

North Carolina Election Timeline

- 1865** The Civil War ends.
- 1867** The Republican Party is formed in North Carolina.
- 1870** The Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, guaranteeing African Americans the right to vote.
- 1870** The Democrats regain control of the North Carolina legislature, as Reconstruction comes to an end.
- 1876** Democrat Zebulon Vance is elected Governor.
- 1892** In statewide elections, the combined totals of Populist and Republican votes are more than those for the Democrats.
- 1894** In the first fusion election, the **Republicans and Populists run together** and the **Democrats lose** control of both houses of the legislature.
- 1896** Elections bring **more fusion success**: the Republicans and Populists run together again and keep control of the legislature. A Republican is elected Governor.
- 1898** **Democrats win** a majority of seats in the legislature

Your task is to figure out:

The Fusion ticket (Populists + Republicans) won in 1894 and 1896. So why did the Democrats beat the Fusion ticket in 1898?

DOCUMENT A (Modified)

A WHITE MAN'S DAY.

Eight to Ten Thousand People Listen.

TILLMAN MAKES A GREAT SPEECH FOR DEMOCRACY

Tillman said that he could not understand why whites in North Carolina did not use their large majority to prevent negro domination. He blamed both Democrats and Populists for their continued division, but appealed to the Populists to re-unite with the Democrats. When they had restored white rule, they would have plenty of time to settle their differences. By taking his advice the Populists would reinforce the silver-backed dollar and help keep the Republican goldbugs from making policy.

The crowd yelled with delight at every attack on the Republicans.

Source: The article above appeared in the Democratic newspaper, News and Observer, on October 21, 1898. The article describes a speech by Democratic Senator Ben Tillman who was convincing the large crowd to vote Democratic in the upcoming election.

DOCUMENT B (Modified)

I have been told that several political meetings have been broken up by armed men, using threats, intimidation, and, in some cases, actual violence; that in other cases property has been actually destroyed, and citizens fired on, that several citizens have been taken from their homes at night and whipped; that in several counties peaceful citizens have been intimidated and terrorized by threats of violence to their persons and their property, until they remove their names from the voter registration.

Therefore, I, Daniel L. Russell, Governor of the State of North Carolina, by virtue of authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws, will use all lawful efforts to preserve the peace; and to secure to all the people the quiet enjoyment of all their rights of free citizenship.

And I do further commend and require that all persons who may have entered this State from other states, to leave this State upon pain of being arrested and dealt with according to law.

By the Governor,
DANIEL L. RUSSELL.

Source: The speech above was published in a Populist newspaper on October 26, 1898.

DOCUMENT C



Pant leg is labeled, "THE NEGRO."

Figure being stepped upon is labeled, "WHITE MAN."

Caption reads, "A SERIOUS QUESTION –HOW LONG WILL THIS LAST?"

Source: The following political cartoon appeared in the Democratic newspaper, News and Observer, on August 13, 1898.