Third Parties Throughout History

While the following data is not a complete list of all 3rd party Presidential candidates it does illustrate the obstacle of 3rd party candidates to win the election. Please analyze the following data and complete the questions at the bottom of the page.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **PARTY** | **CANDIDATE** | **VOTE%** | **ELECTORAL VOTE** | **OUTCOME in Next Election** |
| 1832 | Anti-Masonic | William Wirt | 7.8% | 7 | Endorsed Whig Candidate |
| 1848 | Free Soil | Martin Van Buren | 10.1 | 0 | 5% of the vote, absorbed by Republican Party |
| 1856 | Whig-American | Millard Fillmore | 21.5 | 8 | Dissolved |
| 1860 | Southern Democrat | John C. Breckinridge | 18.1 | 72 | Dissolved |
| 1860 | Constitutional Union | John Bell | 12.6 | 39 | Dissolved |
| 1892 | Populist | James B. Weaver | 8.5 | 22 | Absorbed by Democratic Party |
| 1912 | Progressive | Teddy Roosevelt | 27.5 | 88 | Returned to Republican Party |
| 1912 | Socialist | Eugene V. Debbs | 6.0 | 0 | Won 3% of the vote |
| 1924 | Progressive | Robert M. LaFollette | 16.6 | 13 | Returned to Republican Party |
| 1948 | States' Rights | Strom Thurmond | 2.4 | 39 | Dissolved |
| 1948 | Progressive | Henry Wallace | 2.4 | 0 | Won 1.4% of the vote |
| 1968 | American Independent | George Wallace | 13.5 | 46 | Won 1.4% of the vote |
| 1980 | Independent | John Anderson | 6.6 | 0 | Dissolved |
| 1992 | Reform | H. Ross Perot | 18.9 | 0 | Won 8.4% of the vote |
| 1996 | Reform | H. Ross Perot | 8.4 | 0 | Did not run |
| 2000 | Reform | Ralph Nader | 2.7 | 0 | Ran Next election |
| 2004 | Green | Ralph Nader | 1.0 | 0 |  |

http://www.thisnation.com/question/042.html

1. Has a 3rd party ever won the Presidency?
2. What was the highest percentage of popular vote that any 3rd party received? When? Who was the candidate?
3. What was the highest number of electoral votes that any 3rd party candidate received? When? Who was the candidate?
4. Why is the electoral college such a barrier to 3rd party Presidential candidates?
5. What has happened to most of the 3rd party candidates in their next election?
6. How have 3rd party candidates had an effect on the 2 major parties?