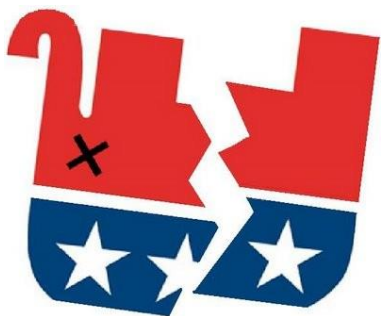


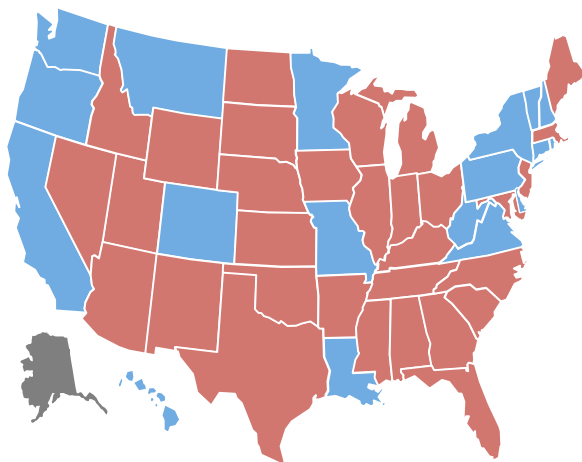
# We May Be In the Midst of A Partisan Realignment

## A Third-Party Nomination Won't Dissolve The GOP – But May Change It



### Potential reasons why Republican Party might disintegrate after 2016

- Donald Trump splits the Republican electorate with only a slim majority of Republicans (51%) satisfied if he were the nominee
- The Republican establishment also does not like him and have preferred establishment candidates like Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio
- This large dissatisfaction may translate either in a third-party run by a moderate Republican backed by the establishment or, by Trump himself if he feels the Republican nomination is robbed from him
- This split within Republican Party could translate into the national end of the GOP



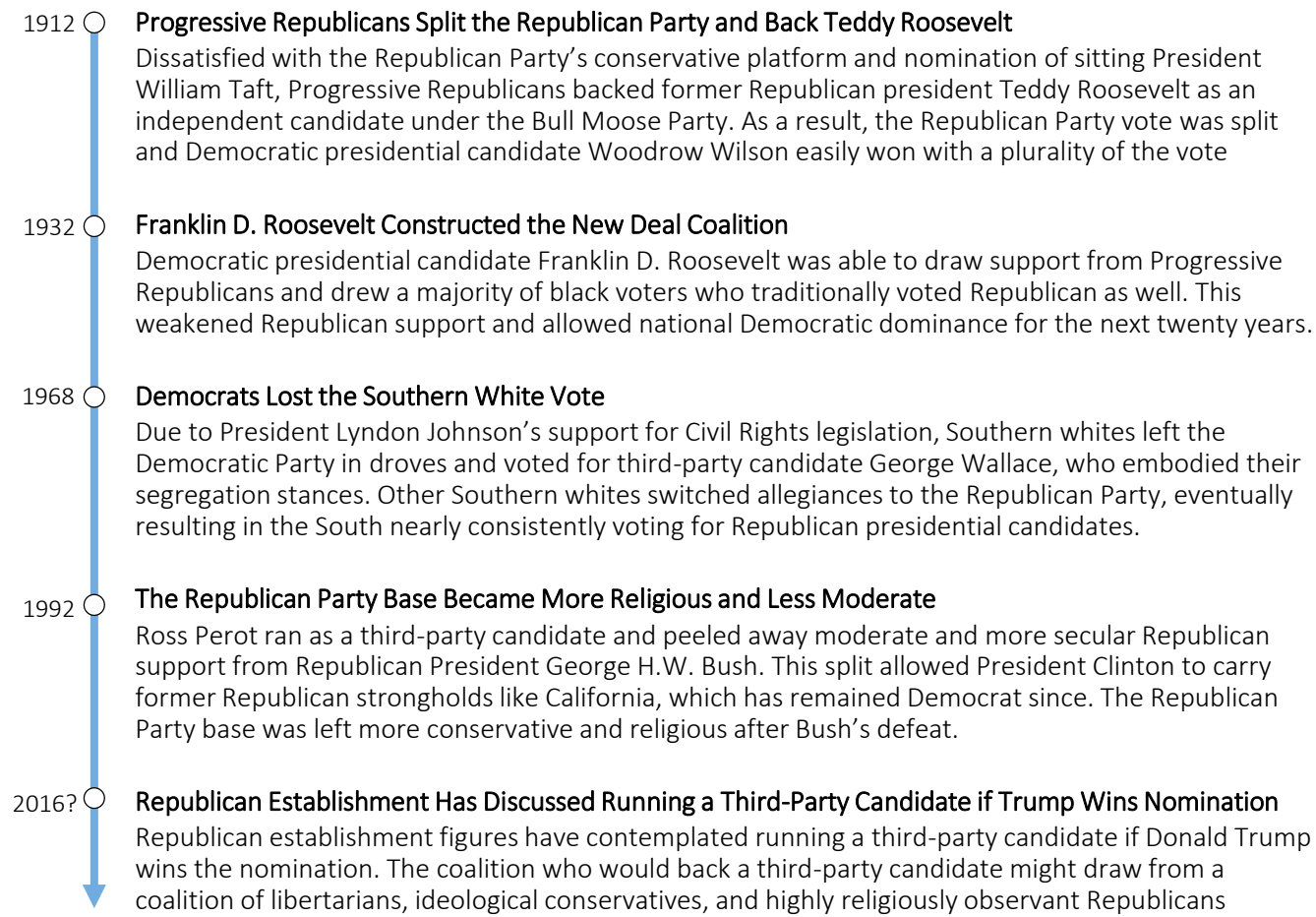
### Why the Republican Party will most likely not disappear after 2016

- Historically, the Republican Party has split before in 1912 when Teddy Roosevelt ran as a third-party alternative.
- Like Roosevelt, **Trump's campaign is largely personality-driven** and, if he were to run as a third-party candidate, it may dissipate after the election cycle
- Unlike during the infamous Whig Party's collapse, it is much harder for third-party candidates to be put on ballots
- **With a strong local and state party infrastructure**, Republicans still enjoy large support; the 31 Republican governors will help them weather any national political fallout

Source: Bill Scher, "The Case for Shutting Down the Republican Party," *New Republic*, March 9, 2016; Michael F. Holt, "Are the Republicans Going the Way of the Whigs?," *UVA's Center for Politics*, March 10, 2016; Julia Azari, "When Political Parties Splinter," *FiveThirtyEight*, March 8, 2016.

# Historically, When a Major Third-Party Candidate Runs, the Established Parties' Demographics Change

## Major Partisan Realigning Elections in the Past Century



Source: David Frum, "Conservatives Face an Impossible Choice," March 12, 2016.