

The Election of 1860

Political Party: Constitutional Union Party

Candidate: John Bell

Slavery Platform: Arguing over slavery can only lead to the destruction of the United States. Therefore, we must adhere to the Constitution and to the law and allow slavery to exist in its current form.

Political Party: Northern Democrats

Candidate: Stephen Douglas

Slavery Platform: Popular sovereignty should be allowed to decide the slavery question in new states and/or territories.

Political Party: Southern Democrats

Candidate: John Breckinridge

Slavery Platform: The Dred Scott decision allows for slavery to be legally spread into any new territories and/or states that become part of the United States. Slavery must be protected by law.

Political Party: Republicans

Candidate: Abraham Lincoln

Slavery Platform: Slavery must not be allowed to spread into new territories and/or states.

Please note that the Democratic Party has split. Northern and Southern Democrats could not agree on a common platform for the slavery issue. This disagreement caused Southern Democrats to split from the party and to nominate their own candidate for president.