



Mary Easley wipes lipstick from the face of her husband, Mike, during his acceptance speech for a second term as governor Tuesday night in Raleigh.

EASLEY

FROM PAGE 1

results, but Easley's supporters turned up at the polls Tuesday to carry him to a resounding victory.

Ballantine, who retired as N.C. Senate minority leader to run for governor, conceded the race early. "Easley won this campaign," he said. "I thought it was the right thing to do to call him."

As soon as he arrived at the Holiday Inn in Wrightsville Beach, Ballantine was handed a piece of paper that informed him of his loss.

He said he was disappointed to hear of his defeat as soon as he walked through the door because he had wanted a chance to celebrate all his hard work.

"It was too difficult to overcome an incumbent with all his (financial) resources," Ballantine said after his concession speech.

His family and supporters met in the inn's Lumina Ballroom so he could bring his campaign to an end, thanking God and everyone else who helped him along the way.

"I'm a man of faith and hope, and I have optimism and good cheer, so I didn't write a concession speech," Ballantine said.

The 39-year-old Republican choked back his emotions and blinked away tears as he addressed the crowd. "Sorry we didn't win this election," Ballantine said to cheering supporters. "I appreciate you being here tonight. I appreciate all you did for us."

The crowd enthusiastically suggested that he run again in 2008, chanting "Oh-eight," which brought a smile to Ballantine's face.

He said that he has not put much thought into his future political endeavors but that he will now start to ponder his next move.

"I care about the state," he said. "I'm not going anywhere."

Back in the winner's circle, N.C. Democratic Party Chairwoman Barbara Allen said Easley has proven himself by leading the state through adverse budget conditions and advocating innovative education initiatives.

"He sees the upturn (in the economy)," she said.

"And education will be in the forefront of his administration."

We need early education. He will focus on retooling, retraining the work force — finding not just jobs, but good jobs."

Allen said Easley, whose son is a sophomore at UNC, understands how hard it is for families to put their children through school.

During his term, Easley has fought for small budget cuts for the UNC system as well as increased funding for pre-kindergarten classes and third-grade programs.

During his acceptance speech, Easley thanked his son and first lady Mary Easley, who both stood with him on the victory stage.

"That's what we want for everyone in North Carolina — for their children to grow and prosper and reach their full potential," Easley said, referring to his son's college attendance.

"I like Easley's policies," said Doug Tully, a former environmental research scientist who is now unemployed. "I'm very supportive of his efforts to get good jobs and his stance on education."

The UNC graduate has spent time teaching at Meredith College since losing his job and said he believes Easley's policies will help him find a more permanent job in teaching.

In the 20th century, the N.C. electorate has voted for only two Republican governors: Jim Holshouser in 1972 and Jim Martin, who was elected to two terms beginning in 1984.

While North Carolina voted for President Bush on Tuesday — 57 percent of the popular vote to Democratic Sen. John Kerry's 43 percent — pundits say the margin would not be significant enough to affect the governor's race.

Ballantine said his party knew about the state's gubernatorial history but that he believed "it was time for a new generation of conservative leadership."

Easley said his win was a way for the people of North Carolina to speak up.

"We sent a strong and powerful message to politicians that they can do whatever it takes to bring jobs and a better economy to this state, and we will support you and protect you along the way."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

PRESIDENT

FROM PAGE 1

Not so, according to Bush's advisers, who told the president he would capture the state.

"I believe I will win, thank you very much," Bush said while awaiting results with his family.

Kerry, a four-term Massachusetts senator, 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," the Democrat said.

The Electoral College count was excruciating: With 270 votes needed, Bush won 28 states for 254 votes. Kerry won 18 states plus the District of Columbia for 242 votes.

In the early hours of Wednesday, Kerry was still on the hunt for electoral votes the GOP won four years ago. The states won by Democrat Al Gore in 2000 are worth just 260 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.

Bush lost Pennsylvania, a major blow after courting voters with steel tariffs and 44 visits — the most of any state — in a bid to steal it from the Democrats. The loss raised the stakes in Ohio, won by Bush in 2000.

"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.

The race showed signs of being as close as 2000, when 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.

Tuesday, Bush won among white men, voters with family incomes above \$100,000 and weekly churchgoers.

Kerry retained Gore's margins among blacks and union households, key parts of the Democratic base.

One in 10 voters were casting ballots for the first time and fewer than 10 percent were young voters,

hardly the groundswell that experts had predicted. Kerry was favored by both groups, according to the surveys conducted by The Associated Press by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

Officials predicted a turnout of 117.5 million to 121 million people, the most ever and rivaling the 1960 election in the percentage of eligible voters going to the polls.

As of press time, Bush won Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Kerry won California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and statewide in Maine.

ELECTORAL VOTES

AL Rep 9	MT Rep 3
AK Rep 3	NE Rep 5
AZ Rep 10	NV Rep 5
AR Rep 6	NH Dem 4
CA Dem 55	NJ Dem 15
CO Rep 9	NM ? 5
CT Dem 7	NY Dem 31
DE Dem 3	NC Rep 15
DC Dem 3	ND Rep 3
FL Rep 27	OH ? 20
GA Rep 15	OK Rep 7
HI Dem 4	OR Dem 7
ID Rep 4	PA Dem 21
IL Dem 21	RI Dem 4
IN Rep 11	SC Rep 8
IA ? 7	SD Rep 3
KS Rep 6	TN Rep 11
KY Rep 8	TX Rep 34
LA Rep 9	UT Rep 5
ME Dem 4	VT Dem 3
MD Dem 10	VA Rep 13
MA Dem 12	WA Dem 11
MI Dem 17	WV Rep 5
MN Dem 10	WI ? 10
MS Rep 6	WY Rep 3
MO Rep 11	

SOURCE: C-SPAN.ORG
DTH/MARY JANE KATZ

BURR

FROM PAGE 1

"Today is a special day for me, and I want to thank everyone who believed in my candidacy. I feel fortunate and blessed to be standing in front of you as winner of the North Carolina Senate race."

Bowles, also surrounded by family and friends, took the stage 10 minutes later at the Raleigh Convention Center to congratulate Burr on his win.

The crowd greeted Bowles by chanting his name. His campaign staff was in tears, with some sobbing audibly during his concession speech.

"I end this campaign not with rancor, but with respect," Bowles said. "... I also leave this campaign with a real sense of the blessings I've been given to be a North Carolinian."

This latest attempt at the Senate is the second for Bowles. Though he has been a major actor in successful campaigns, such as President Clinton's 1992 bid for the White House, he has yet to secure an elected office for himself.

"As my dad said to me some 32 years ago, there are many ways to add to the community woodpile."

Bowles hinted that he might not seek elected office again. "Elected office will not be my route, but that does not mean you've seen the last of Erskine Bowles."

Many supporters at the N.C. Democratic Party headquarters were devastated by Bowles' second loss.

"I think the people of North Carolina missed a great opportunity. ... It's just a shame," said Tyler Ridout, Bowles' assistant. "We gave everything we had because we believe in him."

But Bowles, composed and smiling, praised his rival and urged North Carolinians to move beyond party lines and look forward to solving problems facing the state and nation.

It was a close race to the end. According to a Mason-Dixon poll published Friday, Bowles and Burr were separated by just three-tenths of a percentage point.

"It's just a matter of who came out to vote," said Bowles' spokesman, Carlos Monje. "We came into this election incredibly close."

North Carolina will now have two Republican senators. Sen. Elizabeth Dole defeated Bowles in the 2000 election for Senate.

Burr's victory helped to ensure a Republican majority in the U.S. Senate for at least the next two years. At least four of the six Democratic Senate seats up for grabs Tuesday in the South went to Republicans, and as of press time, the GOP looked poised to capture a seat in Florida as well.

Dole spoke at Wake Forest early in the evening before the official results were released.

"Richard Burr and I are going to work shoulder to shoulder in the United States Senate," she said.

Before he left the stage to mingle with supporters, Burr thanked his campaign workers, financial advisers and the voters who put him into office. He also expressed his gratitude for his wife, Brooke, their sons Tyler and William, his parents and his sister, Debbie May.

May was instrumental in the late phase of Burr's campaign advertising. A breast cancer survivor, she spoke

out against ads run by the Bowles campaign that criticized Burr's voting record on breast cancer issues. "Do you think Erskine regrets that ad now?" Burr asked the crowd.

After the flocks of supporters had cleared away, Burr said he was relieved the race is over.

He said his first plans are to finish the 108th Congress as the rep-

resentative for North Carolina's 5th District.

But Burr said he knows plenty of hard work awaits him when he takes his new seat on Capitol Hill in January. "Now the campaign's over. The real work begins."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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