

# GOVERNORSHIP VOTE RECORD SEEN IN STATE

## Election Officials Here Term Balloting 'Un- usually Heavy'

By ALBERT SEHLSTEDT, JR.

A record vote for a gubernatorial election in Maryland was forecast late yesterday as polling places all over the State reported huge turnouts despite cold rain and even snow in some areas.

In a few sections of Baltimore city the voting was approaching the total of the 1952 presidential election when more than 890,000 persons, out of a total State registration of some 1,100,000, cast their ballots.

"Unusually heavy," was a term often used by election officials at the various precincts in Baltimore city when describing the balloting at their polling places.

### Big Turnouts Noted

Both Democratic and Republican headquarters here reported big turnouts over most of the State. The Democrats said they expected about 80 per cent of the electorate to cast ballots in Allegany county in what they hoped was a "protest vote" against the Republican administration of Governor McKeldin.

Because race segregation was an issue in the contest between the Governor and his Democratic rival, Dr. H. C. Byrd, politicians in the city were keeping a close eye on the voting in Negro precincts and some sections of South Baltimore where groups of white citizens recently protested against student integration at Southern High School.

In the tenth precinct of the Fourteenth ward, where most of the voters are Negroes, an election official reported that 508 persons, out of a registration of 816, had cast their ballots by 4.30 P.M.

### New Top Seen

"If this keeps up," he said, "we'll probably pass the presidential figures."

In a South Baltimore neighborhood, the Third precinct of the Twenty-third ward, 225 persons out of a total of some 500 registrations had voted at 4 P.M. with the three hours of heaviest voting expected.

Another South Baltimore district, the fourth precinct of the Twenty-fourth ward, reported over half its voters had cast their ballots by midafternoon—a heavy vote. "especially for the weather," was the comment here.

In Northeast Baltimore's Twen-

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## New High For Governorship Race Is Predicted

By ALBERT SEHLSTEDT, JR.

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ty-seventh ward, a polling place in the 4500 block of Harford road said more than half of its voters had cast their ballots by 4.30 P.M.

### Heavy Vote In 38th

The Thirty-eighth precinct of the Fifteenth ward, where the political leadership of James H. Pollack holds sway, two thirds of the electorate had cast ballots by 5 P.M.

The voting here was called "on a par" with the presidential election of 1952.

However, just a few blocks away, officials at another polling place considered the turnout relatively light although about half of the residents had cast their ballots. The weather was blamed for the showing.

### Few Delays Noted

Although the cold rain made going to the polls disagreeable, few voters were faced with long delays because of voting-machine breakdowns or registration mix-ups, occurrences which caused considerable confusion in recent elections.

"It's amazing," reported Albert E. Weir, chief clerk at the office of the Board of Supervisors of Elections. "We've had fewer complaints this time than in the primary or presidential elections."

Thronges of irritated voters that crowded the supervisors' office in past years, claiming that they were being disfranchised, were absent yesterday. In fact, the office appeared to be one of the quietest and dullest places in the city at 3 P.M.

Charles A. Dorsey, president of the Board, said the only thing worth reporting about the balloting was the unpleasant weather, a factor which he happily announced was beyond his control.

### Ellicott City Argument

Elsewhere, an argument in Ellicott City about alleged electioneering brought out the State police.

Charles E. Miller, GOP candidate for county commissioner, reported that Russell Moxley, the town's chief of police and brother of the Democratic commissioner, Norman Moxley, was not enforcing the ban on electioneering near the polls.

Mr. Miller said he asked Chief Moxley to order the electioneers away. Mr. Miller said the chief refused.

The Republican complained to the county's Supervisor of Elections who called the Governor's office in Annapolis. A State trooper was dispatched with the hope that neutrality would prevail.