



**The Polish Center
of Wisconsin Presents**

THE “POLISH VOTE” IN
AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS

By Donald E. Pienkos



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My talk deals with a most interesting yet very little examined aspect of American presidential elections - the role played by Polish Americans as voters in these all important decisions.

I look at the "Polish vote" in 21 Presidential elections beginning in 1940 I conclude that the Polish Americans were indeed an influential factor affecting the results in several of them. I also offer some reasons why this has been the case.

Upper photo: In March 1994, President William Clinton meets with Polish American Congress President Edward Moskal and 18 other representatives of the Polish Czech, Slovak, and Hungarian American communities in the White House. There President Clinton declares that "the door to NATO expansion is open." Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic enter the Alliance in May 1999. In the photo (from left to right): Mr. Jan Nowak of Radio Free Europe, President William Clinton, Prof. Donald Pienkos and PAC President Edward Moskal.

Lower photo: In March 1990 PAC President Moskal was in the Oval Office to urge President George H.W. Bush to oppose any changes in the newly established Third Polish Republic's northern and western borders. President Bush agreed along with Britain, France, Soviet Russia and the two, soon to be united, German states.



A Look at a few Images from the Past

Below: In April 1941, General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Prime Minister of the Polish Government in Exile in London and Commander in Chief of its armed forces, meets in Chicago with Attorney Francis X. Swietlik, Chairman of the American Relief for Poland federation, the main supportive Polish American national federation at the time. The United States entered World War II in December 1941.



Above: On October 11, 1944: President Franklin D. Roosevelt meets in the Oval Office with Polish American Congress leaders to mark the annual Pulaski Day observance and just weeks before the November election. Behind the President is a map of pre 1939 Poland whose borders the President had privately ceded to Soviet Russia's ruler Josef Stalin the year before.



Above: On September 30, 1960, Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy, PAC President Charles Rozmarek and Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley at the fifth Polish American Congress convention. Outgoing President Dwight D. Eisenhower spoke earlier at this big pre-election gathering in Chicago.

Below: In March 1983, PAC President Aloysius Mazewski stands behind President Ronald Reagan during the President's visit to the Polish National Alliance in Chicago, 'Polonia's capitol'. U.S. Senator Charles Percy of Illinois stands next to President Mazewski.

