

James A. Farley, was the forerunner of modern elections with its use of mails, media effectiveness, committee functions, and reliance on a "brain trust" of experts on national issues. Hoover and the Republicans were constantly hoping for signs of an economic recovery but it was in vain. Roosevelt rolled over Hoover receiving over 57 percent of the popular vote and obtaining an electoral vote margin of 472 to 59.¹⁴

In Maryland, the Roosevelt magic created the coalitions necessary for a commanding victory. The Democrats only failed to win in Allegany, Calvert, and traditionally Republican Garrett Counties while building a popular vote margin in excess of 130,000 votes, the largest in Maryland history to that date. The Democrats new urban coalition was in full view as Baltimore City voted heavily for Roosevelt, 160,309 to 78,954. The decline of the black vote for Republicans was also in evidence as Charles, St. Mary's, Somerset and Dorchester Counties gave Roosevelt unprecedented Democratic margins. The public's reaction to the economic ills of 1932 similarly reflected itself in the state's 10,489 votes for Norman Thomas, a record high for the Socialist party. Maryland's participation in this last great voter realignment was genuine although Democratic infighting would evolve as a consequence. The Roosevelt appeal to the masses on economic and social issues ran counter to the conservative, states' rights positions which had been held by the Maryland Democratic party since the Civil War.

1932 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Wm. Z. Foster (C)	1,031	102,221		
Herbert H. Hoover (R)	184,184	15,761,841		59
Verne L. Reynolds (L)	1,036	34,028		
Franklin D. Roosevelt (D)	314,314	22,825,016	8	472
Norman M. Thomas (S)	10,489	883,990		

1936

The Roosevelt administration had promised much and considerable legislation had been enacted by 1936, but the nation was far from fully recovered from the Great Depression. Conservative opposition was mounting in the face of unbalanced budgets, rising taxes and governmental restrictions. Some administration bills were defeated and others overturned by judicial action. The realistic weight of governing was apparent but a strong political challenge to Roosevelt did not develop.

The President swept through the presidential primaries with almost 93 percent of the vote. In Maryland, Roosevelt defeated Henry Breckinridge 100,269 to 18,150 in a preferential primary held on May 4, 1936. The national convention in Philadelphia was