

haggling, General Winfield Scott of New Jersey emerged as the nominee. The Whigs were more divided over slavery and the Congressional Compromise of 1850 than the Democrats and it was this issue that split the delegates to the party's last national convention.⁶⁰ President Taylor had died in office and his successor, Millard Fillmore, lost the nomination because of his efforts in support of the Congressional Compromise. Maryland Whigs had favored Fillmore and they deserted the national ticket in significant numbers as the campaign progressed.

As is the pattern, the abandonment of an incumbent President by his own party forecasts a general election defeat.⁶¹ With its leadership aging and its party unity shaken, the Whigs were easily outdistanced by the Democrats who won the popular vote by the largest plurality since 1832 and the electoral vote by the widest margin since the formation of modern political parties (254-42). The Whigs carried only Kentucky, Tennessee, Vermont and Massachusetts, the latter by a plurality created by the anti-slavery Free Soil Party. Pierce became the first Democratic presidential candidate to win in Maryland.⁶² He carried 12 counties and Baltimore City in amassing a 5,048 vote margin which was the largest in Maryland history at that time. The Free Soil Party candidate, John Hale from New Hampshire, only attracted 56 votes from four Maryland subdivisions.

1852 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
John P. Hale (FS)	56	155,210		
Franklin Pierce (D)	40,028	1,607,510	8	254
Winfield Scott (W)	34,980	1,386,942		42

FOOTNOTES

¹The Missouri Compromise meant that Maine and Missouri would be admitted as states without conditions on the slavery issue but that slavery would be prohibited in the remainder of the Louisiana Purchase north of the 36°30' parallel (the southern boundary of Missouri). The Kansas-Nebraska Act signed on May 30, 1854 repealed the Missouri Compromise and provided that the question of slavery in the territories of Kansas and Nebraska should be decided by the people residing in those respective areas. The political allegiances of prospective members of Congress and maintaining the political balance was as paramount as the moral aspect of slavery in various elections throughout the nation.

²Whereas state legislatures chose the presidential electors in nine states in 1816 and 1820 and in six states in 1824, all but two states in 1828 and one in 1832 (South Carolina) provided for popular voting in the presidential elections won by Andrew Jackson.

³See Richard P. McCormick, "New Perspectives on Jacksonian Politics," in Felice A. Bonadio,