

economic stability and national pride high in 1900, third party candidates fared poorly in Maryland. The Prohibitionists attracted the most votes (4,574) representing 1.7 percent of the statewide total. The Socialists, Labor and Union Reform parties all received less than 1,000 votes.

1904

The assassination of President McKinley on September 6, 1901 elevated the energetic and popular Theodore Roosevelt to the nation's highest office. His broad appeal and command of issues, especially foreign policy, kept potential rivals to a minimum.²⁹ Roosevelt captured all of the votes of the delegates to the Republican National Convention which was a harmonious occasion evidencing little weakness for the general election fight with the Democrats.

The Democrats were not yet a healed national party by 1904. Eight candidates were placed in nomination and 11 received votes at the St. Louis national convention, including Senator Gorman of Maryland.³⁰ The conservative Alton B. Parker, Chief Justice of New York Court of Appeals, was the winner after the shifting of 19 votes on the first ballot. The Democratic platform offered significant disagreement over protective tariffs, expansionist American foreign policy and Federal subsidies for shipbuilding, all of which the Republicans favored.

On the state level, Maryland Democrats were regrouping from the gains of Republican progressivism and reform. The statehouse and legislature had been recaptured by the Democrats in 1899 and the party bosses again in control by 1902. Arthur P. Gorman, was re-elected to the U.S. Senate by the state legislature on February 14, 1902 and another Democrat, Isidor Rayner, was elected the following year to succeed the expiring terms of Republicans. Although the Gorman influence was felt at the Democratic National Convention and he afterwards supported the Parker nomination, the power of the bosses was fading.

The general election produced a curious result in Maryland. While President Roosevelt received over 56 percent of the popular vote nationwide and all of the electoral votes outside of the South, Maryland demonstrated its border state split-personality once again. It is generally reported that Roosevelt won the popular vote in Maryland³¹ but the Democratic candidate, Alton B. Parker, received seven out of the state's eight electoral votes. The leading candidate for presidential elector in Maryland was a Republican, Charles J. Bonaparte, but the next seven with the most votes were Democrats. An examination of the subdivision returns discloses that the Republican vote leader ran significantly ahead of his Republican colleagues. In Baltimore City the state's leading reformer exceeded the next highest total by 1,161 votes. In Baltimore County, the popular Bonaparte ran 340 votes ahead of the ticket and he outpaced the other Republicans by more than a hundred votes in four other counties (Carroll, Cecil, Harford and Montgomery).

This anomalous result may be attributed to the name recognition advantage of the Democratic electors, to better organization and party discipline by the Democrats, and to the Democratic state legislature's effort to confuse the ballot. At the urging of