

that the political leaders and interested journalists of the era did not have an interest in these numbers, especially since they were kept and regularly reported both before and after this missing period. One can only speculate on the reason for this lack of information. Was the data not compatible with the interests of the Democratic regime of Governor Ritchie at a time when Republicans were winning the 1920, 1924 and 1928 presidential elections in Maryland? Or, was the impact of the woman's vote deliberately suppressed?

Another curious missing link is the year 1940. Neither the *Maryland Manual* nor any other state publication provides voter registration information for 1940. The numbers generally used and reported in Maryland histories and other publications are for the spring of 1940 and fail to include voters who registered other than Democrat or Republican.

In the voter registration tables which follow the designation "N/A" is used when information is not available from a reliable single source or combination of sources. When information was not maintained the phrase "not recorded" has been used. Where a number is an estimate the notation "e" appears.

Fortunately, preserving recent and future Maryland voter information has been secured by the creation of the State Administrative Board of Election Laws in 1969. This state agency supervises, receives, reports and collates voter information and election results from the 23 counties and Baltimore City and has collected reliable information dating from 1946. See generally Section 3, Article 33, *Annotated Code of Maryland; Laws of Maryland*, 1969, Chapter 555, and 1971, Chapter 354.