

supporters as a strong campaign issue along with the Federalist's association with the unpopular Alien and Sedition Acts and the Federalist's opposition to suffrage reform.³⁰ The effort to change the system of choosing presidential electors failed and on November 10, 1800 Marylanders chose an equally divided slate of electors from its 10 electoral districts.

The Jefferson electors outpolled the Federalists 10,331 to 9,651 statewide while again winning one-half of the subdivisions. The Second District (Montgomery and Prince George's) and Fourth District (Allegany and Washington) were added in 1800 to the Democratic-Republican victories of 1796 in the Third (Anne Arundel and Baltimore City), Fifth (Baltimore and Harford), and Sixth (Cecil and Kent) Districts. Maryland's electoral votes, cast on December 3, 1800, gave five each to Federalists, John Adams and Charles C. Pinckney, and Democratic-Republicans, Aaron Burr and Thomas Jefferson.

Nationally, all of the electors who voted for Thomas Jefferson also voted for Aaron Burr producing the only electoral tie in American history. The selection of a President was therefore thrown into the House of Representatives pursuant to Article II of the Constitution of the United States. Prior to the election it was generally recognized that the presidential candidates were Adams and Jefferson. However, Aaron Burr of New York, Jefferson's running mate, refused to step aside for Jefferson after the electoral tie and openly sought the Presidency. Under the relevant constitutional procedures each state was to cast a single vote for President with the support of nine of the 16 states being necessary for election. It took 36 ballots for the deadlock to be broken with Maryland being one of the shifting and deciding votes in the Jefferson victory.

After years of battling the philosophies and policies of Jefferson, Federalists in Maryland and the nation were confronted with strange bedfellows in the 1800 presidential election which was being decided in the U.S. House of Representatives. Such staunch Federalists as Alexander Hamilton and Charles Carroll urged support for Jefferson.³¹ Hamilton wrote to James McHenry urging support for Jefferson with a sharp attack on Burr's character and leanings. Charles Carroll even suggested that Jefferson should be supported over Adams. Before and during the congressional balloting, Baltimore's Congressman, Samuel Smith, was a key figure in the political negotiations which eventually broke the deadlock.³² Congressman Smith had traveled to meet Burr and request his removal from the race prior to the convening of Congress. Smith was also a liaison between Jefferson and Delaware's lone Congressman, James A. Bayard, who held an entire vote himself. The breakthrough came when Delaware's Congressman, having been rebuffed by Burr, told Smith that he would support Jefferson. Mission accomplished, a plan was then devised to have Jefferson elected without any Federalist Congressmen in Maryland having to support Jefferson directly. On the last ballot, Maryland's evenly divided Congressional delegation voted for Jefferson with the four Republicans (Samuel Smith, Gabriel Christie, George Dent and Joseph H. Nicholson)³³ voting for the talented Virginian while the four Federalists (George Baer, Jr., William Craik, John Dennis and John C. Thomas) cast blank ballots which broke the previously existing tie for the vote of Maryland.³⁴

The experience of 1800, and most likely the earlier efforts at electoral college manipulation by Hamilton, led to the quick adoption of the Twelfth Amendment to the