
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 253

1926 September ?

**Draft of Democratic Platform -
1926 Gubernatorial Campaign**

File

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We are gratified to record these achievements all of which have been advocated by the Democratic party and sponsored and added by Governor Smith.

and
Direct/income tax reduction in three successive years, amounting in 1926 to \$50,000,000.

TAX
REDUCTION

Every need of the State adequately provided for.
A surplus in the State Treasury of over \$15,000,000.

REORGANIZA-
TION STATE
GOVERN-
MENT

Final adoption by the people of amendment to reorganize the State government.

187 Boards, Bureaus and Commissions on January 1, 1927 become 21 State Departments responsible to the Executive.

EXECUTIVE
BUDGET

Adoption by the legislature of constitutional amendment establishing an Executive Budget.

BOND
ISSUES

Four bond issues approved by the public and work in progress under each:

1. For hospital and institutional construction:
 - \$,000 additional beds under construction
 - Hospital for mentally disabled veterans of the World War nearing completion
 - New hospital for the metropolitan district and a psychiatric institute under way
 - Fire protection in institutions improved
 - New hospital for crippled children under way.
2. For State Parks and Parkways:
 - Appropriations of \$8,000,000 made for purchase of park lands and their development. State Park

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BOND
ISSUES
(con't)

Council created. Regional Park Commissions appointed.
Park lands purchased and developed from Montauk to
Niagara.

3. For Public Buildings and Permanent Improvements.

\$10,000,000 appropriated
Sing Sing completed
Poughkeepsie bridge progressed
State Office Building begun
State Health Laboratories completed
Armories and normal schools begun.

4. For the Elimination of Railroad Crossings at grade.

\$80,000,000 appropriated x
Work in progress all over the State.

TRANS-
PORTA-
TION

Highway building put on efficient basis of construction for
permanent use and not for political ends. Highway map adopted.

Vehicular tunnel completed.

Bridges between Staten Island and New Jersey under con-
struction by Port Authority financed by Port Authority bonds.

All bridges on State highways former^{ly} charge on localities
now to be constructed and maintained by the State.

Commission appointed to study and develop the Erie Canal.
in

Regional planning in progress in many sections of the State.

EDUCATION

An additional \$11,000,000 appropriated for the support of
rural schools making the largest appropriation for education in
the history of the State.

HEALTH

Generous appropriations for public health justified by low mortality rates.

State aid established for public health in rural communities.

Medical practice act preventing quackery passed.

Care and treatment of crippled children investigated and improved.

HOUSING

The emergency rent laws have been continued.

A new housing commission has been appointed to eliminate the evils of bad housing in congested areas.

MOTOR
VEHICLE

Motor Vehicle Law has eliminated thousand of reckless drivers.

LABOR
DEPARTMENT

The Labor Department crippled under a Republican administration has been restored to a high level of efficiency.

The Bureau of Women in Industry has been re-established.

Increased efforts were made for the prevention of industrial accidents and disease. Liberal amendments were enacted to the Workmen's Compensation Law to reduce delay in the payment of compensation claims and to increase compensation to widows, dependents and injured employees. The non-compensated waiting period after an accident was reduced from fourteen to seven days.

The Industrial Council was created.

SOLDIERS'
Bonus

The Soldiers' Bonus has been distributed and the organization created for the work, disbanded.

WIDOWS
PENSIONS
CHILD
WELFARE

Laws for widowed mothers' pensions and boards of child welfare strengthened and extended.

CHILDRENS
COURT

Childrens Court Act enacted.

- OF THE COM. A crime commission appointed to consider causes, proper punishment and prevention of crime.
- NATIONAL GUARD The National Guard brought to the highest point of efficiency in the history of the State and to full strength.
- HOME RULE Home Rule made an actuality.
- MARKETING ACT A state cooperative marketing act passed.
- AGRICULTURE Progress made on the elimination of tubercular cattle and indemnities promptly paid.
- CIVIL SERVICE Civil Service standards maintained and extended to many new positions.
- CONSERVATION Conservation policy further and progressed.
- FORESTS Forests protected from fire hazard. Reforestation carried forward, large tracts of land added to the forest preserves.
- TRANSIT Transit regulation and transit construction in New York City separated and a Board of Transportation, appointed and controlled by the local city government, established.

FIRST Draft 1926
Platform

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The Democratic party asks for the support of the people and submits for consideration its record of achievements. This record has been consistently sponsored and furthered by Governor Alfred E. Smith and the Democratic members of the Senate and Assembly.

The administrations of Governor Smith have been made notable by the most progressive achievements in the history of the State. The people have been given efficient, businesslike, clean and above all, humane administration of our government. Governor Smith has conducted the affairs of the State with zeal and devotion, invariably dealing with them as the executive of a great business corporation controlled and financed by the people themselves and has held himself accountable to them. At the same time he has never ceased to give particular attention to the human needs and aspirations of the people of the State. He has at all time upheld the public good and never sacrificed the welfare of the State to selfish, partisan purposes.

Foremost among the achievements in the business conduct of the government has been adequate appropriations for all the State's needs, accompanied by unexampled ^{tax} reduction of direct TAX REDUCTION and income in three successive years, amounting this year to over \$30,000,000. Every need of the State government has been ^{met} ~~ade-~~ and there is still a surplus in the State Treasury of over \$15,000,000.

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REORGAN-
IZATION
STATE
GOVERN-
MENT

By an overwhelming vote the people endorsed the Democratic platform and Governor Smith's proposals for the reorganization of the State government. The constitutional amendment to consolidate the State departments and shorten the ballot will be completely in effect January 1, 1927. On that day 137 boards, bureaus and commissions became 21 State Departments responsible to the Executive.

EXECUTIVE
BUDGET

The executive budget by constitutional amendment has been adopted once by the Legislature.

Necessary permanent public improvements, extension of the State park system, hospital construction and the elimination of grade crossings, have been made possible by the public approval of four bond issues recommended by the Democratic platform and sponsored by Governor Alfred E. Smith.

BOND
ISSUES

The hospital for mentally disabled veterans of the World War is nearing completion.

The wards of the State will benefit by the construction of 3,066 additional hospital beds, many of which are already occupied, improved sanitation and protection from fire hazards, the construction of a new psychiatric institute and an entire new hospital for the metropolitan district.

TRANS-
PORTA-
TION

Governor Smith instituted and maintained the building of State highways on the basis of community needs and not for political expediency. The vehicular tunnel has been completed. The Hudson River Bridge at Poughkeepsie is nearing completion. The bridges between Staten Island and New Jersey, built by the Port Authority, are under way and plans for an additional Hudson River crossing are developed.

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The State has assumed responsibility for the maintenance and construction of all bridges on State highways. These were formerly a charge upon localities.

TRANSPORTATION
(con't)

A commission, advocated by Governor Smith, has been appointed to study and develop the Erie Canal. A port authority has been established at Albany.

Progress has been made in regional planning in various sections of the State.

EDUCATION Public education has been liberally supported and this year an additional \$11,000,000 was appropriated to increase facilities for rural schools.

HEALTH

~~Public health and~~ The Democratic policy of liberal appropriations for public health has been justified by the remarkably low mortality rates of the State of New York.

O

State aid for public health in rural communities has been provided. The medical practice act controlling the standards for the practice of medicine and preventing quackery has been enacted.

Important improvements have been made in the care of crippled children as the result of an investigation.

The emergency rent laws have been continued.

HOUSING

A new housing commission has been created to deal with the permanent housing problem and to eliminate the evils of bad housing in congested areas of the State. Governor Smith's housing program, although for political reasons not passed in full by the Legislature, has been hailed as the most progressive step in housing reform ever taken by any state.

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MOTOR
VEHICLES

The Motor Vehicle Law has proved its effectiveness by eliminating thousands of reckless drivers from the highways.

The Labor Department crippled under a Republican administration has been restored to a high level of efficiency.

LABOR
DEPARTMENT

The Bureau of Women in Industry has been re-established.

Increased efforts were made for the prevention of industrial accidents and diseases. Liberal amendments were enacted to the Workmen's Compensation Law to reduce ~~the~~ delay in the payment of compensation claims and to increase compensation to widows, dependents and injured employees. The non-compensated waiting period after an accident was reduced from fourteen to seven days.

The Industrial Council was ^{established} created.

SOLDIERS'
BONUS

The Soldiers' Bonus has been distributed and the organization created for the work, disbanded.

PRISONS

The program of prison industries and compensation to prisoners has been put into effect.

WIDOWS'
PENSIONS
CHILD
WELFARE

The laws providing for widowed mothers' pensions and the Boards of Child Welfare have been strengthened and extended.

CHILDRENS
COURT

The Childrens Court Act has been enacted and young offenders are treated, not as criminals but as erring wards of the State.

CRIME
COM.

A crime commission has been appointed to consider the causes, proper punishment and prevention of crime.

NATIONAL
GUARD

The National Guard is at the highest point of efficiency in the history of the State and has been brought to the full strength required by the federal act.

HOME
RULE

Home Rule, advocated for so many years by the Democratic party, has become a reality.

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AGRICUL-
TURE

For the agricultural interests of the State, a state cooperative marketing act has been passed and we have pushed steadily forward on the elimination of tubercular cattle and prompt payment of indemnities.

CIVIL
SERVICE

Civil Service standards have been maintained and extended to many new positions.

FORESTS

We have given better protection to our forests from fire hazard and have carried forward the important work of reforestation and have added large tracts of land to the forest preserves ~~xx~~ furthering the policy of protection of natural life in the waters and forests of the State.

TRANSIT

We have accomplished for the City of New York the separation of transit regulation and transit construction by the establishment of a board of transportation, appointed and controlled by the local city government.

This record of progress was made possible by the driving force of Governor Alfred E. Smith and has been steadily maintained in spite of opposition from a hostile Republican Legislature, an opposition which was at no time based upon merit, but always upon political expediency and partisanship.

The Republican Legislatures have consistently opposed every reform advocated by Governor Smith until lashed into action by public opinion, which unmistakably supported the program of the Democratic party and Governor Smith.

We call attention specifically to the repeated refusal of the Republican Legislature to enact into law the Democratic proposals for the development of the water power resources of the State for the benefit of all the people under state ownership and State control.

WATER
POWER

We emphasize their repeated defeat of the 48-hour law for women in industrial establishments in the face of their platform pledge and their betrayal of the working women of this State at the behest of a powerful lobby.

48-HOUR
LAW

They defeated the proposal to establish a minimum wage board for women and children, not even permitting this humanitarian measure to be reported on the floor of the Legislature for debate.

MINIMUM
WAGE

They defeated important amendments to liberalize the administration of the Workmen's Compensation Law for purely partisan reasons. They postponed the enactment of measures to reduce delays occasioned by compensation appeals. They refused to increase the maximum compensation payments to injured workmen from \$20.00 to \$25.00 a week, although the cost of living has worked great

WORKMEN'S
COMPEN-
SATION LAW

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hardship on the families of such employees. They have refused to extend the protection of the Workmen's Compensation Law to all occupational diseases.

Instead of furthering labor legislation and the interests of the people, they have repudiated their own pledges, and have resorted to the subterfuge of appointing a legislative committee.

LABOR
LEGIS-
LATION

CONSTITU-
TIONAL
INITIA-
TION

They rejected a measure giving to the people themselves the right to initiate amendments to the Constitution.

DIRECT
PRIMARY

They rejected legislation to permit the nomination of all candidates for public office by direct primary and they have

CORRUPT
PRACTICE
ACT

BI-PARTI-
SAN BOARDS
ELECTION

refused to enact an adequate corrupt practice act. They refused to provide for bi-partisan boards of election throughout the State.

FARMS &
MARKETS

They have persisted in their policy of making the Department of Farms and Markets a football of politics, instead of serving the agricultural interests of the State.

They refused to adopt the recommendations of the non-partisan commission on the financing of education, which would have enabled localities to make adequate appropriations for

FINANCING
EDUCATION

teachers' salaries and for educational purposes.

We condemn the Republican Legislature for their refusal to enact legislation that would give to the cities of the State power to regulate their own public utilities.

PUBLIC
UTILITIES

We condemn them for their failure to return to the localities the power to deal for themselves with public utilities corporations with which they have contracts.

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They have also failed to put within the power of municipalities the establishment ~~and~~ and operation of bus routes.

Although the Legislature has adopted the four year term for the Governor they have taken care to place the election in years when the election for the President takes place in order to becloud state issues and to make it possible for a governor to be elected on a *basis* of national, rather than state pledges.

FOUR
YEAR
TERM