

winter of 1878-1879 into the allegations of fraud backfired when evidence of wrongdoing by Tilden's nephew and staff was also uncovered. Thus, both major parties had a free reign to select new candidates in 1880.

The Republicans met first in June, 1880 with their sentiment divided between resurrecting Ulysses S. Grant for an unprecedented third term and anti-Grant forces which at the beginning were Maine Senator James B. Blaine and John Sherman of Ohio, Secretary of the Treasury. After 34 ballots, these three remained deadlocked and the name of James A. Garfield, Congressman from Ohio and a supporter of Sherman, first reached the ballot. Two votes later Garfield was the beneficiary of a rush of predominantly anti-Grant forces which gave him a 93 vote victory margin over the former President.

The Democratic Convention began without a clear leader and without a definite signal from the unlucky Tilden about his candidacy. General Winfield Scott Hancock of Pennsylvania led after the first ballot which had 16 individuals receiving votes. After Tilden made clear his decision not to seek the nomination Hancock surged on the second ballot and received the nomination after the shifting of votes on the rollcall. The Maryland delegation, reputedly controlled by newly elected U.S. Senator Arthur Pue Gorman of Howard County, initially supported Delaware Senator Thomas B. Bayard before the bandwagon for Hancock began to roll.²⁵

The general election campaign was lackluster with Republicans raising the fear of a Democratic administration eradicating post-Civil War success and the Democrats accusing the Republicans of corruption and the stealing of the 1876 presidential contest. The fall general elections saw each major party hold its bases of strength nationally in the closest popular vote contest in presidential election history. The Republican Garfield edged Hancock by a mere 1,898 votes—4,446,158 to 4,444,260. However, the electoral vote margin was much wider favoring the Republicans 214 to 155.

In Maryland the national Democratic ticket of Hancock and English received over 54 percent of the vote reflecting the commanding Democratic control of the state election machinery. The Republicans did win narrowly in the four westernmost counties and in two former large slave-holding counties each in Southern Maryland (Charles and St. Mary's) and the lower Eastern Shore (Dorchester and Somerset). The Democrats amassed over a 10,000 vote margin in Baltimore City and added 15 counties in carrying the state's eight electoral votes for Hancock by a popular total vote of 93,706 to 78,515. Again, the Greenback party had little impact in Maryland.

1880 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
James A. Garfield (R)	78,515	4,446,158		214
Winfield S. Hancock (D)	93,706	4,444,260	8	155
James B. Weaver (G)	828	305,997		