

voted Democratic while Western Maryland, Southern Maryland and, most surprisingly, Baltimore City, were marked in the Republican column.

1908 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Wm. Jennings Bryan (D)	115,908	6,406,801	6	162
Eugene W. Chafin (Pr)	3,302	252,821		
Eugene V. Debs (S)	2,323	420,380		
Thomas L. Hisgen (Ind)	485	126,474		
Wm. H. Taft (R)	116,513	7,676,258	2	321

1912

The re-appearance of former President Roosevelt as a candidate for President in the presidential election of 1912 gave the Democrats the wedge they needed to break the Republican hold on the Presidency. Upon returning from foreign travels Roosevelt began campaigning for various Progressive Republicans and found himself at odds with his presidential successor. Encouraged to run from various sources, Roosevelt found the new wave of presidential primaries suited to his candidacy. Twelve states conducted presidential primary elections with Roosevelt winning in nine states (including Maryland),³⁸ Senator LaFollette capturing two states in his section of the country (Wisconsin and North Dakota) and President Taft winning only Massachusetts by a scant two percentage points. Roosevelt proved his popularity with the people but the power of the incumbency was in evidence at the Republican National Convention in Chicago. When it became apparent on preliminary credentials and other votes that he could not wrestle the nomination from Taft, Roosevelt instructed his delegates to abstain from participating in the convention proceedings.³⁹ Less than two months later in August, 1912, the Roosevelt supporters called another Chicago convention under the Progressive label and gave the dynamic former President the semblance of a party structure from which to launch a third party campaign for President.

The Democrats, observing the unusual Republican split, endeavored to keep themselves together. The presidential preference primaries had given the Democrats a closer contest. Woodrow Wilson, the Governor of New Jersey, and Champ Clark of Missouri, Speaker of the House of Representatives, had each won five of these new contests with the Governors of Ohio and North Dakota winning in their respective states. In Maryland's initial Democratic presidential primary on May 12, 1912, Clark defeated Wilson in a three way race, 34,510 to 22,816, with Governor Judson Harmon of Ohio receiving 7,157 votes.