

state, not campaigning. However, his continued efficient and well-timed use of major speeches carried on national radio again proved effective. The opposition hit Roosevelt and his administration hard, but the President rose to the challenge achieving a victory margin slightly less than 1940. Roosevelt earned an electoral college victory of 432 to 99 and a popular vote margin of 3,598,564 over the Republican Dewey.

In Maryland, Roosevelt's margin fell another 4.69 percent as he carried the state by 22,541 votes out of a total of 608,439. Without the Democratic margin of 40,676 in Baltimore City, Dewey would have won Maryland. The Republicans carried 16 out of the 23 counties with the President holding onto five Eastern Shore counties and two in Southern Maryland. Prince George's County was the sole metropolitan county to be carried by Roosevelt and that was by a small margin of 256 votes (14,006 to 13,750). The Roosevelt era was fading sooner in Maryland than elsewhere in the nation foreshadowing Democratic post-war difficulties. In this wartime election no third party candidates were on the Maryland ballot for the first time since 1872.

1944 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Thomas Dewey (R)	292,949	22,013,372		99
Franklin D. Roosevelt (D)	315,490	25,611,936	8	432

1948

On April 12, 1945 Franklin Delano Roosevelt passed away and the heavy responsibility for bringing the War to its conclusion fell upon Vice President Truman. Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945 and Japan on August 15, 1945 after the nuclear age had been detonated with the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The initial post-war year was filled with problems, international and domestic. The rebuilding of Europe and the Soviet menace were issues of enormous significance. At home the re-assimilation of 12,000,000 returning veterans and a reorganization of the nation's economy posed serious tests to the American political system. The wartime unity rapidly disappeared with rising prices, shortages of goods and unemployment. Latent anti-Roosevelt sentiment broke open and the Democrats fell into various factions.²⁷ The Republicans capitalized on the tired mood of the electorate and Democratic strife to post significant gains in the 1946 mid-term general elections. They assumed control of the 80th Congress with a margin of 51 to 45 in the Senate and 246 to 188 in the House of Representatives. With election successes, domestic economic dislocation and a tense world situation the Republicans foresaw a golden opportunity to recapture the Presidency in 1948.