

## Politics and social justice

These political events show the spectrum of American politics from Martin Luther King, Jr. to Ronald Reagan that the Cow Palace has seen over the years.

- 1948: Vice President Henry Wallace, who ran on the Progressive Party ticket, held a political rally.
- 1952: Republican Candidate for President – Dwight D. Eisenhower Rally. Eisenhower ran based on his enormous popularity from WWII. With the campaign slogan “I Like Ike,” Eisenhower won a landslide victory over Democrat Adlai Stevenson, ending a string of Democratic Party wins that stretched back to 1932.
- 1952: Democratic Candidate for President Adlai Stevenson Rally.
- 1955: United Nations Charter 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary closing session.
- 1956: Republican National Convention. This was the first convention televised from start to finish. They re-nominated President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard Nixon for Vice President. This was also the last public appearance by former President Herbert Hoover.
- October, 1960: Republican Candidate for President Richard M. Nixon Rally.
- November, 1960: Democratic Candidate for President John F. Kennedy Rally
- Senator John F. Kennedy spoke at the Cow Palace on November 2, one week before the presidential election. His famous speech, "Staffing a Foreign Policy for Peace," included Kennedy's proposal for a Peace Corps He outlined in broad terms the new agency he envisioned as an essential component of countering global Soviet influence during the Cold War.
- 1962: Republic banquet fund-raiser for Richard M. Nixon with Dwight D. Eisenhower headlining
- May 30, 1964: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at the interfaith Human Dignity Rally
- July 13-16, 1964: Republican National Convention that nominated Barry Goldwater.
- Martin Luther King Jr. addressed the Platform Committee to persuade the GOP brass to include civil rights language in the party platform. The Republicans shunned MLK's ideas and nominated Barry Goldwater.  
While civil rights marchers protested outside the Cow Palace, the KKK rallied at San Francisco City Hall in support of Goldwater. Some young demonstrators outside the Cow Palace, caught up in Beatlemania, called for the nomination of Ringo Starr; but whimsy aside, the stakes for the nation were high. Ronald Reagan was a delegate.
- July, 1964: An Evening with the Stars—a fundraiser to oppose Proposition 13 dealing with civil rights. Entertainers included Frank Sinatra, Milton Berle, Edie Adams, Shelly Berman, Lauren Bacall, Eddie Fisher, Nancy Wilson and Godfrey Cambridge.
- May, 1966: Republican Dinner Rally for Ronald Regan’s California gubernatorial campaign.
- May, 1968: Democratic Candidate for President Eugene McCarthy Rally.