

**WHEN**  
1860

**WHO**  
Alfred Jacob Miller

**WHAT**  
*Election Scene, Catonsville, Baltimore County*

**WHERE**  
Originally painted in Baltimore, MD

Painting now hangs in the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

**WHY**  
Miller had gone west in 1837. He made approximately 200 sketches along the Oregon Trail, primarily of Indians and "mountain men." These were developed into over 600 paintings.

This is an unusual subject for Miller, who normally was a genre painter (everyday scenes). With the development of the two party system, politics became a frequent theme for American painters. This image invokes the frenzy surrounding a highly contested election. Maryland was affected by the election of Abraham Lincoln at this time, as they were a border state between north and south, and divided on the issue of secession.

**IMAGE**



**WHEN**  
November 6, 1860

**WHO**  
Abraham Lincoln

**WHAT**  
Wins presidential election

**WHERE**  
Lincoln was a Republican representing his home state of Illinois.

**WHY**  
The election of 1860 set the stage for the American Civil War, as the political system split four ways and proved unable to hold the nation together.

The nation had been divided throughout most of the 1850s on questions of states' rights and slavery in the territories. In 1860, this issue finally came to a head, bringing Abraham Lincoln and the Republican Party to power without the support of a single Southern State.

The immediate result of Lincoln's victory was the secession of South Carolina and other states.

**IMAGE**

