banks have no money to lend - companies that need money are failing or can't grow. Solutions?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the 'electorate' to support your argument.

**8: Overeruption of consumer goods:** many Americans cannot afford to buy goods. Very difficult to export them too. Solutions?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the 'electorate' to support your argument.

**9: Banking Regulations:** Banks currently left to make their own rules.



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the electorate' to support your argument.

**10: Bonus Army:** 15,000 WW1 veterans march on Washington to demand early payment of pensions due in 1945. Disband them?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the 'electorate' to support your argument.

**11: Fourteen million Americans unemployed:** What can be done to get so many people back to work?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the 'electorate' to support your argument.

**12: The Dust Bowl:** Farmers from Oklahoma 'Ookies' have been devastated by no rain, dust storms. Many are migrating to California.




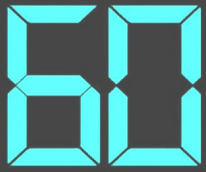
Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the 'electorate' to support your argument.

**13: Any other business:** Any suggested items for discussion?



**Time Tokens** - you may wish to give each team 3 x 60 seconds time tokens to play. Once played this guarantees the floor + one minute of uninterrupted time to make their argument.

Unused time may be yielded to another group.

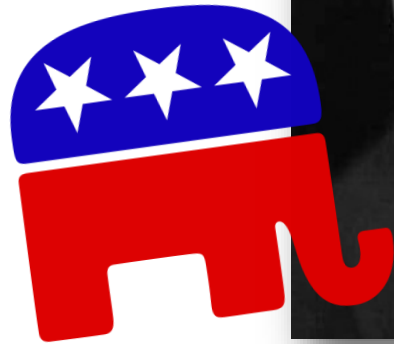




Republicans did not believe in BIG (Federal) government interventions.  
Laissez Faire  
Deregulation of banks and industries.  
Low Taxes for the wealthy - handouts make poor people lazy  
Capitalism—the American Dream — Let big business take care of business

MAIN AIM = Save America with traditional Republican policies.

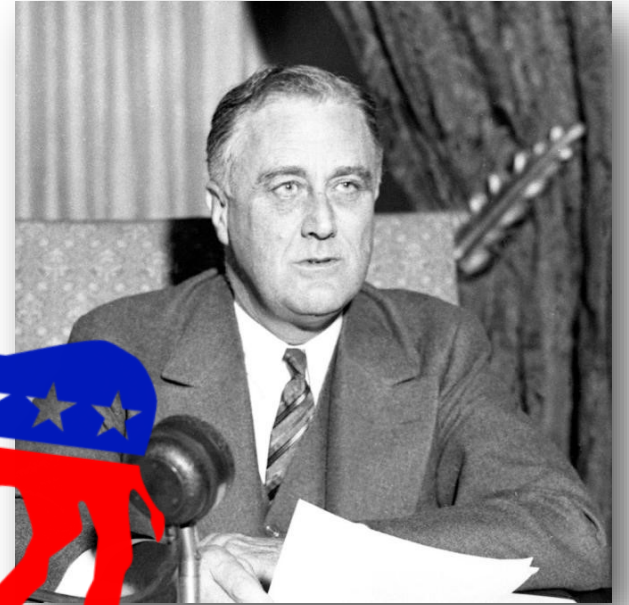
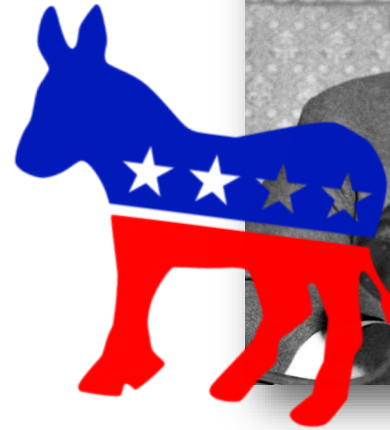
# President Hoover



Democrats believe that Federal government should get involved at local and state level.  
Lower taxes for the working and middle classes.  
Government regulation of banks and industries.  
Federal money should be used to support the poor.

MAIN AIM = Save America with traditional Democratic policies.

# Franklin D Roosevelt





You represent farmers in the Midwest and the South  
Many of your members are unable to pay the mortgages on their farms  
This is not their fault- but due to overproduction and tariffs  
Many have also been hit by the environmental disaster of the dust bowl  
You are more conservative in outlook

MAIN AIM = Find any way to sell your goods at a fair price.

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# The Farm Board



You need Federal support to help ease this problem.  
You do not have enough state money to make any real improvement.  
Your state has been struggling to cope with the migration of 'Oakies'.  
The Federal Government ( president Hoover) has cash reserves.

MAIN AIM = Help the poor, unemployed and homeless in your city

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# California Governor





You used to work at Ford's Factory.  
You got easy loans from the bank to invest in the stock market - and lost.  
You lost your job in 1930.  
You do not have enough money to pay your mortgage or feed your family.  
You joined the New York protests and riots.

MAIN AIM = Get a job and feed your family.

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# Ex Factory Worker



You own big factory that produces radios.  
After 1928 more and American people have stopped buying your goods.  
Tariffs have made it hard to sell your products outside of America  
You have already cut wages and fired some workers.  
You cannot get any money from the bank to keep your business going.

MAIN AIM = Get back to business

# Business Owner



You are the manager of a large chain of banks.  
You have loaned out too much money and your bank has no money left.  
People who gambled on the stock market lost the money you loaned them.  
Most farmers cannot make the payment on their farm mortgages

MAIN AIM = get your money back

# Bank Manager



# The Electorate



MAIN AIM = to bring the USA out of the Great Depression

**Listen carefully** to the proposals from groups before you decide what to do for each item.  
Announce your decision before introducing and moving onto the next item of discussion.  
You may ask any clarifying questions but avoid getting involved in discussions - let the various groups do this.

### **Suggested tasks while the other teams prepare.**

- Task 1 - Decide on necessary roles E.G. a time keeper - a chairperson - announcer - other?
- Task 2 - Consider any other important matters and raise these during the 'Any Other Business' round.
- Task 3—Any other ideas or suggestions to improve the activity - what issues may you face?