

Appendix A

Introduction to Appendixes

The results of Maryland voting in presidential elections have been reported in various encyclopedias, almanacs, history books, newspapers, articles and journals. The most often cited, and/or readily available, are listed at the end of this appendix. County level data for Maryland since 1824 is also available as part of the election information on file with the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan. However, none of these sources contain county level data for all 49 presidential elections in Maryland and all of these sources contain some limitations, errors, and distortions in their collection and reporting of Maryland election data.

The election statistics for the State of Maryland in the following tables and utilized in the text have been compiled from an inspection of the manuscript reports from the various counties which were submitted to the appropriate state authority and from official reports issued on behalf of the State of Maryland. From 1789 through 1836, the judges of the elections in each county were required to sign and seal duplicate returns of the number of votes for each candidate for presidential elector transmitting one copy to the County Clerk of Court and one copy to the Governor's Council, who upon review of the returns, would certify the name of the persons elected. Beginning with the presidential election of 1840, the Secretary of State of Maryland became the official recipient of the county election reports. In 1896, the Board of State Canvassers was created to certify the reports of the 23 counties and Baltimore City. However, not until the creation of the State Administrative Board of Election Laws in 1969 have detailed election returns and voter registration information been consistently maintained.

In compiling the election data herein presented, the most difficult task has been matching the votes for the individual presidential elector candidates with their respective support of presidential candidates or political parties for the period 1789 through 1832. The official returns do not contain any reference to party identification or candidate preference. Therefore, assignment of a candidate or party vote to a county has been made by endeavoring to determine the preferences of presidential elector candidates through newspapers, private correspondence, books on state and local histories, articles and other sources. Such an effort often defies success as exemplified by the vote of John R. Plater in 1796. Generally regarded as a Federalist, he cast one of his electoral votes for Jefferson and one vote for Adams in representing the first presidential elector district of Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties. Evidences of ticket making and public pronouncements of support pave the way for matching a presidential elector with a candidate or party but the casting of the elector's vote has been used as the deciding factor when any disparity has arisen. For several of these