

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Voters Pass \$3.1 Billion Capital Improvements Bond

By KATHLEEN HUNTER  
 State & National Editor

RALEIGH — They said "yes." Unofficial results indicate that N.C. voters overwhelmingly passed the \$3.1 billion higher education bond referendum Tuesday — news that was greeted with thunderous applause from a gathering of more than 100 higher education advocates at The Brownstone Hotel in Raleigh on Tuesday night.

With 53 percent of the precincts reporting, 74 percent of voters approved the bond proposal, and 26 percent voted against it.

The bond — the largest in state history — will fund capital improvements on the state's university and community college campuses.

Those who worked on the bond campaign, which began this summer shortly after the N.C. General Assembly voted unanimously to send the proposal to the people, were all smiles Tuesday night as election results began to flash across two big-screen television sets in the Brownstone's grand ballroom.

"Sometimes goals that are really big and really important take a lot of time, a lot of persistence and a deep commitment," said UNC-system President Molly Broad, shortly after 10 p.m. when campaigners deemed the referendum a

BOND	
YES	74 PERCENT
NO	26 PERCENT

success. "And I think what we have seen in this vote is that North Carolinians are willing to take on those complex decisions when they think it is important for the state."

Broad, Board of Governors Chairman Ben Ruffin, N.C. Community College System President Martin Lancaster, Community Colleges School Board Chairman Herman Porter and Campaign Coordinator Leslie Bavacqua all gave brief speeches thanking each other and campaign volunteers for their efforts to get the bond passed.

Lancaster said the campaign also forged a new relationship between the university and community college systems — a relationship he said would continue in the future.

"We have found so many ways to

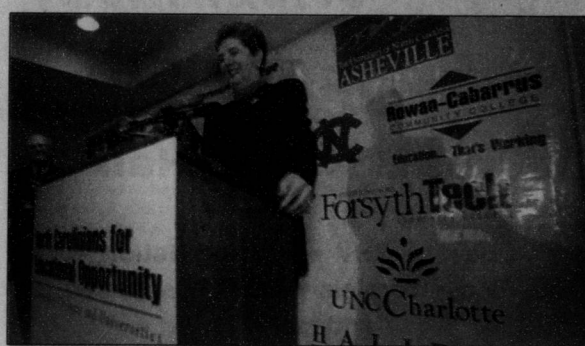
cooperate," he said. "And these are ways we are going to build upon."

The 16-campus UNC system will receive \$2.5 billion of the bond money. The rest will fund capital improvements at the state's community colleges.

Gov. Jim Hunt made an appearance at the gathering early in the evening before moving on to Democratic Headquarters at the North Raleigh Hilton. But even before a substantial portion of the votes had been counted, Hunt was confident that voters would endorse the bond proposal.

Shortly after the first returns suggested that 69 percent of voters in 1 percent of the state's precincts voted for the bond, Hunt said, "This shows that the

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UNC-system President Molly Broad thanks voters Tuesday for supporting the \$3.1 billion higher education bond referendum.

## Election Too Close To Call: Gore Pulls Concession to Bush

### U.S. PRESIDENT

As of 4:40 a.m. EST, Wednesday



PAT BUCHANAN (REFORM)  
 428,077 VOTES  
 0 PERCENT  
 0 ELECTORAL VOTES



GEORGE W. BUSH (R)  
 47,063,088 VOTES  
 48 PERCENT  
 246 ELECTORAL VOTES



AL GORE (D)  
 47,123,818 VOTES  
 49 PERCENT  
 249 ELECTORAL VOTES



RALPH NADER (GREEN)  
 2,288,959 VOTES  
 3 PERCENT

87 percent of precincts reporting

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Al Gore conceded the presidential race in a telephone call to George W. Bush on Wednesday morning — then took it back.

"He called an hour ago to concede. He just called us back to retract that concession," said Karen Hughes, communications director for Bush. "It's unbelievable."

That was an apt description of the seesawing election night. At one point, the key state of Florida was teetering toward Bush and the TV networks called the race in Bush's favor. Gore picked up the telephone and called Bush.

As of 4:40 a.m., Gore led Bush in the general election by about 60,000 votes with 96 percent of the precincts reporting. Gore has 249 electoral votes and Bush has 246, with Florida, Wisconsin and Oregon still listed as toss-ups, putting both candidates just shy of the 270 needed to claim victory. A Florida win for either candidate would allow him to ascend to the White House.

But the extremely tight race in Florida, now showing a Bush lead of only about 200 votes with all precincts reporting, requires state officials there to recount.

Several counties' votes have not been counted, meaning that the next president literally could be decided by a handful of votes.

As the election stretched into the early morning hours, old-pro commentators repeatedly commented that this election is unlike anything anyone has ever seen.

"We gave them a cliffhanger," the vice president told Bush, according to Hughes.

Bush replied to Gore during his first call. "You're a formidable opponent and a good man. I know it's hard. I know it's hard for your family. Give my best to Tipper and your children."

A senior adviser to the Gore campaign confirmed that the vice president made the two calls, one to concede and the other to retract.

Thousands of supporters stood in the streets of Nashville, Tenn., where Gore was headquartered, and Austin, Texas, Bush's home — awaiting word from their favorite sons. Bush, however, wasn't sure what to say just before 4 a.m. EST.

"We're trying to decide," Hughes sighed. "We're going to watch what the vice president says. We're going to wait and see what he says, I guess."

Bush's wins, estimated by CNN, included his home state of Texas, Gore's home state of Tennessee, Arkansas, Alaska, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, West Virginia, Missouri, Utah, Idaho, Montana and New Hampshire. CNN also estimated that he took Ohio, Louisiana, Georgia, Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming — the home state of his vice presidential running mate, former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

Along with California, Gore won the coveted swing states of Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Michigan, as well as Washington, Hawaii, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Illinois, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Connecticut and the District of Columbia.

## Easley Eliminates Vinroot



Democratic Governor-elect Mike Easley shakes hands with supporters after giving his acceptance speech (above). Defeated Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Vinroot pauses during his concession speech (below).

## Democrats Keep Governor's Seat

### N.C. GOVERNOR

MIKE EASLEY (D)	52 PERCENT
BARBARA HOWE (L)	1 PERCENT
DOUGLAS SCHELL	0.3 PERCENT
RICHARD VINROOT (R)	46 PERCENT

91 percent of precincts reporting

By PENELOPE DEESE,  
 ALEX KAPLUN AND CHERI MELFI  
 Staff Writers

RALEIGH — "We like Mike, we like Mike" were the words that greeted Governor-elect Mike Easley when he pressed his way through a rowdy crowd of about 250 supporters to give his victory speech at the North Raleigh Hilton on Tuesday night.

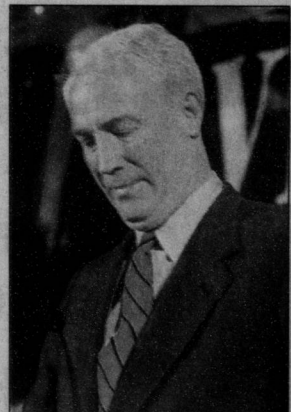
With 93 percent of precincts reporting, Easley snagged 52 percent of the vote, Republican candidate Richard Vinroot received 46 percent and Libertarian candidate Barbara Howe

had 2 percent.

When the cheers died down, Easley, standing next to his wife and son, announced his victory in the 2000 gubernatorial election, making Easley North Carolina's first elected governor of the 21st century. "I have so many people to thank, but I want to start with my wife," he said. "We started this thing together so working families would have a voice — tonight they will."

He assured his supporters that he would fulfill his platform promises, such as improving public education and pro-

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DTH/KATE MELLINIK

## Price Sent Back to Congress in Landslide

By APRIL BETHEA, WORTH CIVILS  
 AND JENNIFER SAMUELS  
 Staff Writers

RALEIGH — Incumbent Rep. David Price, D-N.C., defeated black Republican candidate Jess Ward and Libertarian C. Brian Towey on Tuesday to keep his seat representing the 4th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

With 94 percent of the precincts reporting, Price was leading with 61 percent of the vote, compared to 37 percent for Ward and 2 percent for Towey.

Celebrating at the North Raleigh Hilton with other Democratic candidates, including newly elected governor Mike Easley, Price spoke to an exuberant crowd of supporters. "We want to say a party thank-you to all of you," Price said after winning his eighth congress-

sional term, his third in a row. "We've got a positive message right now."

Price said he will continue fighting for education and a balanced budget in Washington.

"I hope to go to Washington and make progress on the concerns of our nation: strengthen public schools, promote home ownership, balance the budget and bring down the national debt," he said. "It's a very powerful agenda."

Price's primary opponent, Ward, a one-term Cary councilman, spoke to a much smaller and less excited group at the Sheraton Capital Center Hotel in Raleigh, thanking those who supported his campaign. "It's an honor to serve the Republican party," he said. "I thank the people who have been with me throughout. It's been a tremendous joy. I won't

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Oh, that lovely title, ex-president.

Dwight Eisenhower