

JUDGE

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ing to his team's statistical analysis, if provisional votes mirror Election Day totals, Stein only will close the margin by about 10 votes.

"I'm thrilled with the results, and I'm confident that they will stand," Baddour said.

"It's certainly not over until every vote is counted, but my expectations are the provisional ballots will not alter the outcome."

Baddour said the statistics could change depending on which precincts the provisional ballots are in.

Terry Sullivan, a UNC professor of political science, said elections that come down to the provisional

ballots are rare, despite recent close calls in national elections.

"We found out from Florida in 2000 that a lot of these votes don't get counted at all unless it makes a difference," he said.

And in this race, they very well could.

If final tallies released Nov. 17 put the two candidates within a 1 percent margin, there will be a mandatory recount, something that hasn't happened in Orange or Chatham county in at least the past eight years, said Barry Garner, director for the Orange County Board of Elections.

If the candidates are separated by more than 1 percent, either candidate can call for a recount, which

would have to be approved by the board of elections.

Without provisional votes, the two are separated by less than one-tenth of 1 percent.

The fourth candidate, Charles "Chuck" Anderson also has a slim chance of taking the second seat as he sits 652 votes behind Baddour and 582 behind Stein.

He would need to win more than 80 percent of the provisional votes to close the gap between him and Baddour.

Stein said he will look at his options once the final numbers are made public.

"I'm hoping to be ahead then, and I'm hoping it will be Allen Baddour's call," he said.

Baddour said that without any irregularities at the polls, it didn't seem necessary for a candidate to call for a recount if it wasn't mandated by either board of elections.

Both Baddour and Stein said the close race, with the possibility of a recount didn't come as a surprise.

"I think that all the candidates ran very hard and very fair and very tough campaigns," Baddour said.

"I hope that all of us put together a race that helps the voters make informed decisions."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

RUMSFELD

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Gates, the president of Texas A&M University, was director of the CIA under Bush's father and a CIA employee under six presidents.

"You will find that he's going to be a breath of fresh air in Washington," said Doug Slack, speaker of the faculty senate at Texas A&M. "Our loss is the country's gain."

Daniel Graham, sophomore political science major at Texas A&M, said the mood on campus Wednesday was somber as students learned of the imminent departure of their popular president.

"Dr. Gates has done a lot of good things for the university," he said.

The Senate must approve a prospective secretary of defense. Gates' appointment likely will not be controversial, said George Rabinowitz, UNC professor of political science.

Slack applauded Gates' open and kind leadership style and said the former intelligence guru listens to every side before making decisions.

Glatthaar also said Gates has a reputation for strong leadership.

"How good a secretary of defense he will be it's hard to say, but I think he will be unquestionably more politically astute than Donald Rumsfeld."

UNC history professor Don Higginbotham said he is amazed the president kept such a controversial member in the cabinet for so long.

"He's been rather slow to get it

that the secretary of defense has been a liability and a drag on his administration."

Experts agree that Rumsfeld's resignation and Gates' appointment are part of the administration's desire to shift policy regarding Iraq.

"We can't stay the course. It's absurd," Glatthaar said.

After a poor GOP showing in mid-term elections, Bush needed a bold move to demonstrate his willingness to compromise, Rabinowitz said.

Army personnel said they could not predict if the shift in leadership would affect armed services.

Lt. Col. Greg Daddis, UNC professor of military science in the army ROTC, said troop morale is tied to serving ideals, not to politics.

"We're committed to the Constitution and supporting that Constitution, as opposed to supporting specific individuals in government."

Jenny Stevens, administrative vice chairwoman of UNC College Republicans, expressed concerns that Rumsfeld's resignation could trigger a hasty exit from Iraq.

"It could be a situation where there's a rush to put in this timetable where it's just sort of put together in a placating manner," she said.

Higginbotham cautioned against banking on a new Iraq policy.

"I don't think we can just assume that's going to happen because Rumsfeld's out of the picture."

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

MIDTERM

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And, Wednesday night, Virginia called the defeat of Sen. George Allen, R-Va., by challenger Jim Webb, giving Democrats 51 Senate seats and the kind of power they haven't enjoyed since 1994.

But Ron Haskins, a senior fellow at the independent research- and policy-oriented Brookings Institution, cautioned against overconfidence. He said the party's victories stem more from citizens' disgust with the war in Iraq, the budget deficit and government corruption than from the Democratic agenda.

Still, he said a Democrat-controlled Congress could mean the kind of balance of party power that, in past decades, effectively has produced policies such as welfare reform and a balanced budget.

"The American public likes a divided government," he said. "I think they're not overly trustful of either party."

Schorr Johnson, communications director for the N.C. Democratic Party, said the midterm elections showed the power of democracy and the public's wish for change.

"People voted clearly and resoundingly for a new direction," he said. "That's what we have elections for."

C.P. Helms, executive vice chairman of the UNC College Republicans, said the Democratic campaign was a continuation of the finger-pointing 2004 presidential race. He said the difference between that year's Democratic loss and 2006 is a shift in public opinion.

"With Bush's approval ratings where they are, 'not Bush' is finally a strong enough platform."

UNC political science professor Thad Beyle said voters expect Democrats to appease their concerns, and the timing of Rumsfeld's exit indicates Republicans' awareness that they are not in the clear.

"I think they're realizing what happened in the voting booths Tuesday is something that they have to respond to," he said.

Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who is in line to become House Speaker, has promised to pass legislation immediately upon official takeover of the Congress. Favorite party initiatives include lowering student loan rates and balancing the budget.

Haskins said the lofty ambitions could be foiled by party dissension as members push diverse agendas and campaign for the spot of majority leader, the second most powerful position behind Speaker.

Pelosi already is trying to put out party fires by meeting with Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., to stop him from seeking Bush's impeachment — a move Haskins said "would ruin things on the Hill right off the bat."

He said Democrats' effectiveness could determine which party wins the White House in 2008.

"There's plenty of things the Democrats can do if they can keep their majority and if they can get along reasonably with Bush," he said. "Who knows if they're going to be able to pull it off."

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

What did the midterm election results mean to you?



"Policies toward certain polarized issues might play out differently, but I still think they're in it to stay in power."

Laura Williamson, Junior, International Studies, on the Democratic House Majority



"I'm not terribly surprised because of the way that the Republican-dominated administration has alienated so much of the national and international community."

Holm Belsheim, Freshman, Undecided



"It was the first time I can recall winning, and it feels so much better to win than it does to lose."

Ben Kaplan-Singer, Senior, Political Science



"I just hope that all the issues and stuff will be on the way to being resolved, and we can fix the problems Bush has created."

Latina Edmonds, Junior, Psychology

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TREE

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to the community through my dancing," Henson said. "This gives people who have a lot the opportunity to give to people who don't have a lot, especially during the holidays."

The Bouncing Bulldogs, a jump rope team, wrapped up the show with impressive talents of their own.

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