

**COMMENTS ON 1980 GENERAL  
ELECTION VOTER TURNOUT**

In the 1980 General Election, a higher percentage—75.8 percent—of Maryland's registered voters exercised the privilege to select candidates of their choice than in any election since the Nixon (R), Humphrey (D), Wallace (AI) election of 1968, when the figure reached 77.4 percent.

The popular vote in the 1980 General Election totaled 1,565,836, representing an increase of 133,563 over that cast for Carter (D) and Ford

(R) in 1976, when Maryland's popular vote totaled 1,432,273.

1,513,116 voters, or 96.6 percent, cast ballots in person in 1980; the remaining 3.4 percent, or 52,720 voters, submitted absentee ballots. The ballots requested by absentees totaled 59,621, of which 88.8 percent were returned, establishing a record for the State. Eleven counties exceeded a 90 percent return on their requested absentee ballots, with Calvert County topping the list with 96 percent.