

This action of the so called "Van Buren electors" dominated politics for the remainder of the election year. Although the Democrats suffered voter backlash in the October House of Delegates races and the Harrison "Whig electors" defeated Van Buren's in November, the Democrats did manage to deflect criticism away from the national party. More importantly, the sought after changes in state government became a reality in 1837.

The Whigs carried Maryland in this first truly statewide presidential contest between political parties.<sup>47</sup> The Harrison margin was 4,579 out of a total of 49,121 votes. Van Buren held the previous Jackson areas of Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Cecil County but lost Western Maryland and was considerably behind in the rest of the state. All of Maryland's eight electoral votes went to Harrison but the Whig sectional strategy failed completely nationwide as Van Buren achieved a popular vote plurality in excess of 200,000 votes and a comfortable electoral vote majority, garnering 170 votes from 15 of the 26 participating states. (See Appendix A, 1836 Vote Map.)

## 1836 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Martin Van Buren (D)	22,271	764,176		170
Wm. H. Harrison (W)	26,850	550,816	10	73
Willie P. Mangum (ID)		None		11
Daniel Webster (W)		41,201		14
Hugh L. White (W)		146,107		26

## 1840

The Van Buren administration encountered difficulty from the outset as the economic crises of 1837 accentuated his problems with the Jackson legacy. The President held to a laissez-faire approach and strengthened his internal party position even though public opinion may have turned against him. The careful politician was renominated for a second term by a national convention meeting in Baltimore, May 5-6, 1840. This convention produced the first national party platform which naturally extolled the Jackson-Van Buren administrations.

Perhaps in recognition of their organization difficulties in 1836, the Whigs organized their national convention earlier than the Democrats, meeting in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in December of 1839. The strong showing of Harrison in 1836 secured for him a unified Whig nomination in 1840 with former Democrat, John Tyler of Virginia, selected for vice president. The Harrison-Tyler combination proved to be a media delight as Harrison enjoyed some of personal attributes of Jackson and the slogan of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" provided ample symbols for political activity.<sup>48</sup>