

state—Allegany (3.03 percent) and Worcester (4.53 percent) Counties. The Greenback party lost support from 1880, drawing only 357 votes from 15 Maryland subdivisions.

With a Democratic President, aided by a Maryland Senator, Federal patronage finally coincided with a Democratic hold on the state government to bring the Maryland Democratic party to its height of power.

1884 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
James G. Blaine (R)	85,748	4,848,936		182
Benjamin F. Butler (G)	347	175,096		
Grover Cleveland (D)	96,946	4,874,621	8	219
John P. St. John (Pr)	2,802	147,482		

1888

President Cleveland went to Washington with little experience or first hand knowledge of national issues and few ties to the Federal leadership. There was trepidation over Cleveland's staff and appointments which pleased neither all of the politicians or Cleveland himself. The new President proved to more private than anticipated and he paid attention to details where delegation was often the previous practice.³¹ The off year elections of 1886 were not unusual with the Democrats losing 12 seats in the House, but not their majority, and the Republican control of the Senate was narrowed to two. After considerable study, Cleveland laid the foundations for the next presidential election with a call for reductions in government spending, a government surplus and tariffs.

The Democrats, unaccustomed to incumbency, had their most harmonious convention in St. Louis in June, 1888. There was no opposition to the President's renomination and the platform supported his programs and policies. Only the filling of the vice presidential slot, because of Vice President Henricks' death, required a roll call and that was accomplished in a single ballot.

On the other hand, the Republicans had an open convention seeking a candidate who could recapture the White House. The narrow loser of 1884, James G. Blaine, declined to run again although he still possessed substantial support. Fourteen candidates received votes on the first ballot with Senator John Sherman of Ohio, making his third try for the nomination, in the lead.³² As the balloting proceeded Senator Benjamin Harrison of Indiana gained strength and won on the eighth roll call. The Republican platform strongly supported protective tariffs and opposed the Cleveland proposals.

The general election campaign produced little excitement as neither candidate went on a campaign tour. The media and party organizations kept the election fueled and running. Election day brought another confusing vote. Cleveland achieved the largest