

In an unusually hot Baltimore June, the "two-thirds rule" for nomination played an important role at the sweltering convention center. Congressman Clark achieved a majority on the 10th ballot but afterwards saw his support gradually wane while Governor Wilson started a slow ascent after the 10th ballot, reaching a majority on the 43rd roll call and finally achieving the nomination on the 46th ballot. Historians credit the Baltimore *Sunpapers* with influencing the convention result as the most readily available paper for the delegates and having a pro-Wilson bias.⁴⁰

The Roosevelt third party effort proved disastrous for the Republicans in the general election on November 5, 1912 in Maryland and the nation. President Taft was able to win only eight electoral votes, from Utah and Vermont, and he finished third in the popular voting to Wilson and Roosevelt. In Maryland, the state's eight electoral votes easily went to the Democrats as the divided Republicans allowed Wilson to carry 19 of 23 counties and Baltimore City. The Roosevelt popular strength was most noticeable in Garrett County where he became the first and only presidential candidate to win that county without the official Republican label. The incumbent Taft carried the three Southern Maryland counties of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's which had been solidly Republican in presidential elections since the Fifteenth Amendment became effective in 1870. Although the combined votes of Taft and Roosevelt exceeded Wilson's in eight of Maryland's subdivisions and by a statewide margin of 101 votes, it would be hasty to conclude that a unified Republican ticket would have defeated Wilson.⁴¹ Maryland Democrats were emerging from the era of bossism and had abandoned their repressive voting rights stance. It was a Democratic year.

1912 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Eugene W. Chafin (Pr)	2,244	207,972		
Eugene V. Debs (S)	3,996	900,369		
Arthur E. Reimer (L)	322	29,734		
Theodore Roosevelt (P)	57,789	4,119,207		88
Wm. H. Taft (R)	54,956	3,486,333		8
Woodrow Wilson (D)	112,674	6,293,152	8	435

1916

The presidential election of 1916 proved much calmer than its predecessor. Presidential primaries played less of a role in 1916 with Wilson receiving 98.8 percent of the votes cast in 20 primaries and unpledged delegates achieving a plurality in the Republican contests.⁴² The Maryland parties did not hold primary contests as the presidential election engendered little controversy in the state. Progressives still favored