

Tammany Hall

[Cartoon](#) by [Thomas Nast](#), of the Tammany rotten egg

Tammany Hall, (also called the **Society of St. Tammany**, the **Sons of St. Tammany**, or the **Columbian Order**), named for **Tamanend** (meaning "*affable*"), a [Native American](#) leader of the [Lenni Lenape](#), was started in 1786 and was declared on May 12, 1789 as the Tammany Society. It was the [Democratic political machine](#) that played a major role in controlling [New York City politics](#). It also helped many [immigrants](#), especially the [Irish](#), rise in American politics. In 1858 [Boss Tweed](#) became its leader. Although tainted by corruption, Tweed nevertheless presided over a number of positive social welfare developments.^[1]

In the middle 20th century it became less powerful and dissolved in the 1960s.

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1. [↑ BOSS TWEED’S PUBLIC WELFARE PROGRAM by JOHN W. PRATT, P. 396-411](#)

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