

ballots later, the nomination was received by Senator Warren G. Harding of Ohio. His running mate was Governor Calvin Coolidge of Massachusetts, chosen on the first ballot, who gained national prominence in his handling of the Boston police strike.

The reunified Republican party, espousing traditional themes pleasing to the business community and appealing to an isolationist electorate, launched their successful campaign to recapture the White House. The traditional Republican electoral building blocs of the north and west returned in 1920 along with non-traditional border states such as Tennessee, Missouri and Maryland to give Harding a comfortable 404 to 127 electoral vote margin.

The 1920 presidential election was a landmark contest as it was the first in which women participated fully under the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Over eight million more votes were cast in 1920 than four years earlier and, contrary to the dire predictions of some opponents of change, woman's suffrage did not appear to materially alter the contest.⁴⁵

The Harding-Coolidge team proved to be the most appealing Republican ticket offered to Marylanders since the creation of that party. The Republicans carried 15 of the 23 counties and amassed an unprecedented 38,778 vote margin in Baltimore City and 55,491 statewide. The Democrats carried seven of the nine Eastern Shore counties and Montgomery County in a voting alignment unduplicated in Maryland's presidential election history.

1920 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Parley P. Christensen (FL)	1,645	264,540		
James Cox (D)	180,626	9,140,884		127
Wm. Cox (L)	1,178	301,384		
Eugene V. Debs (L)	8,876	913,664		
Warren G. Harding (R)	236,117	16,133,314	8	404

1924

President Warren G. Harding died in office from a heart attack on August 2, 1923 elevating Calvin Coolidge to the nation's highest office. Coolidge quickly separated himself from his predecessor by insuring that scandals involving Harding's friends and associates ("The Ohio Gang" and "The Teapot Dome") were handled by prosecutions and resignations.⁴⁶ The quiet but popular former Vice President built alliances through Federal patronage and consideration to Congressional leaders. This behind-the-scenes activity coupled with an impressive showing in the 17 presidential primaries was sufficient to dampen challenges from Senator Hiram Johnson of