

Whether this maze of statistical information is meaningful in terms of presidential elections may be problematical without further research. However, the marked differences between Maryland and other states revealed by the census data does provide a beginning point for understanding and judging the State's contemporary political posture.

"The Past as Prologue"²⁰

Having described the history of presidential elections in Maryland and outlining the State's contemporary demographics the social scientist, politician and interested citizen will undoubtedly desire to gaze into the future. As noted in the preface to this publication there is a need to collect and analyze information concerning the Maryland electorate in order to maximize the benefit from understanding the State's history and to be able to chart the State's course more accurately. Nevertheless, some observations can be made and predictions hazarded about Maryland's political future.

The first lesson to be learned from Maryland's political past is that the State election totals should not reasonably be expected to follow the national trends or outcome. There do not appear to be any factors on the horizon which would significantly alter the composition of Maryland's demographics. And, coupled with the State's close proximity to the nation's capital, it can be safely predicted that Marylanders will continue to retain a healthy skepticism about the Federal government and any individual who occupies the White House as President.

However, within the State there are evidences of change in the political balance of power. Although it has continued to exercise a dominant role in presidential election politics, Baltimore City could find its influence reduced by the continued growth of the metropolitan counties. The City lost population in the last decade and is retaining its political strength by virtue of a one sided voter registration margin in favor of the Democratic Party. As political activism increases in the counties the percentage of votes cast by Baltimore City may lessen in relation to the statewide totals.

In relation to presidential elections the State is experiencing a polarization which rivals the Jacksonian era. From 1824 to 1852, Baltimore City and Baltimore County voted solidly Democratic in all eight elections while five counties voted opposite everytime and five counties seven times. Since 1960, 11 counties have disagreed with Baltimore City in every election except the Johnson landslide in 1964. These counties are three western counties (Frederick, Washington and Carroll), four lower Eastern Shore counties (Caroline, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester) and the Central Maryland counties bordering the City of Baltimore (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford and Howard). Garrett County disagreed with the City in every election.

This polarization is likely to continue to the north, east, south and far west of the City but in the Baltimore-Washington corridor, with its heavy concentration of well-educated, affluent, Federally connected population, a merging of political relationships may occur. This hypothesis can be detected in the percentage votes of Howard County in recent elections and in the 1984 presidential primary campaign of Jesse Jackson which