

56 votes (1,338 to 1,282) in Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties. The Sixth District electoral race was close in Cecil County but was negated by the Democratic-Republican candidate's runaway margin in Harford County (490 to 23.) The Federalists did carry three electoral districts, the close Eighth District race mentioned above and their traditional strongholds of Southern Maryland's First District and the lower Eastern Shore's Ninth District which were not contested by the Democratic-Republicans. However, the three Federalist electors failed to attend the electoral college meeting on December 4, 1816⁴⁷ and no Federalist electoral votes were cast in Maryland for the first time in a Maryland presidential election. However, John Eager Howard, a former Federalist Maryland Governor and U.S. Senator, received 22 electoral votes for Vice President from Massachusetts and a former Maryland Federalist Congressman, Robert Goodloe Harper, received three votes for Vice President from Delaware.

1816 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Rufus King (F)	2,645	(not available)		22
James Monroe (DR)	7,408	"	8	183
Others	744			

1820

The "Era of Good Feeling" generated by President Monroe and his administration and the absence of any counterbalancing political party led to the nation's most uncontested presidential election in 1820. In reporting on this presidential election Baltimore's nationally recognized, *Niles' Weekly Register*,⁴⁸ noted that there was "no serious opposition . . . contemplated in any of the states."⁴⁹ This circumstance was lamented by *Maryland Gazette* in Annapolis which called for continued Federalist opposition on the state level regardless of the national situation.⁵⁰ The incumbent received all but one of the nation's 231 electoral votes.⁵¹ The single footnote in Maryland to this dulllest of presidential elections was the one electoral vote cast for Robert Goodloe Harper, a former Maryland Congressman and Federalist, for Vice President by one of the Maryland electors.

Without opposition in Maryland, the vote for presidential electors on November 13, 1820 was naturally slight. In a state with a population of 407,350 only 5,228 voters went to the polls. Fifty-three individuals received votes for the distinction of being a presidential elector. Where contests developed it appeared to be personalities rather than national issues which was of greater significance. There was a close race in the lower Eastern Shore's Ninth District (Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester) where Joshua Prideaux edged the former Federalist Governor, Charles Goldsborough, (226-208) but even this