

New Deal for the people and attacked the Republican Congress for seeking to reorder progress. On the other hand, Dewey campaigned as an incumbent taking a low key approach, not attacking, but assuring and solidifying his support. Other Republican leaders attacked Truman and his policies while the Dewey campaign contentedly watched the polls proclaim his impending victory.

With the personal appeal of Roosevelt not obscuring coalitions and with third party candidates espousing identifiable political goals, the presidential election of November 2, 1948 is a political analyst's dream. Truman became the first President since Wilson in 1912 to be elected with a plurality of votes. While Dewey had doubled the number of electoral votes he received in 1944, his popular vote total was 36,000 less. The States' Rights Democrat Thurmond captured four states and 39 electoral votes. Thurmond and the Progressive Wallace each polled over one million votes. Modern American politics, with polls, media influence and special interest groups, was maturing but Truman beat the odds.³⁰

The presidential election of 1948 was most unusual for Maryland. It marked the only time a Democratic candidate won the Presidency without receiving the electoral votes of Maryland. Dewey edged the President, (294,814 to 286,521), with four third-party candidates splitting 17,694 votes which could have provided a different result. Potential Democratic votes were garnered by the Progressive Wallace (9,983 votes) and the States' Rights Presidential candidate Thurmond (2,476 write-in votes) and his vice presidential running mate, Mississippi Governor Fielding L. Wright (2,294 write-in votes).³¹ Perennial Socialist candidate, Norman Thomas, drew 2,941 votes, or 0.491 percent. Significant in the Maryland results was the increased suburban vote which reflected the demographic changes induced by the growth in the Federal government. Dewey carried Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Montgomery Counties by 21,061 almost offsetting by itself an unusually small Democratic margin of 23,736 in Baltimore City. Prince George's went Democratic by a scant 156 votes. Truman carried one more county in 1948 than Roosevelt had four years earlier by holding the same five Eastern Shore counties while, on the Western Shore, adding Allegany and St. Mary's but losing Charles. The Republican cause in Maryland was helped by the Democratic infighting on a state and national level and the presence of the third parties which drew support from the extreme wings of the Democratic party.

1948 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Thomas Dewey (R)	294,814	21,970,017	8	189
Norman M. Thomas (S)	2,941	138,973		
J. Strom Thurmond (SR)	2,474	1,169,134		39
Harry S. Truman (D)	286,521	24,105,587		303
Henry A. Wallace (P)	9,983	1,157,057		