

Political Parties in Maryland

The history of political parties in the United States is an interesting and varied subject matter. Maryland has participated in the development of political parties and felt their influence although not all political parties have had a presence or impact in the state.¹ Listed below are the political parties which have either attained a "ballot position" in the state's presidential elections or had individuals running to be members of the electoral college from Maryland.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>MD Campaign</u>
A	American Independent ²	1968-1972
AKN	American Know-Nothing	1856
AF	Anti-Federalist	1789
C	Communist	1928-1940
CU	Constitutional Union	1860
D	Democrat	1832-1980
DR	Democrat-Republican	1796-1828
FL	Farmer-Labor	1920
F	Federalist	1789-1820
FS	Free Soil	1848-1852
G	Greenback	1880-1884
Ind	Independence	1908
I	Independent	1980
L (SL)	Labor (Socialist Labor) ³	1896-1900, 1912-1940
Li	Libertarian	1980
ND	National Democratic (Sound Money Democrat)	1896
NP	National Prohibition	1896
NR	National-Republican	1828-1832
Po	Populist (People's)	1892
P	Progressive ⁴	1912, 1924, 1948, 1952
Pr	Prohibition	1884-1916
R	Republican ⁵	1856-1980
S	Socialist (Social Democrat) ⁶	1900-1920, 1928-1940, 1948
SD	Southern Democrat	1860
SR	States' Rights ⁷	1948
U	Union Party ⁵	1864
UR	Union Reform	1900
W	Whig	1836-1852

¹A listing and brief description of the political parties participating in presidential elections may be found in Congressional Quarterly, Inc., *National Party Conventions 1831-1980*, (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, Inc, 1983), pp. 199-211. See also Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., ed., *History of U.S. Political Parties*, 4 vols., (New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1974).

²The coalition represented by George Wallace under the American Independent Party in 1968 became smaller and fragmented after the Alabama Governor returned to the Democratic Party in 1972. The two major factions are known as the American Party and the American Independent Party.

³Originally on the Maryland ballot as the Socialist Labor Party in 1896 and 1900 the popular label changed to the Labor Party after the defections of moderates in 1901 who joined with the Social Democratic Party.

⁴The individuals who ran under the Progressive label in Maryland do not represent a continuous or related political party.

⁵The label of Union Party was used in Maryland during the Civil War to calm the emotions of Marylanders who despised the Republican name.

⁶The first of five candidacies of Eugene V. Debs was under the banner of the Social Democratic Party which became known as the Socialist Party after merging with disaffected members of the Socialist Labor Party in 1901.

⁷The States' Right party did not achieve a place on the ballot despite a court battle. *Vaughn v. Boone*, 191 Md. 515, 62 A.2d 351 (1948). The party did attempt to file a slate of potential electors with the Secretary of State.