

policies as a President alienated and upset his Maryland friends and foes. In 1830 the Presidential veto of congressional legislation providing for internal improvements, including the building of a turnpike from Washington, DC to Frederick, Maryland, greatly disturbed the business community in Baltimore and the growing western portion of the state.¹² Marylanders were anxious for a transportation link with the west and much of Maryland's history and politics from 1820-1850 was associated with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.¹³ The Jackson battle against the Bank of the United States caused not only the disfavor of state mercantile interests but the desertion of former supporters of the President such as John Pendleton Kennedy¹⁴ and Reverdy Johnson.¹⁵ Although the Democrats enjoyed limited success in state and county races during this period it was not due to presidential or national politics.

Party politics flourished in this generation. The Jackson elections had caused realignment of the Federalist and Democratic-Republican divisions of the first quarter of the nineteenth century with political leaders traveling different paths in the transformation into a Democrat versus Whig era which lasted for 18 years. The realignment was based on opportunity for political advancement and disagreement on specific issues or over personalities more than on deep philosophical differences. The Whigs and Democrats were similar in their composition and constituents.¹⁶ This is evidenced by the closeness of the elections during the period. In the five gubernatorial contests from 1838 to 1850 the margin of difference was only 311, 665, 546, 709 and 1,492 votes respectively. The legislature was controlled by the Whigs for 11 out of the 15 years but the Democrats occupied the Governor's mansion for 12 of the same 15 years.

The development of strong party organizations from the local county level to the state, the lack of clear differences between the parties and the relative security from threatening national or international issues made politics a pleasurable "form of recreation" in this period.¹⁷ Campaigns were highlighted by rallying, parades, and picnics which generated the money and enthusiasm for attention to politics. Voter participation was high, reaching into the middle eighties percentile of eligible voters in the 1840s. However, the fun in politics would not remain forever as issues fundamental to the nation's unity had to be dealt with and the excesses of political activity soon soared on the horizon.

1824

Without opposition political parties in existence the presidential election of 1824 was an open contest and there were numerous willing contenders. The "heir" to the Virginia dynasty was Secretary of the Treasury William Crawford who received the nod of the spring Congressional caucus. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams was well trained and experienced in national affairs and had significant support in the Northeast. Secretary of War John C. Calhoun of South Carolina was a popular politician and the favorite candidate of the South. Speaker of the House Henry Clay of Kentucky was an articulate spokesman with excellent legislative credentials. The fifth candidate was Andrew Jackson whose native Tennessee legislature fostered his candidacy. Jackson's successful military