

★ ★ ★ SPECIAL
ELECTION EDITION

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2006

FINAL EDITION 50 CENTS

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DEMS TAKE HOUSE CRIST, NELSON WIN



SPEED READ ELECTION RESULTS

Governor
6,693 of 6,950 precincts 96%

Winner: CHARLIE CRIST (R)
2,423,983 votes 52%

Jim Davis (D) 2,104,938 45%

Max Linn (Ref) 90,238 2%

U.S. Senate
6,752 of 6,950 precincts 97%

Winner: BILL NELSON (D)
2,790,100 votes 60%

Katherine Harris (R) 1,756,562 38%

Attorney General
6,621 of 6,950 precincts 95%

Winner: BILL MCCOLLUM (R)
2,351,542 votes 53%

Skip Campbell (D) 2,117,576 47%

Chief Financial Officer
6,618 of 6,950 precincts 95%

Winner: ALEX SINK (D)
2,391,388 votes 54%

Tom Lee (R) 2,066,129 46%

Agriculture Commissioner
4,767 of 6,950 precincts 69%

Winner: CHARLES BRONSON (R)
1,989,222 votes 58%

Eric Copeland (D) 1,451,619 42%

U.S. House, District 8
236 of 236 precincts 100%

Winner: RIC KELLER (R)
94,867 votes 53%

Charlie Stuart (D) 82,261 46%

U.S. House, District 13
327 of 327 precincts 100%

Winner: VERN BUCHANAN (R)
119,060 votes 50%

Christine Jennings (D) 118,696 50%

U.S. House, District 16
321 of 335 precincts 96%

Winner: TIM MAHONEY (D)
114,456 votes 50%

Foley/Negron (R) 109,917 48%

U.S. House, District 22
404 of 422 precincts 96%

Winner: RON KLEIN (D)
103,392 votes 51%

Clay Shaw (R) 94,743 47%

**AMENDMENT 3:
Requiring a 60% vote
to pass future amendments**
6,622 of 6,950 precincts 95%

Result:
YES
2,506,342 votes 58%

NO
1,835,533 42%

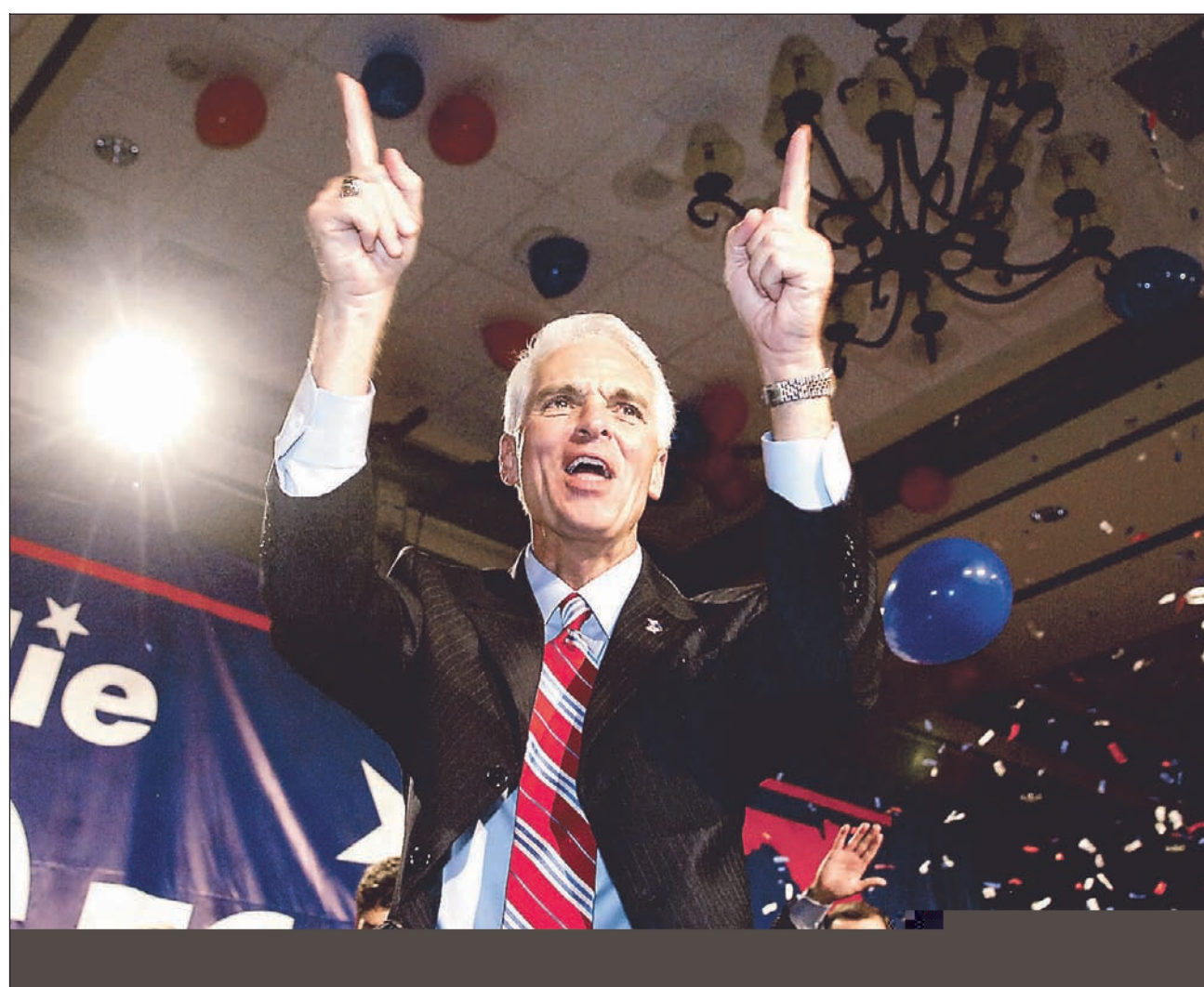
Other amendments:
All passed

WEATHER
A few morning showers.
Forecast, B8

8 A.M. 66° NOON 73° 4 P.M. 72° 8 P.M. 65°

FAVORITE PLACES

Lottery	A2
Opinion	A18
Deaths	B6
Dilbert	C3
Morning Buzz	D3
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JOE BURBANK/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Gov.-elect Charlie Crist responds to cheering supporters at Tuesday's election-night celebration in downtown St. Petersburg. He will succeed Gov. Jeb Bush, the first time in Florida history that one Republican has followed another in the state's top job.

Charm, costly campaign prove winning formula for candidate

By JASON GARCIA and JOHN KENNEDY
SENTINEL STAFF WRITERS

ST. PETERSBURG — Riding a wave of campaign cash and charisma, Republican Charlie Crist defeated Democrat Jim Davis on Tuesday to become Florida's next governor.

With 96 percent of the precincts counted, Crist led Davis by 52 percent to 45 percent. Crist, who ran the most expensive governor's race in state history, won even as Democrats made gains across the nation and Florida elected a Democrat to the Cabinet for the first time since 1998.

"Tonight we all come together as one," Crist said before a cheering crowd at St. Petersburg's Vinoy Hotel

and Resort. "Not as Republicans, not as Democrats or independents, but as one. As Floridians."

Promising that Florida stood on the brink of its "greatest century," the governor-elect pledged to remain true to his campaign pledges to cut taxes while improving education and public safety. And he praised Davis, calling him a "credit to his party," adding, "Florida is better for his service."

Davis called Crist to concede about 11 p.m.

"Tonight we came close to pulling off a political miracle," Davis told about 200 supporters in the ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay. "We came very close but didn't quite get there. But the fight will continue."

Flanked on stage by about 30 family members and friends, Davis' voice cracked momentarily as he thanked his wife and two teenage sons. But he urged his supporters to carry on.

"They spent millions of dollars. Change will not come easy," he said.

Crist's win came as Democrat Alex Sink, a retired banker, beat Republican Senate President Tom Lee for the Cabinet post of chief financial officer.

Republican Bill McCollum, a former congressman from Central Florida, beat Democratic state Sen. Skip Campbell for attorney general; and Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson, a Republican, easily turned

PLEASE SEE GOVERNOR, A6

Nelson rolls to easy Senate win over Harris

By APRIL HUNT and JIM STRATTON
SENTINEL STAFF WRITERS

Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson cruised to re-election Tuesday, handing GOP rival Katherine Harris a beating that could drive her from the statewide stage and into political obscurity.

With nearly all precincts reporting, Nelson led Harris 60 percent to 38 percent.

His victory was a foregone conclusion, as polls consistently showed him far ahead of Harris, who was beset by staff defections and a Justice Department investigation into her dealings with a defense contractor.

Nelson ran with a message of unity, saying that the divisions in Washington fueled by the Iraq war and party politics must end.

"I want to reach out on these huge challenges that are facing us and build a consensus," the 64-year-old



TOM BURTON/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Sen. Bill Nelson celebrates his decisive re-election victory Tuesday night in Orlando with son Bill Jr. (from left), wife Grace and daughter Nan Ellen Nelson.

Nelson told backers at the Embassy Suites in downtown Orlando. "Folks aren't looking for a Democratic or Republican solution. They're looking for the right solution. If we do what's right, we can get a lot done."

Harris called to concede about

8:40 p.m. — as Nelson was walking onstage for his victory speech. He called her back as soon as he got offstage and said she was "very gracious

PLEASE SEE SENATE, A7

Control of Senate hinges on cliffhangers

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Resurgent Democrats took control of the House and grabbed Republican Senate seats in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Rhode Island on Tuesday in elections shaped by an unpopular war in Iraq and scandal at home.

President Bush monitored the returns from the White House as the voters picked a new Congress certain to complicate his final two years in office. He arranged to call Democratic Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California — in line to become the first female House speaker in history — this morning, then hold an afternoon news conference.

"They have not gone the way he would have liked," press secretary Tony Snow said of the election returns.

The control of the Senate was still in question early today, as races went down to the wire in Virginia, Missouri and Montana. The Democrats needed to win all three to take charge.

Republicans have controlled the White House and both houses of Congress for most of the time since Bush took office and used their majority to pass large tax cuts and back the war in Iraq.

Even before the change of power was decided, Pelosi laid out her plan for the first "100 hours" of a Democratic majority in the lower chamber. She said her goals in the first few days would be to raise the minimum wage, reduce the influence of lobbyists and expand funding for stem-cell research.

By midnight in the East, Democrats had picked up 20 House seats now in Republican hands, in all regions of the country. They needed 15 to end a long turn in the minority, and a final result would depend on dozens of races yet uncalled.

In Florida, Democrats captured two GOP-held House seats and nearly won a third.

State Sen. Ron Klein, a Democrat, defeated 13-term Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fort Lauderdale, in one of the most expensive House races in the country.

And in one of the biggest stories of the election, the race to replace Republican

PLEASE SEE CONGRESS, A4

OTHER NEWS

➤ **A powerful storm blew** across Central Florida during rush hour, destroying homes, blowing around cars and injuring residents. **B4**

➤ **Gatorland officials set** a goal of reopening in two weeks. **C1**

➤ **Bryan Pata, a defensive** tackle on the University of Miami football team, was shot and killed. **D1**

➤ **Steve Spurrier** brings his Gamecocks to Gainesville on Saturday to face the Gators. **D1**

