

time it was Nixon who enjoyed a thin popular vote edge (.70 percent) receiving the lowest percentage plurality since Wilson in 1912. Wallace had siphoned 9,901,151 votes (13.53 percent) from the major party candidates and debates still ensue over whether he hurt Nixon or Humphrey the most.<sup>32</sup> The electoral vote count was 301 Republican, 191 Democrat and 46 for the American party.

The Maryland result reflected the strains and pulls of the national race. The Wallace candidacy drew 178,734 votes or 14.47 percent and made a numerical difference in 17 out of the 24 Maryland subdivisions. Hubert Humphrey gained Maryland's 10 electoral votes by a plurality of 20,351 votes notwithstanding the presence of native son Agnew on the Republican ticket. Once again, a decisive majority in Baltimore City (98,304) placed Maryland in the Democratic column as Nixon outpolled Humphrey in 21 of the 23 counties. Calvert and Montgomery Counties joined Baltimore City in the Democratic column.

#### 1968 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Hubert H. Humphrey (D)	538,310	31,275,165	10	191
Richard M. Nixon (R)	517,995	31,785,148		301
George C. Wallace (A)	178,734	9,901,451		46

#### 1972

The presidential election of 1972 was conducted during a period of national turmoil over the Vietnam War with Americans generally desiring a sense of calm. Although he had never divulged his "secret plan" to end the war, President Nixon had skillfully worked political forces in his favor. While perceived as a fiscal conservative, Nixon had signed into law many of the reform pieces of legislation relating to equal opportunity, consumer protection, and environmental law which greatly expanded the role of the Federal government.<sup>33</sup> The Vietnam War had not ended but the President politically had survived the "Cambodian bombing" and other events and not been saddled or blamed with the war as had his predecessor.

The Republicans had only minor opposition candidates to Nixon's re-election during the primaries. In Maryland, Nixon gathered over 86 percent of the Republican votes in the primary of May 16, 1972.<sup>34</sup> The incumbent President captured all but one of the 1,348 votes at the Republican National Convention held in Miami from August 21-23 1972. In contrast to the Democrats, this convention made maximum use of prime time television in launching their successful general election campaign.

In 1972 the Democrats were still reeling from the close defeat in 1968 of one of the party's shining lights, Hubert H. Humphrey. The external and internal turmoil from the