

FOREWORD

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John Willis, in researching and writing *Presidential Elections in Maryland*, has provided the people of the Free State and others with a unique and important document. Never before have all the statistics relating to our State's participation in the presidential electoral process been available in one place with such well documented and historical analysis. Maryland is not only one of the thirteen original states but also has the distinction of being one of two states to have had popular voting in each of the 49 presidential elections from 1789 through 1980.

A lifetime of involvement in public affairs and Democratic politics prepared John T. Willis for writing this book. *Presidential Elections in Maryland* presents a comprehensive set of election statistics by county for all presidential elections since 1789. In addition it presents a detailed analysis of the electoral process in our State and the development of political parties over the span of the Republic. The research, both statistical and historical, is the most extensive ever undertaken on this subject.

Thomas Jefferson summed up the importance of an informed electorate when he said "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be." This book is an invaluable resource for those of us who share Jefferson's deep belief, as does John Willis, that the electoral process is enormously important, and that an informed electorate is the basis of our democratic society.