

The Boston Globe

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2004

TWO CLOSE TO ALL

TODAY: Becoming sunny, windy; lows to 37; highs to 58.

TOMORROW: Clouds increase; rain late. Lows to 40; highs to 55.

HIGH TIDE: 3:09 a.m., 3:13 p.m.
FULL REPORT: PAGE B12

NOT OVER YET

Bush leads but Edwards says fight goes on; Ohio tally is the key



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/BILL GREENE

Supporters of John F. Kerry reacted to news that the senator's prospects for victory appeared bleak around 1:30 this morning in Copley Square.

By Anne E. Kornblut
GLOBE STAFF

President Bush claimed a narrow lead in electoral votes early this morning as a bitterly fought campaign for the White House ended with the incumbent and Senator John F. Kerry awaiting the official outcome in Ohio, where questions about thousands of provisional ballots delayed a final count and threw the entire election into uncertainty.

Invoking the controversy over the presidential vote in Florida four years earlier, Senator John Edwards took the stage in Boston at 2:30 a.m. today vowing to "fight for every vote."

"It's been a long night, but we've waited four years for this victory. We can wait one more night," Edwards said. "John Kerry and I made a promise — that in this election, every vote would count and every vote would be counted. Tonight, we are keeping our word."

Bush advisers had been on the brink of claiming victory after two television networks declared Ohio in his column. The Republican National Committee chairman, Ed Gillespie, appeared triumphantly at 1:26 a.m. to announce that wins in Alaska and Ohio had put Bush within one point of the needed 270 Electoral College votes.

"Hopefully, we'll have one more update, and then another guest speaker," Gillespie said to roars in Washington, as Bush prepared his victory speech.

In the meantime, Kerry officials maintained the outcome in Ohio was far from certain.

"The vote count in Ohio has not been completed," Kerry's campaign manager, Mary Beth Cahill, said in a statement issued at 1:30 a.m. "There are more than 250,000 remaining votes to be counted. We believe when they are, John Kerry will win Ohio."

ELECTION, Page A20

Americans unite in effort to be heard

By Peter S. Canellos
GLOBE STAFF

MIAMI — After a draining 2000 recount, terrorism fears, and dueling cries of fraud and intimidation, the sheer confidence with which vast numbers of Americans went to the polls yesterday

was a victory in itself. Democracy, the elixir being fed to Iraq and Afghanistan, was in good health at home.

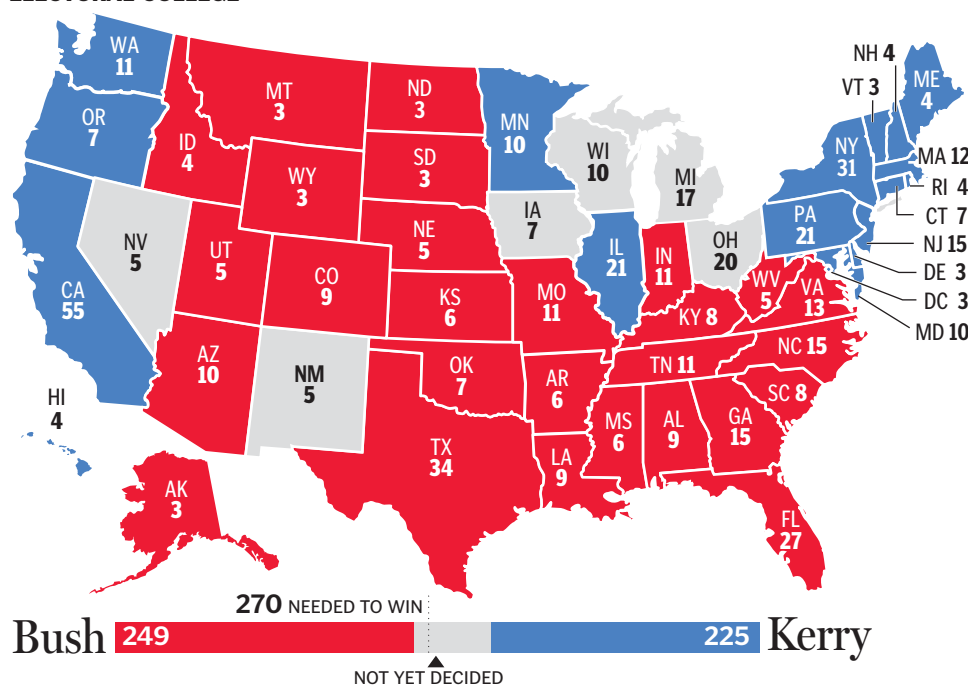
The lines at polling places from Florida to Pennsylvania, to even relatively uncontested states like Connecticut, were testament to the nation's investment in its future and faith in its democratic traditions. A culture that not long ago had been disparaged for its "bowling alone" indifference to civic life came together for one day at least.

The candidates' views, and the fervor of their backers, bespoke division, but the election itself attested to common values.

ANALYSIS, Page A19

Election 2004

ELECTORAL COLLEGE



NATIONAL RACES A17-25



Obama's moment

The Illinois Democrat, who won national fame as convention keynote speaker on Boston, will become the third African-American in the Senate since Reconstruction. **A21.**

Senate battle

Republicans struggle to keep their slim majority in the upper chamber, and minority leader Thomas Daschle of South Dakota fights for his political life. **A21.**

REGIONAL RACES B1, B5-10



GOP falls short

The Republican Party loses a net of three seats in the Legislature despite Governor Mitt Romney's \$3 million attempt to cut into Democratic control of the House and Senate. **B1.**

N.H. tussle

Democrat John Lynch declares victory over Republican Governor Craig Benson after casting their highly charged race as a referendum on the integrity of the incumbent. **B4.**

Smooth start to day, but finish proves contentious

By Charlie Savage
GLOBE STAFF

MIAMI — After a generally smooth start with only scattered polling-place glitches, Election Day balloting turned increasingly litigious last night, with new lawsuits filed over vote-counting procedures in bitterly contested states including Ohio, Florida, and Pennsylvania.

A widely anticipated wave of challenges to voters' registrations

by Republican attorneys failed to materialize in Florida and across the country yesterday. But as the counting wore on with no clear breakthrough by President Bush or Senator John F. Kerry, activists in both parties were heading to court.

In Ohio, a Columbus judge ordered polling hours extended past the 7:30 p.m. closing time because of long lines and mandated provision of paper ballots to voters

VOTERS, Page A22



A large crowd lined up to vote at Tremont Elementary School in Cleveland yesterday. Julie Goulis filled out a provisional ballot.

States find long lines and record turnout

By Brian C. Mooney
and Yvonne Abraham
GLOBE STAFF

With the country at war in Iraq and bitterly divided on many issues, Americans responded in record numbers to elect the president who will set the nation's course for the next four years. In state after state, voters waited patiently in long lines yesterday, sometimes in foul weather, to make what President George W. Bush and John F. Kerry had framed as a clear-cut choice for the future during an eight-month campaign that was the most expensive in history.

Though final turnout figures were still being tabulated, election officials in many states said record numbers of voters cast ballots yesterday and in the preceding weeks. Some state election officials were also predicting new records for the percentage of regis-

tered voters who turned out.

The previous national record was 105 million voters in 2000, and several analysts had predicted that 121 million or more would vote.

In Massachusetts, Secretary of State William Galvin said that turnout would top 3.1 million people, breaking the previous record of 2.8 million set in 1992. That would translate into 76 percent of all registered voters.

In the battleground state of Wisconsin, Kevin Kennedy, executive director of the State Elections Board, predicted that turnout would reach or exceed 75 percent. "In Wisconsin, that would be the most voters and the highest percentage in recorded history," Kennedy said. The previous record was 72 percent in 1960.

Voters in Waukesha County, a Republican stronghold west of

TURNOUT, Page A24

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Features Classified

- Comics **E10-11** Classified **F9**
- Crossword **E10** Autos **F11**
- Deaths **D9-11** Education **B11**
- Editorials **A26** Help Wanted **F9**
- Horoscope **E10** Professional **F9**
- Lottery **B2** Real Estate **F10**
- Movies **E4-5** Apartments **F10**
- TV/Radio **E8-9** Comm'l/Ind'l **C4**
- Market Basket **F10**
- Yachts/Boats **D7**
- Legal Notices **F11**