

# Burr heads into final days

*Tries to gain edge in Senate contest*

BY ANH LY  
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — Richard Burr, the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate, couldn't have asked for a better end to his tour: unusually warm temperatures, a larger-than-expected crowd and an appearance by Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C.

Burr and his Republican counterparts assembled in Raleigh at the state's GOP headquarters parking lot, one of his many Saturday stops.

The rally began with an enthusiastic introduction from Dole, who praised Burr and the Republican Party. "(Burr) is a thoughtful legislator ... and highly respected," Dole said to a crowd of about 150 people. "All we have to do is get the numbers that we need."

Her appearance was all that was required to galvanize the already adamant supporters, who frequently punctuated her speech with cheers.

Burr, who aims to beat Democratic candidate Erskine Bowles to the Senate seat vacated by vice presidential contender John Edwards, strongly encouraged supporters to reach as many people as possible in a last effort to garner votes on Nov. 2.

He asked them all to use every viable means to spread the word to vote Republican. "Tell (everyone), I need you to vote for Richard Burr," he said. "We've got to reach out and touch everybody involved."

Burr's appraisal of the Bush administration granted him cheers from zealous Republican supporters. "I'm here to say that our president has done a wonderful job and deserves to be re-elected," Burr said. "He made decisions on what's best for our children."

Accompanying Burr on his campaign was a throng of Republicans running for office in North Carolina, each of whom gave a brief speech asking for votes.

"Richard Burr is so generous for permitting all of us to come along," said Ed Meyer, the Republican candidate for state treasurer.

When asked if he was nervous about Tuesday's election, Burr said that he is "fairly confident." "I'm now ahead," Burr said. "And as you can tell, the voters are energized."

But according to the latest Mason-Dixon North Carolina Poll, the can-



DTH/SARA LEWKOWICZ

Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate Richard Burr speaks in Raleigh on Saturday. Brooke Burr and N.C. Sen. Elizabeth Dole accompany him.

didates are tied, with each candidate getting 46 percent. And the remaining 8 percent are undecided.

Both candidates logged last-minute time on the road this weekend, aiming to secure their bases and convince any potential undecided voters. Bowles visited cities in the southeastern part of the state to tout his economic initiatives.

But Nov. 2 promises a tough contest for Bowles, as Burr, who was once down in the polls, has experienced a surge in support.

"It's exciting," said Meyer. "There's a wave that's coming."

For Lee Churchill of Raleigh, the rally was an emotional one. The longtime admirer of Dole was brought to tears by her encounter with the congresswoman. "God bless you," Churchill said. "Kerry hasn't been here, but you have."

Churchill also expressed her anxiety about the upcoming election. "I'm so worried," she said, through tears. "I pray for the salvation of this

country and a Republican victory." William Barry of Wake Forest also was there to support the GOP.

"I understand that there's a difficult job ahead, and it requires faith," Barry said after a moment's reflection. "To have people in the right place at the right time helps to justify that faith. That's why I'm here."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

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# Candidate lobbies BOE to clear financial record

*Polanco appeals her disqualification*

BY GEORGIA CHERRY  
STAFF WRITER

After the Board of Elections disqualified Yesenia Polanco from the Homecoming election late Thursday night, she was not discouraged — instead, she fought back.

Polanco was disqualified for failing to submit required material essential to her financial statement by the deadline.

Candidates can spend up to \$250 of their own money for their campaign and must record every aspect of their finances. Their statements are due to the Board of Elections no later than 5 p.m. the day after the election.

The elections board granted Polanco a 24-hour extension to complete her statements but was missing one receipt by 5 p.m. Thursday.

"I was supposed to turn in a receipt that I did not have," she said. "I could not open it in the e-mail, and I could not get in touch with the business to have them re-send it."

The one receipt led to an incomplete report and her disqualification.

"They have to show costs for everything," said Mary Boyd Harris, member of the Board of Elections. "Their buttons, their handouts, everything."

On Friday, Polanco received the receipt she needed and decided to appeal her disqualification.

Even though Polanco said she

didn't care about winning the election, she said it is important that the board now has her financial statements.

"It was just a matter of representing the organization that nominated me, the voters and those that were supporting me," she said. "I want everyone to know I didn't give up, and I'm doing everything I can."

By appealing the decision, Polanco was allowed to walk on the field at Kenan Stadium on Saturday.

Any appeals with the Board of Elections will go before the Student Supreme Court, which then will oversee the appeals process.

While the election is complete and Rhonda Foxx now is Homecoming Queen, Polanco still is determined to clear up any discrepancy.

Foxx garnered 1,447 votes to win the title of Homecoming Queen.

Of the total 3,465 votes cast for the post, Conitras Houston garnered 993, Yesenia Polanco amassed 563 and Gahmya Drummond-Bey received 329, said Walker Rutherford, chairman of the Board of Elections.

"It's not whether you win or lose," she said. "Every girl that's out there on the field has worked incredibly hard to get there. ... I wanted to be out there, and I was."

Harris also acknowledged how long and hard of a process it is for Homecoming candidates.

"There was no pleasure in disqualifying Yesenia," she said. "She has obviously worked very hard to get here and has been through a lot to even be on the ballot."

Walker Rutherford, chairman of the Board of Elections, said he was glad Polanco walked but still is confident that the decision will be upheld.

"With the decision under appeal, there's always a possibility that our decision will be overturned, and it would have been wrong to punish her if that is the case."

It is important to her that the board has her proof now, even though Polanco did not care about winning the election.

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

**Author Ken Bowers** will read from his new book **God Speaks Again** An Introduction to the Bahá'í Faith

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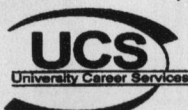
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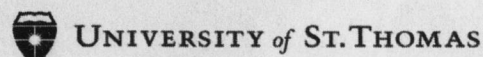
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