

early elector candidates a definitive party or candidate preference has not been sufficiently verified and none has been indicated in the following tables.

In comparing various reports and tables of Maryland election returns the researcher and reader should be aware that differences in county and state totals may appear because of the method utilized in determining the vote for a presidential candidate. From 1789 through 1936, Marylanders voted directly for presidential electors, not the presidential candidates, which led to different county and total votes for the various individuals on a slate or ticket. In this book the presidential vote attributed to the various counties is that vote of the elector candidate who received the most votes statewide (or in the relevant elector district for the years 1804-1832). Other vote compiling methods include (1) the average vote for all elector candidates, (2) the vote for the first elector candidate listed on the ballot, and (3) the highest vote for any elector pledged to a presidential candidate in each subdivision. Such reporting differences can swing an entire county from one column to another. For example, the vote in Calvert County in the 1852 election was extremely close. Both the highest and lowest vote totals for electoral candidates were received by members of the Whig slate (359 and 350). Four others on the Whig slate received 353 votes, one received 352 and one received 351. On the other hand, the Democratic slate had four of its candidates receive 353 votes, three received 352 and one received 351 votes. But the state leader for the Whigs (Cathell Humphreys) received 353 votes and the state leaders for the Democrats (Thomas F. Bowie and Augustus R. Sollers) received 353 votes. Who won Calvert County in 1852?

Most of the official county reports to the state authorities do not contain precinct, ward or election district level information. Persons interested in this data will have to search records on file with the County Clerks of Court and Boards of Elections in each county. However, these local offices vary greatly in the quantity and quality of historical data which they possess. Local histories, newspapers, almanacs, journals, articles and other secondary sources contain a scattering of this level election returns.

The vote maps and tables for each of the 49 presidential elections contain information about all presidential candidates who received votes in Maryland. However, the tables do not indicate the votes cast for all candidates in the nation. A complete listing of presidential votes from each state for the period 1824-1980 is contained in Congressional Quarterly's, *Presidential Elections Since 1789*, 3rd edition, Washington: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 1983. Although the Maryland vote compiled in this book occasionally varies with the stated by Congressional Quarterly this source is the most reliable and comprehensive report of national election statistics and has been utilized in the preparation of the election summaries appearing in the text and in the various vote maps, tables and charts in the appendixes.