

U.S. SENATE

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EDITION

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* ELECTION * 2000 *

RECOUNT!

During Election Night tussle for presidency, Bush-Gore race comes down to a slim and uncertain margin in Florida.

By **RON FOURNIER**
Of The Associated Press

Texas Gov. George W. Bush fought George W. Bush in an amazingly close presidential election Tuesday that came down to a few thousand votes and a call for a recount in Florida. Gore called Bush with congratulations, then called back to see he wasn't ready to concede.

"Unbelievable," sighed Bush adviser Karen Hughes, after fielding the second call from Gore.

It was an incredible political spectacle by any standard. "There's never been a night like this one," said Gore campaign chairman William Haley, after his boss retired for the night, unsure whether he had won or not.

"Until the results in Florida become official our campaign continues," Haley said to cheering supporters in Nashville. Florida had been the epicenter of the campaign and Tuesday night was beyond chaotic. At mid-evening news organizations said Gore was the winner, but they backtracked as more votes were counted and Bush eased ahead.

See **BUSH** Page A5 ▶

Candidates Al Gore, top left, and George W. Bush await election results Tuesday in a race that was going down to the wire. Above, Bush backers watch results Tuesday on the television outside the Texas state Capitol in Austin. Associated Press

**Toomey
wins his
second
term**

■ With 96 percent of the vote counted, he beat Democrat Ed O'Brien 107,376 to 96,784.

By **MIKE FRASSINELLI**
Of The Morning Call

It was a campaign played out largely through television commercial images: a cute pill-popping pooch named Rex the Wonder Dog, a candidate's head spinning like something out of "The Exorcist" and a warehouse worker who looked like he belonged on the set of a soap opera.

By the time it was all over Tuesday night, the lasting image was the sight of U.S. Rep. Pat Toomey, R-15th District, holding up his hands in victory.

In a race between diametrically different candidates, Harvard-educated Toomey was leading straight talking United Steel workers official Ed O'Brien, 107,376 votes to 96,784 votes, with nearly 96 percent of the vote counted.

For much of the night, O'Brien was leading, until results from precincts in the outer reaches of the district came in.

"There's nothing like a suspense story, right?" Toomey said to about 200 supporters at his family's Rookies restaurant in Allentown.

The incumbent said the election was about the choice between differing visions. "I'm certainly glad you selected my vision," Toomey said.

O'Brien, the No. 2 United Steelworkers official in Pennsylvania, tried to paint a picture of Toomey as an affluent member.

See **TOOMEY** Page A7 ▶

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ON THE WEBVisit www.mcall.com for a precinct-by-precinct breakdown of how Lehigh Valley voters cast their ballots in local, state, U.S. races**Both parties pay price,
fight to control House**

■ 3 Republicans keep seats in Kentucky; a swap in Oklahoma, Virginia.

By **DAVID ESPO**
Of The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans and Democrats battled for control of the House Tuesday night in a costly, coast-to-coast struggle. The parties swapped seats in Oklahoma and Virginia, while three unperiled GOP incumbents won re-election in Kentucky.

All 435 House seats were on the ballot, but the two sides focused their attention on 30 or so

highly competitive races likely to determine which party would hold power alongside a new president.

By 10 p.m. in the east, with the vote count well underway in every region but the far west, there was no net change in the overall battle for control. Demo credits needed to pick up eight seats to assure themselves a majority in the House that convenes in January.

Area lawmakers, including U.S. Reps. Paul Kanjorski, D-14th District, Tim Holden, D-18th District, Pat Toomey, R-15th District and Jim Greenwood, R-8th District, were headed for re-election.

See **RACE** Page A7 ▶

First-time voter Victoria Ventura smiles at her daughter Jaylyn at Harrison-Morton Middle School in Allentown on Tuesday. CHUCK ZUKKO / The Morning Call

**Election decided
by the undecideds**

■ Race for president so close outcome wasn't known until they voted.

By **CHRISTINE SCHIAVO**
Of The Morning Call

Political advertising, campaign speeches and debates did little to sway Irene Landis of Bethlehem to vote for Al Gore or George W. Bush.

It wasn't until she stood in the voting booth Tuesday morning at Notre Dame Catholic Church staring at the choices that the decision became clear.

"I voted for Nader. I voted conscience," Landis said candidly after leaving the church.

Landis said she agonized over whether to vote for Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, a man she believes in, or one of the main party candidates, neither whom she trusts, but both of whom stood a chance of winning the close presidential race.

"I really had to stand there and think," she said. "In my mind, I think Nader is the best."

Landis, like thousands of others, See **CHOICES** Page A6 ▶

Foliage Sale \$3.00 Off Lg. Plants-Big Bag Bkks - \$9.95 Off Garden Ball-Dun Schantz - Greenhouse, Emmons

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