

probably the most harmonious in Democratic history with no floor debates, no roll call votes and the Roosevelt-Garner ticket being nominated by acclamation. The most significant convention matter was the elimination of the two-thirds rule as a requirement for nomination.

The Republicans convened earlier than the Democrats and offered dire predictions over the health of the country. Senator William E. Borah of Idaho won the most votes in the Republican presidential primaries but the delegates preferred Alfred M. Landon, the Governor of Kansas who represented a compromise of competing interest and was nominated by a wide margin.

The pollsters of 1935 and 1936 saw Roosevelt and the "New Deal" in trouble with the electorate.¹⁵ The newspapers were no real friend of the administration as most of the leading publications in the major cities (including the *Baltimore Sun*) endorsed Landon. The Depression and Roosevelt's policies had altered the political order creating significant class distinction in the voting public as well as changing basic party positions. The Democratic party became the champion of the poor, the disadvantaged, the minorities and the unemployed as Roosevelt sounded the attack against "economic royalists" in his 1936 convention acceptance speech. The Democratic party, represented by Roosevelt, also was the motivating force behind social legislation backed by Federal power which was in sharp contrast to the states' rights tradition which had characterized Democratic platforms of the past. Although sensitive to the charge of domination by big business, the Landon campaign was, in fact, controlled and advised by conservative businessmen.¹⁶

Roosevelt's reconstituting of the American electorate brought him success on election day, November 3, 1936, that exceeded expectations. The President carried every state but Maine and the always Republican Vermont. He defeated Landon by over 11,000,000 popular votes and carried with him a solid Democratic Senate (75 to 21) and U.S. House of Representatives (333 to 102).

1936 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
John W. Aiken (SL)	1,305	12,790		
Earl R. Browder (C)	915	79,211		
Alfred M. Landon (R)	231,435	16,679,543		8
Franklin D. Roosevelt (D)	389,612	27,747,636	8	523
Norman M. Thomas (S)	1,629	187,785		

Roosevelt's popularity had grown in Maryland as he exceeded his record 1932 vote by polling 389,612 votes to Landon's 231,435. Baltimore City favored the President by 113,001 and the President gained from the increased voter turnout in most of the