

philosophy and the Vice President being the leader of the opposition. This election also demonstrated that opposing sides or parties could contest for national power without disrupting the functioning and structure of government as the Adams' Federalists withstood the Jefferson challenge.

1796 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
John Adams (F)	7,210	(not available)	7	71
Aaron Burr (DR)		"	3	30
John Henry (F)		"	2	2
Thomas Jefferson (DR)	6,317	"	4	68
Thomas Pinckney (F)		"	4	59
Others		"		46

1800

With the major contestants in the previous election both serving the nation in its two highest offices the prospect for a renewed battle between the same men was likely and, in fact, did occur in the election of 1800.

From an unexpected height of popular support following the French "XYZ Papers," President Adams fell victim to internal party squabbles in the spring of 1800. A Federalist party caucus selected Adams and Charles Cotesworthy Pinckney of South Carolina to be their standard bearers. The often meddling Hamilton seized upon this in another effort to manipulate the electoral college system and oust Adams. The President entered the infighting by demanding the resignation of Maryland's James McHenry as Secretary of War and dismissing Secretary of State Timothy Pickering, the leading Hamilton supporters in the Cabinet.²⁸ This time Hamilton had hoped that the electoral vote splitting would throw the election into the House of Representatives where a person of his persuasion could be selected. This was a circumstance which would happen but only by virtue of the party discipline exercised by the Democratic-Republican electors.

The Federalist infighting on a national level only served to further their position as a declining force within Maryland. The Democratic-Republicans had made gains in the 1798 congressional elections and in the Maryland General Assembly. In an effort to prevent the possibility of losing the presidential elector races, the Federalists sought to change the method of choosing electors for the 1800 presidential election. Such political maneuvering was occurring elsewhere in the country and the Federalist plan for Maryland, urged by Charles Carroll and others, was to bestow the selection process upon the then Federalist controlled state legislature.²⁹ This obvious effort to change the rules of the game for the sake of preserving political power was seized upon by the Jefferson