

John Anderson gathered over 5.7 million votes (6.6 percent). The Reagan victory was accompanied by even more impressive Republican gains in Congress where control of the Senate was regained after a 28-year lapse and 33 new seats were won in the House of Representatives.

Maryland displayed a remarkably independent and unusual vote in the 1980 presidential election. Maryland was one of the six states which gave Carter its electoral votes. Two of the others, Georgia and Minnesota, had their native sons on the national Democratic ticket. In two others, Rhode Island and Hawaii, the Anderson vote was among the nation's highest at 14.4 percent and 10.6 percent respectively. In West Virginia the Republican legacy and platform was too uncomfortable for a state suffering greatly from the nation's economic ill health. The Maryland result, although unique, has not attracted the attention of political observers, analysts and scholars.⁵³ Maryland not only rejected the Reagan candidacy but was the only state to increase its Democratic representation in the House of Representatives.⁵⁴

Most rural and suburban counties in Maryland followed the national trend in support of the Republican nominee who carried all but Kent, Prince George's and Somerset Counties. However, in contrast to national trends was the vote of Baltimore City which, comparing the 1976 and 1980 elections, registered the largest percentage Democratic increase and greatest percentage Republican decrease of any major urban area in the country.⁵⁵ Carter carried Baltimore City by 134,009 votes and the state by a significantly smaller margin of 45,555. The Maryland vote may be partially explained by the strength of the state Democratic party which returned from the New York national convention united despite the Kennedy-Carter division within the delegation. The state party had also been strengthened simultaneously with the election of Governor Harry R. Hughes in 1978 whose low key approach and prior experience as state party chair encouraged the Democrats to reorganize unfettered from the Mandel and earlier years of strong arm rule. In addition, the national success of the Republicans in splintering the Democratic coalition was not repeated in Maryland. The working class did not stray in large numbers in Maryland while minority groups increased their Democratic participation and effectiveness. The Anderson vote exceeded the Carter margin of victory by 73,982 and made a numerical difference in six Maryland counties, four of which favored Reagan and two of which favored Carter. In the 1980 presidential election the Maryland result, as it has often been in the past, was dramatically different than the nation as a whole.

1980 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
John B. Anderson (I)	119,537	5,719,437		
Jimmy Carter (D)	726,161	35,483,820	10	49
Ed Clark (Li)	14,192	921,188		
Ronald Reagan (R)	680,606	43,901,812		489