

Election Night in Raleigh: A Republican Student's Perspective

Maitlyn Healy, staff writer

Downtown Raleigh was popping this Election Night as people gathered in nearly every bar and restaurant to watch the results come in. Walking around with fellow Herald writer Jessica Feltner and English professor Dr. Duncan, we stopped first at the Republican Headquarters on Hillsborough Street. I got the chance to volunteer to call North Carolina voters to ask for their support and encourage them to vote in the wee minutes before the polls closed. It was a great opportunity to reach out and help the Republican Party even if it did not make much of a difference with my one phone call to a Republican lady who had already voted for Romney earlier that day. We also got the chance to interview a few interns working for the Romney/Ryan campaign. Austin Kendrick, a political science major at North Carolina State University, spoke on how he enjoyed going door-to-door to campaign more than making phone calls. Austin also said that he learned a lot of computer skills, but more importantly people skills while working for this party. We also spoke to Conor, a 17-year-old high school student who has been volunteering for the Republican Party. He said that he has enjoyed seeing the large amount of behind the scenes work that goes into campaigning and how something as small as wording in surveys sent out can turn people off or excite voters.

We then journeyed to downtown Raleigh and went to the Raleigh Times, Democratic Headquarters, and the Morning Times. The Raleigh Times was covered in Obama posters, and it is safe to say that most customers were Democrats due to the loud cheers that emerged whenever it was announced that Obama took another state. The Public Record was holding a non-partisan election party at the Morning Times, which was a refreshing change to the extreme partisanship we encountered at our other destinations. The atmosphere downtown was incredible as we saw people of all ages, races, and social backgrounds out together to support America, their freedom to vote, and the opportunity to voice their opinions.



Image via msnbc.com

President Obama Wins Re-Election; McCrory Wins Governor Race

Julia Dent, Editor in Chief

Polls opened early in North Carolina on Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. with long lines filling the building until the polls closed at 7:30 p.m. Meredith College students were seen around campus donning "I Voted!" stickers and t-shirts supporting their political parties.

The frenzy of election night began when the first polls closed at 7 p.m. As results started coming in, Mitt Romney took a quick lead with 33 Electoral College votes and Barack Obama took three. As the night progressed, eyes were focused on the main battlegrounds in Ohio and Florida. The map of New England quickly turned blue as much of the south and Midwest turned to red. The results for North Carolina were slow to come in, but the count finally came with Romney winning 51 percent and Obama winning 48 percent of the votes.

Obama took Ohio and the west coast while Romney took Indiana. Voters focused on battleground states Virginia and Florida to determine the winner of the Electoral College votes. The Democrats took control of the Senate while the Republicans took control of the House.

The two presidential candidates switched leads in Electoral College votes throughout the night until Obama officially passed 270 votes around 11:45 p.m. By 12:30 a.m., Obama led the Electoral College vote 290 to 203, and Romney led the popular vote by a slight margin with results from Alaska, Florida and Virginia still not in.

Pat McCrory won the gubernatorial vote, leading Walter Dalton 55 to 43 percent. For the N. C. House results, G.K. Butterfield, Renee Ellumers, Walter Jones, David Price, Virginia Foxx, Howard Coble, Richard Hudson, Robert Pittenger, Patrick McHenry, Mark Meadows, Mel Watt and George Holding won their respective districts with a Republican majority. The race between Mike McIntyre and David Rouzer from District Seven was too close to call at midnight.

Note: The Herald staff stopped reporting at 1 a.m. Any changes or results occurring after that time will not be reflected in this issue.

Election Night in Raleigh: A Democrat Student's Perspective

Jessica Feltner, staff writer

When I arrived at the Obama Headquarters with English Professor Dr. Duncan and fellow Meredith Herald writer Maitlyn Healy, we were greeted by the sight of serious faced volunteers, quietly eating dinner and watching the results come in. Five minutes later, the serious moment suddenly broke and after a moment of laughter, everyone was back to work. There was little interest in speaking to the media and understandably, everyone was extremely tightlipped. Finally, volunteer Mary Tetro was able to take a few minutes to share her experiences. Self-identifying as a social democrat, Tetro explained that to her women's issues are not just a social issue, but also an economic one. For her, this election is extremely important because the elected President is going to appoint the next few Supreme Court judges. She says that she is "stunned at young women that don't pay attention to social issues." Also drawing on volunteer experience with the Obama Campaign of 2008, Tetro comments that now the way they reach voters is very different. Where they used to simply use phonebooks, they now use computer programs to random dial voters. When commenting on how she feels about the outcome of the election, she is feeling anxious at Obama's prospects.

The Raleigh Times, having practically re-wallpapered its restaurant in Obama posters, was filled with people watching CNN results come in accompanied by subsequent cheering and booing. Next door, at The Morning Times coffee shop, the non-partisan media outlet, the Raleigh Public Record had set up a result watching party. One of their volunteers, Josue Terrones, a political science senior at North Carolina State University, has not slept for the past three days due to anxiety over the election. After having gone around asking different people about the general feelings about the election, Terrones found that he encountered a large amount of voter apathy.

Having voted for Obama myself, the anxiety was tangible, and for good reason--the election's majority vote was very close.