


# Huey Long as Governor DBQ

**Directions:** As you analyze the source you will determine the impact the Huey P. Long had as governor of Louisiana.

## Source 1

**GIVE THE PEOPLE A GOVERNOR**



**HUEY P. LONG**

REDUCED TAXES, LESS OFFICERS, FREE SCHOOL BOOKS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN AND NUMEROUS OTHER CONSTRUCTIVE REFORMS.

HE HAS ALWAYS STOOD BY THE PEOPLE AND KEPT THE PROMISES WHICH HE HAS MADE

In 1924, Huey made his first statewide bid for public office by running for governor at age 30. Huey mocked the outgoing governor and the ruling New Orleans political machine known as the "Old Regulars" as pawns of big business and Standard Oil, in particular. In an election dominated by race and the influence of the Ku Klux Klan, Huey refused to play the race card and instead campaigned on issues of economic equality. He ran a close third, missing the run-off election by less than 7,400 votes.

Huey blamed his loss on the heavy rains the day before the election that had kept his rural supporters away from the polls. With less than 300 miles of paved roads in the entire state, frequent rains turned Louisiana's dirt roads into thick mud, making travel impossible until the roads dried out.

1. What issues did Huey Long run on in the election of 1924? \_\_\_\_\_


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2. What was the main issue that Long refused to partake in with regards to the Governors election of 1924? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What was Long's reason for losing the 1924 election? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Source 2

	<p>In 1928, Huey Long ran again for Louisiana governor, campaigning with the slogan, "Every man a king," a phrase adopted from populist hero William Jennings Bryan. Huey's revolutionary campaign and victory toppled the corrupt political establishment that had ruled since the French. Louisiana — and its politics — would never be the same.</p> <p>A brilliant orator, Long made hundreds of campaign speeches among rural voters, expressing a vision for a new Louisiana in which government would be responsive to the needs of its people. He promised Louisiana's needy citizens good roads, bridges, free hospital care, free education, and lower property taxes.</p>
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4. Based on the source, what could "every man a king" stand for? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. What promises did Long make in order to become Governor? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Source 3**

**Share Our Wealth Proposal**

- Cap personal fortunes at \$50 million each — equivalent to about \$600 million today (later reduced to \$5 - \$8 million, or \$60 - \$96 million today)
- Limit annual income to one million dollars each (about \$12 million today)
- Limit inheritances to five million dollars each (about \$60 million today)
- Guarantee every family an annual income of \$2,000 (or one-third the national average)
- Free college education and vocational training
- Old-age pensions for all persons over 60
- Veterans benefits and healthcare
- A 30 hour work week
- A four week vacation for every worker
- Greater regulation of commodity production to stabilize prices

6. Long's share the wealth proposal outlines many different economic functions. How could have this plan helped the people of Louisiana? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Source 4**

**PROGRAMS**

**Roads**

Shortly after he became governor, Huey Long launched a major road-building program to transform Louisiana's antiquated patchwork of dirt and gravel roads into a network of paved roads linking every part of the state. The new roads improved daily quality of life, reduced the cost of doing business, and facilitated commerce in the state.

**Education**

Huey Long expanded the public education system in Louisiana and made it possible for every child to attend school. His administration established a public school in every community and provided free textbooks and busing to all students. He made higher education possible for thousands of high school graduates by expanding Louisiana State University and establishing scholarships. He initiated a massive adult literacy program, teaching 100,000 adults to read.

**Bridges**

Bridges were an important part of Huey Long's massive road-building program. Known as the Bayou State, Louisiana had the most waterways in the nation but only three major bridges. Long built 111 modern bridges over rivers, lakes, swamps and bayous connecting regions of the state that had long been isolated.

**Louisiana State University**

As part of his state modernization program, Huey Long tripled the size of Louisiana State University (LSU), opening enrollment to all able poor students and building it into one of the finest universities in the South.

**Public Works**

A cornerstone of Huey Long's programs as governor was his initiative to modernize Louisiana's dilapidated or nonexistent infrastructure. Long built roads and bridges, schools and hospitals, and other public works. His improvements brought Louisiana into the twentieth century, as symbolized by the modern skyscraper State Capitol he built. These bricks-and-mortar improvements made life easier, facilitated commerce, and put people to work.

**Healthcare**

Huey Long improved healthcare in Louisiana by expanding the Charity Hospital System, creating the Louisiana State University Medical School, reforming institutions to care for the disabled and mentally challenged, and providing free health clinics and immunizations statewide. As a result, mortality rates dropped dramatically in just a few years.

**Economic Reform**

Huey Long transformed the economic reality in Louisiana from a system stacked against its rural poor citizens to a system that offered opportunity and tools for advancement. By 1936, Long's programs and progressive policies saved the average Louisiana family more than \$425 a year in daily living expenses (equivalent to \$5,100 today). Coupled with free education and easier mobility, people on every step of the economic ladder received a chance to get ahead, especially the poor.

7. Using source 3, what would have Governor Long needed in order to fund this program? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Using source 4, how would have Huey P. Long's programs helped and improve Louisiana? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Even though these programs would have helped many of Louisiana's citizens, the programs would have more impacted which type of people and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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