

background bolstered his appeal to voters and was balanced by a varied career of public service.¹⁸ A wild card factor in this election was the direct election of presidential electors in 18 of the 24 states.

In Maryland, as in many parts of the country, this open contest sparked a renewed interest in presidential elections fueled by an active and interested free press which made politics a continuing news story. State Congressional leaders initially supported Crawford but his health problems and association with the discredited Congressional caucus made him a ready target for attack by the press and other candidates.¹⁹ The Jackson movement attracted a diverse group of political personalities. One of the principals to join the Jackson cause in Maryland was Roger Brooke Taney. Formerly an active Federalist, Taney's association with Jackson was important to the development of party politics in Maryland and to Taney's rise as an important national figure.²⁰ Calhoun had been receiving the backing of former Maryland Federalists during the last Monroe administration but when his candidacy failed to progress he stepped aside in favor of Jackson which brought his supporters to the Tennessee General's camp.²¹ Adams, the son of the nation's second President and related by marriage to Maryland's first Governor, attracted considerable support, especially in the former Federalist areas.²² Henry Clay's candidacy did not draw statewide support but was localized in Western Maryland where he had a family tie.²³ Slates of presidential electors were formed for the November 8th election supporting Crawford, Jackson and Adams with Clay representatives running only in the Fourth presidential elector district.

Eligible voters responded to the opportunity of choice by casting a total of 49,704 votes for presidential electors running in nine electoral districts. While the electors for Adams achieved a slight plurality (158 votes) over the Jackson electors in the statewide vote total, Jackson gained seven of Maryland's 11 electoral votes because he carried the two-member Western Maryland and Baltimore City/Anne Arundel districts. Also, two Adams supporters split the vote in the Second District comprised of Calvert County and parts of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties which allowed a Jackson elector to win.²⁴ Adams electors won three electoral college positions and Crawford one (the Eastern Shore Eighth District).

The national results failed to produce a winner as none of the four candidates had a majority of the electoral votes. Andrew Jackson had a substantial plurality in the popular voting (38,149) and led John Adams in electoral votes, 99 to 84. For the second and last time in American history the selection of a President fell to the House of Representatives where each of the 24 states had a single vote. The tiebreaking process left Adams, Crawford and Jackson as the contenders and attention focused on House Speaker and presidential runner-up, Henry Clay, because of his influence in the House. Clay decided to back Adams and the roll call of states produced a first ballot victory for the Massachusetts statesman. Adams received 13 votes, one more than a majority. Jackson garnered seven and Crawford four. Maryland's congressional delegation, allegedly with the urging of Daniel Webster, reversed the split in its electoral college vote, and gave the nod to Adams.²⁵ In the state balloting to determine how Maryland's vote would be counted five representatives voted for Adams, three for Jackson and one for Crawford. George E. Mitchell of Cecil County voted for Adams even though he was an avowed Jackson