

California and the indomitable Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin.⁴⁷ Coolidge won the Republican nomination on the first ballot receiving 1,065 out of the 1,109 votes cast. In the Maryland primary on May 5, 1924, Coolidge received 93.7 percent of the vote (19,657) with the rest going to an unpledged slate of delegates (1,326).⁴⁸

In sharp contrast to the Republican conclave, the Democrats endured the longest convention ever at Madison Square Garden in New York (17 days). The presidential nomination took 103 ballots to resolve the deadlock.⁴⁹ Former Secretary of the Treasury in the Wilson administration, William G. McAdoo of California, had launched an early campaign bid and was the only candidate to seriously enter the primary sweepstakes. Representing the rural, conservative element of the party, notwithstanding earlier ties to the New York City financial world, McAdoo led on the first 85 ballots at the convention. Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York, was the favorite of an urban, ethnic coalition and the principal challenger through 99 ballots. After the Smith and McAdoo forces both realized they could not win the required two-thirds vote, the frontrunners withdrew their names from consideration. Maryland's Governor, Albert C. Ritchie, had his name placed in nomination and seriously contemplated success in a stalemated convention environment.⁵⁰ However, the compromise nominee was Congressman John W. Davis of West Virginia with the vice president's slot going to Nebraska Governor Charles W. Bryan.⁵¹

The disharmony created by an arduous national convention made it difficult for the Democrats to campaign effectively in all areas of the country. What had been promising prospects for regaining the Presidency six months before the convention probably evaporated in the hot New York summer meeting and in the political agility of the Republican candidate. Coolidge won every state outside of the South except for Wisconsin which gave its 13 electoral votes to the third party candidacy of its Senator, Robert LaFollette, who ran under a Progressive party label.

In Maryland, President Coolidge matched the Republican successes of 1920 in capturing Baltimore City and 11 of the 23 counties. The Progressive candidacy of Senator LaFollette attracted over 13 percent of Maryland's votes and his total vote exceeded the differential between the Democrat and Republican nominees. Drawing upon heavy support from labor groups LaFollette is credited with keeping Maryland in the Republican column in 1924.⁵²

1924 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Calvin Coolidge (R)	162,414	15,717,553	8	382
John W. Davis (D)	148,072	8,386,169		126
Frank T. Johns (L)	987	28,368		
Robert M. LaFollette	47,157	4,814,050		13