



# Eugene V. Debs

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# Who was Eugene v Debs?

Eugene Victor Debs was an American socialist, political activist, trade unionist, one of the founding members of the Industrial Workers of the World and five times the candidate of the Socialist Party of America for President of the United States.

## What did he do?

in 1885 he was elected to the Indiana State Assembly with broad support from Terre Haute's workers and businessmen.

## When did he do it?

Debs organized the American Railway Union, which waged a strike against the Pullman Company of Chicago in 1894. After embracing socialism, he became the party's standard-bearer in five presidential elections. Late in life, Debs was sentenced to 10 years in prison for his opposition to the United States' involvement in World War I.

## Why did he do it?

Purportedly to keep the mail running, President Grover Cleveland used the United States Army to break the strike. As a leader of the ARU, Debs was convicted of federal charges for defying a court injunction against the strike and served six months in prison.

# Where was the election he attended

Along with Elliott, Debs was the first federal office candidate for the fledgling socialist party, running unsuccessfully for president and Congress in 1900. Along with his running mate [Job Harriman](#), Debs received 87,945 votes (0.6% of the popular vote) and no electoral votes.

Both the Social Democratic Party and dissidents who split from the [Socialist Labor Party](#) back in 1899 would unify forces at a Socialist Unity Convention held in Indianapolis in the summer of 1901 — a meeting which established the Socialist Party of America (SPA).

# Facts about Eugene V. Debs

.Eugene V. Debs was born november 5,1855 in Terre haute,indiana and died october 20,1926.

.Debs left home at age 14 to work in the railroads and later became a locomotive fireman.

.In 1875 he helped organize a local lodge of the brotherhood of locomotive fireman ,of which he was elected national secretary and treasurer in 1880

.After trying unsuccessfully to unite the various railroad brotherhoods of his day, he became president (1893) of the newly established American railway union.

.Debs successfully united railway workers from different crafts into the first industrial union in the united states.

.He gained greater renown when he was sentenced to six months in jail (may-november 1895) for his role in the leading the chicago pullman palace car company strike.

.Debs was the party's presidential candidate in 1900 but received only 96,000 votes, a total he raised to 400,000 in 1904.

.In 1894,debs became involved in the pullman strike, which grew out of a compensation dispute started by the workers who constructed the rail cars made by pullman palace car company.

.At the time of his arrest for mail obstruction, debs was not yet a socialist while serving his six month term in the jail at woodstock.illinois,debs and his aur comrades recieved a steady stream of letters,books and pamphlets.

