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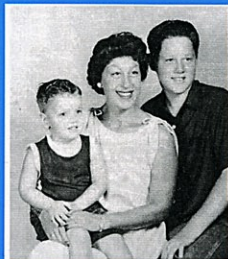
# The Road to the William Jefferson Clinton Presidency

★ *The 42nd President* ★

## William Jefferson Clinton: The Early Years



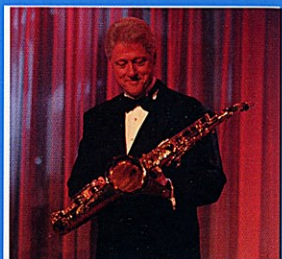
Young Bill Clinton \*



Family Portrait, Bill, mother Virginia, and Roger Jr. \*



Bill Clinton in his band uniform for Hot Springs H.S. \*



President Clinton was presented with a saxophone at the G&P Foundation's Angel Ball in New York on November 30, 2000.\*

***"It's like every other adversity in life. If you survive it, you normally come out ahead."-William Jefferson Clinton***

The 42nd President of the United State of America, William (Bill) Jefferson Clinton, was born on August 19, 1946, in Hope Arkansas as William Jefferson Blythe III to his mother, Virginia Kelly Cassidy. His mother gave Clinton his father's name-William Jefferson Blythe II-who died in a car accident two months before his birth. When Clinton was two years old, his mother pursued a nursing degree in New Orleans, Louisiana and he stayed in the care of her parents Edith and Eldridge Cassidy in Hope, Arkansas until the age of four, when his mother returned from New Orleans with her nursing degree in 1950. Later, that same year Clinton's mother married a car salesman, Roger Clinton. Clinton resided in Hope until the age of seven, when his mother found a job as a nurse anesthetist and his stepfather a service manager for his uncle's car dealership in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Although a Baptist, for the first two years in Hot Springs Clinton attended St. John's Catholic school. After his second grade year, Clinton attended public schools-Ramble Elementary School and later Hot Springs Middle school and Hot Springs High School. In 1956, while he attended Hot Springs Middle School, Clinton

received a half-brother, Roger Clinton Jr. Five years later, when Clinton was 15 his mother divorced Roger Clinton and then reconciled their relationship shortly thereafter at which time he adopted his stepfather's last name. At Hot Springs High School, Bill became an all-state saxophone player, and participated in the Hot Springs Key Club, Order of DeMolay, Beta Club, National Honor Society, and choir. In 1963, a senior in high school, Clinton went to Washington, D. C. as a delegate to Boys Nation, a special youth leadership group that the White House invited to meet the 35th President, John F. Kennedy. Before shaking hands with President Kennedy in the Rose Garden Clinton considered becoming a professional musician, yet after meeting the president he then decided that he wanted to make a difference in the lives of the American people by becoming President of the United States of America.<sup>1</sup> Along with his academic and extracurricular activities, Bill raised money and organized charity events with his church, Park Place Baptist. In his spare, time he enjoyed reading, playing the saxophone, and spending his summers attending band camp.

\* Clinton Presidential Center

<sup>1</sup> "Biography of the President Bill Clinton: It all began in a place called Hope." Whitehouse. n. pag. Online. Internet. 3 October 2003. Available: [clinton5.nara.gov/textonly/WH/EOP/OP/html/Hope.html](http://clinton5.nara.gov/textonly/WH/EOP/OP/html/Hope.html).



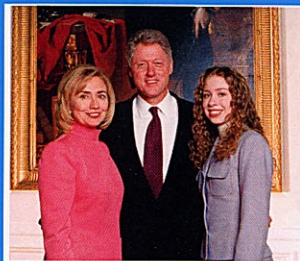


President Clinton poses with Buddy on the South Lawn on April 6, 1999. \*

Receiving many academic and music scholarships, Clinton attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. to study International Affairs. While earning his degree, he gained class president twice and learned about government and the political life by working as an intern in the office of Arkansas Senator J. William Fulbright. In 1968, the same year his stepfather Roger Clinton died of cancer, Bill Clinton won a Rhodes scholarship to study at Oxford University in England. There he studied government and played rugby. Clinton returned to the states in 1970 and attended Yale Law School. At Yale, he met his future wife, Hillary Rodham and gained political experience by managing presidential candidate George McGovern's Texas campaign. After graduating from law school in 1973, Clinton returned to Arkansas to teach at the University of Arkansas Law School and to pursue a political career.

Clinton's first political race came in 1974 when he ran an unsuccessful bid for Congress in Arkansas's Third District against Republican John Paul Hammerschmidt. A year later, on October 11, 1975, he married Hillary Rodham, and they had one child in

## *William Jefferson Clinton and Politics*



The Clintons pose for a family photograph in the East Room of the White House on January 20, 1997. \*



President Clinton's second term Official Portrait, May 12, 1999. \*

1980, Chelsea Victoria. In 1976, Clinton worked on Carter's presidential campaign, and ran unopposed to win the election as State Attorney General for Arkansas. Two years later, Clinton became the nation's youngest Governor at the age of 32. As Governor of Arkansas, Clinton focused on improving the educational system and building better roads. While in office, he angered state leaders when he increased automobile license plate fees and challenged powerful timber and utilities interests. His governorship ceased when defeated by Republican Frank White in 1980. Adopting a more moderate approach, Clinton regained the governorship in 1982 and retained it for five consecutive two-year terms. Clinton's agenda as Governor focused on education, health care, welfare reform, the economy, and the environment.

In July of 1991, Clinton won the Democratic presidential nomination at the national party convention in New York City. His campaign focused on the economy and high unemployment rate, promising Americans health-care reform, tax cuts for the middle class, tax increases for the wealthy, and a reduction in defense spending. In 1992,



President Clinton talks on the telephone at his desk in the Oval Office on March 16, 2000.\*

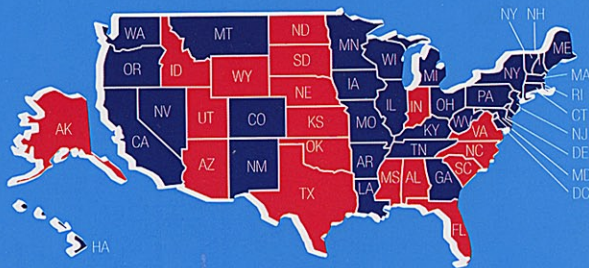
Clinton won the presidency against Republican candidate George Herbert Bush, the 41st President of the United States and Reform Party candidate Ross Perot with 43% of the popular vote and 69% of the electoral vote. After 12 years of Republican control of the presidency, William J. Clinton took oath into office on January 20, 1993 and again on January 20, 1997 (when he defeated Republican candidate Bob Dole) as the 42nd President of the United States of America, serving as president until January 20, 2001.

### William Jefferson Clinton: Key establishments

- Creation of over 22 million jobs (most created under a single administration) 1
- White House staff reduced by 20% 2
- 1998 Government surplus of \$70 billion dollars 3
- Welfare Reform Bill established limits for benefits
- 1st Balanced Budget in 30 years 3

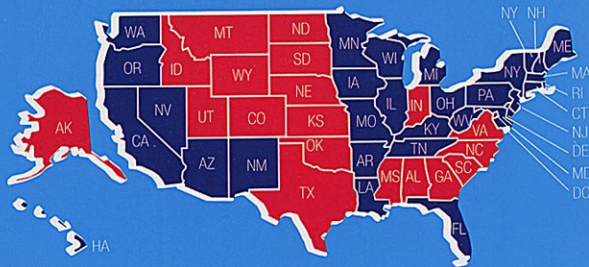
1 "William J. Clinton: President 1993-2001." Clinton Presidential Center. n. pag. Online. Internet. 30 June 2003. Available: [clintonpresidentialcenter.com/leg\\_bio.html](http://clintonpresidentialcenter.com/leg_bio.html).  
 2 "Clinton hails \$70 billion federal surplus; Saving Social Security is next challenge, he says." CNN/Alpolitics.com. Online. Internet. 30 June 2003. Available: [cn.com/ALLPOLITICS/stories/1998/09/30/clinton.budget/](http://cn.com/ALLPOLITICS/stories/1998/09/30/clinton.budget/).  
 3 "Groler presents the American Presidency; Bill Clinton Biography." Encyclopedia America. Online. Internet. 30 June 2003. Available: [gi.grolier.com/presidents/ea/bios/42pcin.html](http://gi.grolier.com/presidents/ea/bios/42pcin.html).

### The Presidential Election 1992



(R) Bush state victories: 168 (31.2%)	38,798,913 popular votes (37.1%)	Electoral votes total 538
(D) Clinton state victories: 370 (68.8%)	44,857,747 popular votes (42.9%)	Popular vote total 104,600,366
(Reform) Perot state victories: 0	19,722,042 popular votes (18.8%)	

### The Presidential Election 1996



(R) Dole state victories: 159 (29.6%)	39,198,755 popular votes (40.7%)	Electoral votes total 538
(D) Clinton state victories: 379 (70.4%)	47,402,357 popular votes (49.2%)	Popular vote total 96,277,634
(Reform) Perot state victories: 0	8,085,402 popular votes (8.4%)	



## William Jefferson Clinton: While in office

**1993** Family and Medical Leave Act • Working Family Tax Cut • Americorps Community Service Initiative • Brady Bill • NAFTA ratified • National Voter Registration Act • Childhood Immunization Initiative • U.S. and U.N. operation in Somalia • "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" homosexual military policy **1994** Gun-Free Schools Act • School-to-Work Opportunities Act • Violence Against Women Act • GATT Ratified • Haiti Democracy Project • Republicans gain control of Congress • U.S.-China Missile Exports Agreement • North Korean President Kim Il Sung froze nuclear program in exchange for Western aid • N. Korea withdrew from IAEA and refused IAEA inspection of two undeclared nuclear waste sites • U.S. forces withdrew from Somali **1995** WTO (World Trade Organization) Established • Congressional clash over budget and deficit reduction leading to partial government shutdown • Deficit reduction bill approved • Whitewater investigations • U.S.-Japan Autos and Auto Parts Agreement • U.S., South Korea, and Japan establish Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) • U.S. troops sent to Bosnia • U.S. diplomatic relations with Vietnam restored • Peace Agreement with Yugoslavia **1996** Clinton won reelection • Minimum wage increased by 90 cents per hour • Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act **1997** Welfare to Work Partnership • Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit • Balanced Budget Act • Expansion of America Reads, Charter Schools, and Head Start • Drug Free Communities Act • Ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention **1998** Government Surplus • U.S. & Britain conduct Air Strikes against Iraq (Operation Desert Fox) • Kosovo crisis • Lewinsky Scandal investigations • Clinton impeached on December 20th **1999** Partnership for Peace Program • U.S. and Russia new series of START talks • Excellence for All Children Act • Operation Northern Watch • NATO attacked Yugoslavia in response to Kosovo crisis • Senate acquitted Clinton on both impeachment charges **2000** Senior Citizen's Freedom to Work Act • China-PNTR enacted • Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act • Increase funding to national and community service programs • U.S. and Russia renew efforts to strengthen global stability and international security **2001** Clinton administration ends January 20

## William Jefferson Clinton: Personal Trivia

**Presidential Number:** 42nd **Years President:** 1993-2000 **Terms:** 2  
**Party Affiliation:** Democrat **State Represented:** Arkansas **First Lady:** Hillary Rodham Clinton **Vice President:** Albert Gore **Birthday:** August 19, 1946  
**Birthplace:** Hope, Arkansas **Birth Name:** William Jefferson Blythe III  
**Nickname:** Bill **Parents:** Virginia Cassidy & William Jefferson Blythe **Childhood Activities:** Reading & Playing the saxophone **Favorite School Subject:** Math  
**Education:** B.S. International Affairs from Georgetown University, Oxford (studied international politics), Law degree from Yale University **Professions:** Intern in the office of Arkansas Senator J. William Fulbright, Law professor at the University of Arkansas, Attorney General of Arkansas, Governor of Arkansas, 42nd President of the United States of America **Religion:** Baptist **Hobbies:** Golf, jogging, reading, and playing the saxophone **Favorite President:** Abraham Lincoln **Favorite Books:** Black Beauty, and The Last of the Mohicans **Favorite Color:** Blue **Favorite Food:** Peanut Butter and Banana sandwiches, Chicken Enchiladas, Apples, Vegetable Beef Soup  
**Favorite Ice Cream:** Mango **Favorite Movie:** "High Noon" **Children:** Chelsea Victoria **Pets:** Chocolate Labrador Retriever named Buddy and a cat named Socks

## William Jefferson Clinton: Notable facts

**Only president** to be elected twice without ever receiving 50% of the popular vote (43% in 1992 & 49% in 1996). **First Democratic president** since Franklin D. Roosevelt to win a second term **First president** to be sued for sexual misconduct and forced to give a deposition while in office. **Second president** to be impeached by the House of Representatives. **Only president** to have been a Rhodes Scholar. **Second youngest president** at age 46 to ever be elected. **First automobile** was a Henry J. **First president** to appoint his First Lady to head a task force on health-care reform. **First president** whose wife, as a former First Lady, attained elected office as the Senator of New York

## William Jefferson Clinton: The Time Line

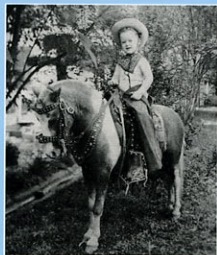
**1946** Born in Hope, Arkansas to Virginia Cassidy and William Jefferson Blythe II on August 19. Father killed in a car accident 3 months before born.

**1950** Bill's mother returned with a nursing degree and married Roger Clinton. Attended Kindergarten at Marie Purkins School for Little Folks. (age 4)

**1953** Settled in Hot Springs Arkansas & attended 2nd and 3rd grade at St. John's Catholic School. (age 7)

**1955** Attended 4th and 5th grade at Ramble Elementary School. (age 9)

**1957** Attended Hot Springs Middle School. (age 11)



Young Bill Clinton on a pony. \*



Young Bill Clinton. \*

**1948** Bill's mother moved to New Orleans to pursue nursing degree and Bill stayed with his grandparents, Edith and Eldridge Cassidy. (age 2)

**1951** Attended 1st grade at Brookwood Elementary School in Hope, Arkansas.

**1956** Half brother Roger Clinton Jr. born. (age 10)

**1960** Attended Hot Springs High School. (age 14)

963

Elected Arkansas' delegate to Boys Nation as Senior in High School. Attended Boys Nation in Washington D. C. and shook hands with President John F. Kennedy. Bill took the last name of his stepfather, Roger Clinton.

1964 Attended Georgetown University. Twice elected class president.

1968 Received Bachelor of Science in International Affairs. Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, studied International Politics and played Rugby.

1972 Helped manage Presidential candidate, George McGovern's Texas campaign.

1974-76 Law Professor at



Bill Clinton shakes hands with President John F. Kennedy in the Rose Garden of the White House in July 1963 during a Boys Nation Convention.\*\*

1974 Defeated in campaign for Congress in Arkansas's Third District.

1973 Graduated from law school.

1970-73 Attended Yale Law School, New haven, Connecticut.

1975 Mar

1967 Served as intern for Arkansas Senator J. William Fulbright.

\*\* Consolidated News per Arnie Sachs, Clinton Presidential Center



**1980**

Lost bid for reelection for Governor to Republican Frank White.  
Daughter Chelsea Victoria born.

**1992**

Won presidential election against Republican George Bush and  
Jim McDougal bought out the Clinton's remaining Whitewater s

**1981-82**

Worked with Law firm Wright, Lindsey, & Jennings  
in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**1993**

Sworn into office on January 20, as the 42

**1982**

Won election for Governor of Arkansas  
serving 5 consecutive 2-year terms.

University of Arkansas.

**1978**

Elected Governor of Arkansas, served (1979-1981).  
Clinton's and McDougal's formed Whitewater partnership with  
joint purchase of 230.24 acres of land in the Ozarks.

**1976**

Jimmy Carter's Presidential campaign in Arkansas.  
Elected Arkansas Attorney General.



President Clinton with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia at the  
Franklin D. Roosevelt Library on October 23, 1995. \*

**1991**

Announced his candidacy for president.

**19**

**1990-91**

Chairman of Democratic Leadership Council.

ed Hillary Rodham, whom he met at Yale, on October 11.



## William Jefferson Clinton: The Time Line

**1995** Whitewater investigations begin.

Independent, Ross Perot, fares.  
d President of the United States.

**1996** Clinton-Gore team won reelection against Republican candidate Bob Dole and Reform party Ross Perot.

**1998** Clinton plays pivotal role in securing "Good Friday Peace Agreement" in April, between Catholic and Protestant factions in Northern Ireland.

**2001** January 20, 1993- January 20, 2001, Served as the 42nd President of the United States.



President Clinton addresses an event regarding new Police Grants on June 29, 1995. \*



President and Mrs. Clinton attend the Friends of Arts and Preservation in Embassies on July 17, 1996. \*



President Clinton throws out the first pitch in Oriole Park at Camden Yards for the Baltimore Orioles vs the Kansas City Royals on April 2, 1996. \*

**94** Mid-term congressional elections result in a Republican controlled Congress. Mother dies of breast cancer.

**1998-99** On Dec. 19, 1998, the House approved two of the four articles of impeachment drafted by the House Judiciary Committee, emerging from the Lewinsky Scandal. The Senate trial (Jan. 7, to Feb. 6, 1999) failed to produce majority in favor of convicting and removing the president from office.