Bush 88 Quayle

Lucas County Bush/Quayle '88 Headquarters, 5231 Hill Avenue, Toledo, OH 43615

1988

George H. W. Bush (Republican) v. Michael Dukakis (Democrat)

"If anyone wants to put a tail on me, go ahead. They'd be very bored."

—*Democratic presidential candidate Senator Gary Hart, to a* New York Times *reporter. The* Miami Herald *already had, and it was not bored.*

Electoral Votes	Popular Votes
Bush 426	Bush 48,886,097
Dukakis 111	Dukakis 41,809,074
Bentsen 1*	

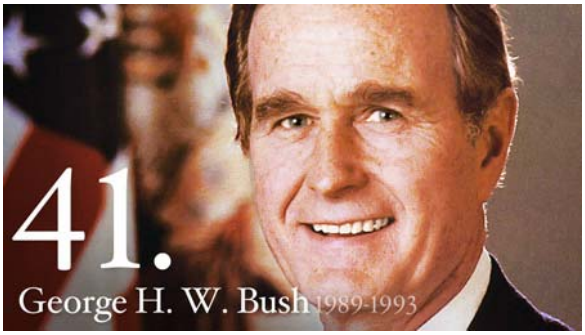
*Although Lloyd Bentsen ran for vice president, he received one electoral college vote.

As President Ronald Reagan's eight years in office wound down, many contenders—a few touched by scandal—geared up for a run at the White House. On the Republican side, the heir apparent and ostensible front-runner was Vice President George H. W. Bush—that is, until Sen. Bob Dole barged in and defeated Bush in Iowa. Finishing a surprising second was Baptist minister Pat Robertson, a leading figure in the surging Christian right. Although Robertson was tainted by the sex scandals then plaguing his televangelist brethren, the preacher's presence was notable for injecting the presidential race with "culture wars." Candidates were suddenly asked to explain their positions on matters that had long been settled or were once considered fringe issues, such as school prayer, flag burning, and the newly prominent concept of political correctness. Other notable GOP candidates included New York congressman and former Buffalo Bills quarterback Jack Kemp; Donald Rumsfeld, the former (and future) secretary of defense; and former secretary of state Alexander Haig.

Determined to halt the Dole express, Bush charged after his rival in New Hampshire, accusing him of supporting tax increases. The televised barrage was so intense that the senator snarled at Bush to "stop lying about my record." Bush later struggled to reconcile his claims of being "out of the loop" in the trading-arms-for-hostages scandal that followed the release of the Tower Commission report on the Iran–Contra affair. To his relief, by the end of March the other candidates, outspent and outmaneuvered, had fallen by the wayside, allowing Bush to surf what he liked to call the "Big Mo" all the way to the nomination.

Meanwhile, the Democratic race was notable for the implosion in May 1987 of its front-runner, Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado. From strategic investing to military reform, Hart framed his candidacy as one of new ideas, but he soon found himself caught in an old-fashioned scandal involving a woman named Donna and a yacht named *Monkey Business*. When a reporter asked him point-blank, "Have you ever committed adultery?" Hart replied, "I don't have to answer that question." The question was significant for invalidating the decades-old gentlemen's agreement that had existed between the press and politicians, in which certain information was kept private in exchange for continued access. Soon after the encounter, Hart ended his four-week-old campaign (although he did attempt to reignite it seven months later, only to drop out again). The larger legacy was that of an emboldened media crossing a long-standing and recognized boundary. Mainstream American news coverage was never the same again.

Bush and Dukakis as Samurai, drawing by David Levine, 1988. Vice President George Bush swiftly struck at Dukakis, highlighting his rival's flaws as governor of Massachusetts.



Cuadragésimo primer presidente de los Estados Unidos de América. Nació en Milton, Massachusetts el 12 de junio de 1924. Fue líder estudiantil en la Academia Phillips en Andover. Al cumplir dieciocho años se alistó en las fuerzas armadas. Fue condecorado con la Cruz Distinguida de Vuelo por su heroísmo en acción.

En dos períodos consecutivos fue representante al Congreso por el Estado de Texas y en dos oportunidades se postuló sin éxito para el Senado. En aquel entonces fue designado a una serie de cargos de alta responsabilidad: embajador de las Naciones Unidas, jefe del Comité Nacional del Partido Republicano, director de enlaces en la embajada estadounidense de la República Popular China y Director de la Agencia Central de Inteligencia (CIA).

En 1980 Bush compitió por la nominación republicana presidencial. Perdió, aunque fue elegido como candidato a la vicepresidencia de Ronald Reagan. En 1988 Bush obtuvo la nominación republicana para presidente.

Bush debió enfrentar los dramáticos cambios mundiales tales como: el fin de la Guerra Fría luego de cuarenta amargos años, el derrumbe del bloque comunista y la caída del Muro de Berlín. Asimismo, la Unión Soviética dejó de existir como tal y el presidente reformista Mikhail Gorbachev, a quien Bush había respaldado, presentó su renuncia. Mientras Bush aclamaba la evolución y avance de la democracia, insistió en limitar la política de Estados Unidos hacia el grupo de nuevas naciones.

En otras áreas de política exterior, el presidente Bush envió tropas americanas a Panamá para derrocar el régimen corrupto del general Manuel Noriega.

La prueba más grande para Bush se presentó cuando el presidente iraquí Saddam Hussein invadió a Kuwait y amenazaba con ocupar Arabia Saudita. Prometiendo liberar Kuwait, Bush envió 425,000 soldados americanos a los cuales se unieron 118,000 soldados de las naciones aliadas.

A pesar de una popularidad sin precedentes, resultante de su triunfo militar y diplomático, Bush se vio imposibilitado para resistir el descontento de la opinión pública americana, consecuente con una economía vacilante, el resurgimiento de la violencia en algunas ciudades y la permanencia del elevado y continuo déficit. En 1992 Bush perdió su posibilidad de reelección contra el candidato demócrata William Bill Clinton.

Créditos
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