

NO WINNER YET

Presidential race still too close to call

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush and challenger John Kerry sweated out a tension-packed conclusion to the race between a hard-charging Democrat and a Republican incumbent battered by war in Iraq and joblessness at home. Ohio loomed as this year's Florida, the decisive state, with Kerry's options dwindling.

Ceding nothing, Kerry dispatched running mate John Edwards to tell supporters in Boston: "We've waited four years for this victory. We can wait one more night."

The 92-word statement was an eerie echo of 2000 when advisers to both Bush and Democrat Al Gore told supporters that the race was too close to call — setting off a 36-day recount and a Supreme Court ruling that put Bush in office.

"We will fight for every vote," Edwards said, borrowing a line from Gore.

Bush, 58, won Florida this time without relative ease. Kerry took New Hampshire from Bush — the first and perhaps only state to switch parties — but it has just four electoral votes. That leaves Ohio and Nevada as Kerry's only hopes.

Bush's advisers told their boss he had won Ohio, but they nervously awaited confirmation.

"I believe I will win, thank you very much," Bush said while watching results with his family and dog Barney.

The holdup was over provisional ballots — those cast by people whose qualifications to vote were challenged. At 3 a.m. EST, Bush had a lead of 125,000 votes; there were more provisional ballots outstanding.

"There's no mathematical path to victory for Kerry in Ohio," said Nicolle Devenish, spokeswoman for the Bush-Cheney campaign, arguing that Bush would get his share of the provisional ballots.

Nationwide, with 10 percent of the ballots still uncounted, 105 million people had voted — the same as in 2000.

Early in the voting, Kerry allowed himself to muse about the problems he might face in the White House, including a soaring deficit and a war that has claimed more than 1,100 lives.

"I'm not pretending to anybody that it's a bed of roses," said the 60-year-old Massachusetts senator.

The Electoral College count was excruciating: With 270 votes needed, Bush won 27 states for 249 votes. Kerry won 17 states plus the District of Columbia for 225 votes.

With six states out, Kerry was still on the hunt for electoral votes that the GOP won four years ago. The states' won by Democrat Al Gore in 2000 are worth just 260



SOMEONE HERE/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. John Edwards pauses as he addresses supporters during the election night rally in Boston, early this morning. Edwards thanked supporters and announced that he and Kerry "waited four years for this victory. We can wait one more night."

votes this year due to redistricting — 10 short of the coveted number.

Kerry could pick that up plus some in Ohio with 20 electoral votes. Without the Buckeye state, he could only turn to Nevada, where independent candidate Ralph Nader could play the spoiler in Kerry's chase for its five electoral votes.

A 269-269 tie would throw the presidential race to the House.

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D.: "Obviously the presidential race is going to keep us up most of the night."

Republicans moved toward increasing their majority in the Senate, winning Democratic seats in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Louisiana while Democrats took GOP-held seats

in Colorado and Illinois. State Sen. Barack Obama won easily in Illinois; in January, he will be the third black U.S. senator since Reconstruction.

Republicans extended their decade-long hold on the House for another two years, knocking off four veteran Texas Democrats.

Alongside the White House and congressional races, a full roster of propositions and local offices kept voters busy. But all eyes were focused on Kerry's bid to make Bush the first president voted out of office in the midst of a war.

"I've given it my all," Bush said after voting in a firehouse at Crawford, Texas, hoping to avoid being the first wartime president bounced from office.

Save Ohio, the race was a car-

bon copy of 2000, a narrowly fought battle waged by lawyers and politicians alike. In 2000, Bush lost the popular vote to Gore but won the Electoral College count and the presidency after a ruling by the Supreme Court gave him Florida.

The incumbent hoped to avoid the fate of his father — former President George H.W. Bush, who was ousted by voters in 1992 after waging war against Iraq and overseeing an ailing economy.

Legions of lawyers and election-rights activists watched for signs of voter fraud or disenfranchisement. New lawsuits sought clearer standards to evaluate provisional ballots in Ohio and a longer deadline to count absentee ballots in Florida.

Election 2004

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all the important races,
all the major propositions

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Students create new way to advertise

By Kylee Dawson
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Two UA students and one UA alumnus have started a company unlike any other in the Southwest using digital signage advertising.

The company, VideoRhythm, was founded in April and the first digital sign was installed in front of the Loews Theater inside the Foothills Mall Oct. 1.

With a plasma screen, the 48-by-23-inch computer-generated digital sign weighs 300 pounds and is

seven-and-a-half feet tall.

The sign includes full-motion video, photo-realistic graphics, text and animation, and is not considered a billboard because it is indoors.

The founders said they are actively looking for local companies to buy advertising space on the sign.

"We hope to start a new revolution," said Abhishek Dobhal, director of operations for VideoRhythm. "It's an advertising channel that's never been



EVAN CARAVELLI/Arizona Daily Wildcat
VideoRhythm President and CEO Mohit Assani (left), Director of Operations Chet Cave, Director of Development Abhishek Dobhal and Business Coordinator Danny Duran.

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AZ Supreme Court to hear arguments on UA campus

By Joe Ferguson
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The Arizona Supreme Court will hear arguments at the UA tomorrow on Tucson billboards owned by Clear Channel Communications.

The annual visit is part of the Court's continuing outreach efforts to bring its courtroom activities to local communities and citizens across the state.

Tom Augerton, a public information officer for the

Arizona Supreme Court, said the Court's visit to the UA's law school is an annual fall tradition. Augerton said he thought the tradition was more than 10 years old.

Augerton said while the Court receives 1,200 requests to hear cases a year, the Court hears approximately 50 cases a year.

Toni Massaro, dean of the James E. Rogers College of Law, said the visit gives students a chance to see

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