

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS of the 1840s and 1850s

1840

Whig

William Henry Harrison

dies 1841 → John Tyler

Democrat

Martin Van Buren

1844

Democrat

James K. Polk

Whig

Henry Clay

Liberty Party

James Birney

attracts Northern anti-slavery Whigs

1848

Whig

Zachary Taylor

dies 1851 → Millard Fillmore

Democrat

Lewis Cass

loses Northern votes to Free-Soil

Free-Soil Party

Martin Van Buren

formerly a Northern Democrat, draws from Northern Democrats *and* Whigs

1852

Democrat

Franklin Pierce

Whig

Winfield Scott

Whigs badly split and weakened

1856

Democrat

James Buchanan

Republican

John C. Fremont

the Republicans' first showing

American

Millard Fillmore

an anti-immigrant third party