

Baltimore City and two counties (Calvert and Montgomery) in 1968 and three counties in 1980 (Kent, Prince George's and Somerset). The dichotomy between Baltimore City and the counties has been a constant theme in Maryland politics with the presidential election results manifesting the countless City/county battles which rage each year in the Maryland General Assembly over fair representation and the allocation of budget revenues.

Just as the State of Maryland cannot be considered a bellwether or typical jurisdiction for the purpose of analyzing presidential elections before or after the returns have been counted, there is no Maryland county or set of counties which has mirrored the national results over the entire history of presidential elections. The two counties with the highest percentage of agreement with the national electoral college winner are Frederick and Washington Counties which have voted with the country in 36 out of the 49 elections since 1789. This 73.47 percent agreement is not an exceptional degree of correlation but it is significantly more than the State's worst national bellwether, Worcester, which has only agreed with the national result 20 out of 48 times for a mere 41.67 percentage (see Appendix C, Table 6).

From era to era there has been a shifting of that portion of the State which most closely reflects the national sentiment or consensus. Table 5 shows the performance of each of the subdivisions in each of the seven descriptive periods utilized in this book.

During the formative period of presidential politics only Baltimore County correctly followed the national lead in all nine elections from 1789 through 1820 as the Federalists and Democratic-Republicans struggled for control of the Federal government. In the second period (1824-1852) and third period (1856-1868) no Maryland subdivision came close to reflecting the national sentiment. In the aftermath of the Civil War and the nation's reaction to reconstruction there was again no Maryland subdivision concurring in all six elections from 1872 through 1892; only Frederick County differed a single time, in 1884.

With the advent of a successful political reform movement in Maryland and an embracing of popular economic ideas by the Republicans, the State and several subdivisions began to more closely reflect political truths and reality in terms of election results. In the Progressive Era of 1896-1928, Frederick and Washington Counties voted identically with the nation in all nine presidential elections. Three other subdivisions (Allegany, Dorchester and Baltimore City) disagreed once during the period and six counties differed but twice from the national result.

Since the last major voter realignment caused in part by the Great Depression the State's national bellwethers have changed. From 1932-1956, it was five Eastern Shore counties (Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Wicomico) and Prince George's County which agreed with the presidential results. In the last election period it has been two Southern Maryland counties, Charles and St. Mary's, which have concurred in the national result of all six elections from 1960-1980.

St. Mary's County has the current longest accuracy streak with nine in a row in agreement with the country since 1948. The longest streak during the entire 49 elections was 14 shared by Frederick and Washington Counties from 1892 through 1940. The longest losing streaks are shared by Montgomery and Worcester Counties which voted opposite to the national winner in the eight elections from 1852 through 1880.