

10 Races to Watch on Election Night

-- Will Democrats maintain their one-seat majority in the U.S. Senate? Can Republicans pad their slim control of the House? Which party will win bragging rights to the most governors' seats? The answers to those questions will hinge on the outcome of a number of squeaky tight races to be decided Tuesday. --

BACKGROUND

That the elections are held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November was initially established in 1845 (3 U.S.C. 1) for the appointment of Presidential electors in every fourth year. 2 U.S.C. 7 established this date for electing U.S. Representatives in every even numbered year in 1875. Finally, 2 U.S.C. 1 established this date as the time for electing U.S. Senators in 1914.

Why early November? For much of our history America was a predominantly agrarian society. Law makers therefore took into account that November was perhaps the most convenient month for farmers and rural workers to be able to travel to the polls. The fall harvest was over, (remembering that spring was planting time and summer was taken up with working the fields and tending the crops) but in the majority of the nation the weather was still mild enough to permit travel over unimproved roads.

Why Tuesday? Since most residents of rural America had to travel a significant distance to the county seat in order to vote, Monday was not considered reasonable as many people would need to begin travel on Sunday. This would, of course, have conflicted with church services and Sunday worship.

Why the first Tuesday after the first Monday? Lawmakers wanted to prevent election day from falling on the first of November for two reasons. November 1st is All Saints Day, a holy day of obligation for Roman Catholics. In addition, most merchants were in the habit of

doing their books from the preceding month on the 1st. Congress was apparently worried that the economic success or failure of the previous month might influence the vote of the merchants.

"Just" one vote can and often does make a difference in the outcome of an election. Here are some recent examples of real elections decided by one vote.

- In 1997, Vermont State representative Sydney Nixon was seated as an apparent one vote winner, 570 to 569. Mr. Nixon resigned when the State House determined, after a recount, that he had actually lost to his opponent Robert Emond 572 to 571.
- In 1989, a Lansing, Michigan School District millage proposition failed when the final recount produced a tie vote 5,147 for, and 5,147 against. On the original vote count, votes against the proposition were ten more than those in favor. The result meant that the school district had to reduce its budget by \$2.5 million.
- In 1994, Republican Randall Luthi and Independent Larry Call tied for a seat in the Wyoming House of Representatives from the Jackson Hole area with 1,941 votes each. A recount produced the same result. Mr. Luthi was finally declared the winner when, in a drawing before the State Canvassing Board, a pingpong ball bearing his name was pulled from the cowboy hat of Democratic Governor Mike Sullivan.
- In 1997, South Dakota Democrat John McIntyre led Republican Hal Wick 4,195 to 4,191 for the second seat in Legislative District 12 on election night. A subsequent recount showed Wick the winner at 4,192 to 4,191. The State Supreme Court

IN THIS ISSUE:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 3 | New York as 2012 Olympic Bid |
| 5 | Marla Runyan/Harry Potter |
| 6 | Lincoln Marries/Mary Ann Todd |
| 7 | Stupid Crooks |
| 8 | Of The Week/ Order Information |

however, ruled that one ballot counted for Wick was invalid due to an overvote. This left the race a tie. After hearing arguments from both sides, the State Legislature voted to seat Wick 46 to 20.

Registration applications may be obtained from either the local election official in your county or city, or through registration outreach programs sponsored by such groups as the League of Women Voters. In addition, you can also register to vote when applying for a driver's license or identity card at State DMV or driver's licensing offices, State offices providing public assistance, State offices providing State-funded programs for the disabled, and at armed forces recruitment offices.

Many States also offer registration opportunities at public libraries, post offices, unemployment offices, and at public high schools and universities. Colleges, universities, and trade schools participating in federal student loan programs also offer voter registration applications to enrolled students prior to general elections.

In 1975, Congress created the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to administer and enforce the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA). The duties of the FEC, which is an independent regulatory agency, are to disclose campaign finance information, to enforce the provisions of the law such as the limits and prohibitions on contributions.



STORY:

This year's election campaign has made Bush dueling with former President Clinton for votes in Florida, stoking emotions from the state's 2000 recount battle as they tried to tip the balance in a fiercely contested governor's race that will decide whether Bush's brother Jeb keeps his job. It has made Bush go on a Midwestern vote promoting tour. Pointing to NASCAR star Darrell Waltrip, Al Gore, Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton.

Tuesday's that will determine control of Congress and 36 governorships.

MSN's top ten votes to watch on Tuesday.

MINNESOTA SENATE

This race was close even before the Oct. 25 death of Democratic Sen. Paul Wellstone with his wife, daughter and five others in a small plane crash. One of the Senate's most outspoken liberals, Wellstone was locked in a neck-and-neck contest with former St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman. Democrats quickly drafted former senator and vice president Walter Mondale to replace Wellstone on the ballot and Mondale entered the race with a 47-39 percent lead over Coleman in one poll. According to the latest MSNBC/Zogby poll released Nov. 2, Mondale's lead has narrowed and he is now ahead of Coleman by only five points, with 50 percent of the vote. Most analysts consider the race too close to call. And state and county officials say that supplemental ballots prepared for the race will have to be hand-counted, delaying results.

COLORADO SENATE

The rematch between Republican Sen. Wayne Allard, a veterinarian who is seeking his second term, and Democrat Tom Strickland, a former federal prosecutor, couldn't have been closer at the start of the race. In fact, in one MSNBC/Zogby poll conducted in September, Allard pulled 41.6 percent to Strickland's 41.5 percent.

However, as the race draws to a close, Strickland has surged ahead in the polls and is now 10 points ahead of Allard, with 53 percent, according to the Nov. 2 MSNBC/Zogby poll.

The GOP sent Vice President Dick Cheney to the state to campaign for Allard on Friday night, to be followed on election eve by President Bush. Strickland planned to spend the last 48 hours of his campaign in a get-out-the-vote drive.

NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE

Another state where Republicans are using their big guns: President Bush stumped for Republican Rep. John Sununu on Friday, followed

by first lady Laura Bush on Saturday. Sununu and his foe, Democratic Gov. Jeanne Shaheen, have spent much of their campaign sparring over Sununu's flat-tax proposal. Sununu once commanded a 15-point lead in the polls but has seen that slip into a dead heat with Shaheen.

NORTH CAROLINA SENATE

Former Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole is losing ground quickly in her battle with ex-Clinton White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles for Sen. Jesse Helms' seat. As recently as two weeks ago, Republican Dole held a 10-point lead over Democrat Bowles, but that had shrunk to 6 points in a Mason-Dixon Poll released Wednesday.

LOUISIANA SENATE

The secretary of state describes the Senate race as "bland," but it is almost certain that nobody will win this contest outright Tuesday night. That's because while Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu has been polling double the numbers of any of her eight challengers, she's unlikely to get more than 50 percent of the vote. So she's expected to be forced into a Dec. 7 runoff.

SOUTH DAKOTA SENATE

Some polls show incumbent Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson ahead of Republican challenger Rep. John Thune. Some polls have it the other way around. In the latest MSNBC/Zogby poll, Johnson was leading Thune by 5 percent, with 52 percent of the vote. Once the margins of error are added in, however, no poll shows a clear leader. Allegations of voter registration fraud mean that any outcome could wind up being challenged in court. President Bush and his wife visited the state in separate last-minute campaign stops.

MISSOURI SENATE

Incumbent Sen. Jean Carnahan, a Democrat, is in a dead heat with Republican challenger Jim Talent. Since vote fraud was an issue in 2000, when Carnahan's husband was elected posthumously, resulting in her being appointed to the seat, all results will be closely scrutinized, both

parties promise.

GEORGIA SENATE

Republican challenger Rep. Saxby Chambliss has managed to whittle Democratic Sen. Max Cleland's lead and the latest MSNBC/Zogby poll shows the two deadlocked, each with 49 percent of the vote. Republicans have stepped up their last-minute efforts in the state, sending President Bush in for Saturday appearances in Atlanta and Savannah.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR

One of the more personal proxy fights between the two parties. President Bush has made numerous appearances on behalf of his younger brother, Gov. Jeb Bush, who appears to be fighting back a late surge by Democratic challenge Bill McBride. He was in the state again Saturday. And former President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore are stumping the state for McBride. Democrats would dearly love to oust Jeb Bush in retaliation for the 2000 presidential race in which his older brother captured Florida's Electoral College votes to eke out a victory over Gore. The President's campaign efforts for the governor appeared to be working: the MSNBC/Zogby poll released Saturday found Bush pulling ahead with a 15-point lead. But throw in Florida's history of voting problems and it's anyone's guess when the result will be known.

MARYLAND GOVERNOR

Once considered a shoo-in by virtue of her famous name and job as lieutenant governor, Democrat Kathleen Kennedy Townsend has watched her lead in the polls become a deficit and she now trails Republican Bob Ehrlich in the latest polls. But factor in the margin of error and this one is also way too close to call.

SIGNIFICANCE:

President Bush signed legislation Tuesday that Congress approved to correct the sort of voter registration mix-ups and confusing ballots that disrupted his own election two years ago.



The "Help America Vote Act of 2002" will give states \$3.9 billion to replace — in time for the 2004 presidential election that will likely include Bush's bid for a second term —

outdated punch-card and lever voting machines, and to improve voter education and poll-worker training. The new law also requires statewide voter databases that are designed to make it easier to register and to detect fraud.

The bill was signed too late for the vote this Tuesday. But both the Democrat and Republican parties have lawyers on standby to pounce on suspected irregularities in next Tuesday's vote. Already, voter intimidation allegations have surfaced in Arkansas, where there is a tight Senate race and investigators are reviewing hundreds of questionable voter registration cards in South Dakota. Justice Department civil-rights monitors have been to oversee polls in several Florida counties.

By 2004, all new registering voters will be required to provide drivers' license numbers, Social Security numbers, or specially assigned voter ID numbers at the polls. That same year, states will have to give provisional ballots to voters whose names do not appear on voter rolls. Those provisional ballots would be counted once valid registration is verified.

For 2006 balloting, states will be required to maintain voter registration lists linked to driver's license databases. States also will be required to have voting machines that let voters confirm the way they marked their ballot — and, if necessary, change their votes — before they are finally cast.

Some election experts also worry that discriminatory enforcement of the voter-ID requirements could especially disenfranchise minorities, the poor, immigrants and students.

New York is US Olympic Bid for 2012

--NY is possible location for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games. --

BACKGROUND:

The USOC is the custodian of the U.S. Olympic Movement and is the moving force for the support of sports in the United States that are on the programs of the Olympic and/or Pan American Games. The USOC is recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the sole agency in the United States whose mission involves training, entering and underwriting the full expenses for the United States teams in the Olympic and Pan American Games.



The USOC operates three separate training centers, the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center; the Lake Placid Olympic Training Center located in N.Y.; and the ARCO Olympic Training Center located in Chula Vista, Calif. Each complex includes training facilities, living quarters for elite athletes, sports medicine availability.

The USOC approves the U.S. trial sites for the Olympic and Pan American Games' team selections. Once an athlete has successfully qualified for the Olympic Games from their trials finish, the athlete must be accepted by the USOC before competing as part of the U.S. Team.

The USOC also supports the bids of U.S. cities to host the winter or summer Olympic Games or Pan American Games. Cities are selected after a review of all the candidate locations and a voting procedure are completed. The USOC endorses one city per event as the U.S. bid city.

STORY:

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Board of Directors today selected New York as the U.S. 2012 Olympic Games Candidate

City Saturday. New York won with 132 of 223 possible weighted votes.

The USOC board voted to back the East Coast city's bid to host the Games of the XXXth Olympiad following hour-long presentations by both New York and San Francisco, the two finalists in a process that began in February 1997 at an informational meeting in Philadelphia, Pa. The vote of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to select the site for the 2012 Olympic Games is scheduled for 2005.

Olympian Charles M. Moore (Washington, D.C.) chaired the USOC's Bid Evaluation Task Force, which was charged with identifying the U.S. city with the best chance of winning the right to host the 2012 Olympic Games.

About a dozen U.S. cities initially expressed interest in hosting the 2012 Olympic Games, and an unprecedented eight officially sought the candidate city designation from the USOC. Each of the cities prepared bid proposals incorporating 19 specific themes, including national/regional/ bid city characteristics, legal aspects, customs and immigration formalities, environmental protection, meteorological and environmental conditions, security, medical and health services, official program of the XXXth Olympiad, general sports organization, sports, Olympism and culture, Olympic Village, accommodation, transportation, technology, media, finance, marketing, and guarantees. The USOC also asked for supplementary information regarding sport event experience and sports infrastructure, as well as additional information regarding the Paralympic Games, international strategies, and committee governance and ethics.

During the summer of 2001, task force members visited Cincinnati, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; Houston, Texas; Los Angeles, Calif.; Tampa, Fla.; and Washington, D.C., as well as New York and San Francisco, to tour key facilities and meet with each city's bid leadership. In October 2001 following a report from the Bid Evaluation Task Force, the USOC Executive Committee selection Houston, New York, San Francisco and

Washington to continue their quests to be named the U.S. 2012 Olympic Games Candidate City. The evaluation process used by the USOC mirrored the IOC's candidature procedure, which rates each city against specific criteria rather than versus each other. On August 27, the Bid Evaluation Task Force selected New York and San Francisco as the two finalists that would make presentations to the USOC Board of Directors prior to the vote of its membership.

New York exercised its star power, using Olympian Bob Beamon, who shattered the long jump record at the 1968 Games, began the New York presentation by calling his native city "the place that has welcomed more people with the dream than anywhere else." Comedian Billy Crystal put on a standup routine, saying, "New York — all the foreigners are already there. ... Every athlete can go home with a gold and a fake Rolex." Robert De Niro, Jerry Seinfeld and Woody Allen appeared on a videotaped plug.

SIGNIFICANCE:

New York organizers, assuring the USOC that they have the resources and security to run the world's biggest show, laid out an ambitious \$5 billion plan that would place virtually all events within city limits (contrasted to a much lower cost bid by San Francisco). However, implementation cannot go into effect until 2005, when the International Olympic Committee will choose the official 2012 site, pitting New York against such rivals as Paris, Moscow, Toronto, Budapest, Rome, Istanbul, Rio de Janeiro, Madrid or Seville in Spain, and a city in Germany, perhaps Berlin.

Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani received a standing ovation from many of the voters and spoke to them about how the city recovered quickly from the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. "We have what it takes," Giuliani said. "We absolutely love big events and we will not fail you. We will do whatever it takes to bring the Olympics back to the United States."

SPORTS:

Marla Runyan 5th in NY Marathon

Though Joyce Chepchumba of Kenya was the clear women's winner of the New York City Marathon with a time of 2 hours, 25 minutes, and 56 seconds; there was another winner in Marla Runyan, the first legally blind Olympian to attempt a marathon. She was fifth overall, just ahead of defending champion Margaret Okayo, and the top US finisher.

When the 33-year-old Runyan competes, just about every step is into the unknown. She has a degenerative eye condition known as Stargardt's disease that limits her sight to about 15 feet in every direction, although she can't read a watch, for example, while she is running. She likens her condition to jogging at night with a headlamp.

NYC Marathon officials arranged for a cyclist to ride near Runyan, telling her when turns are coming and yelling split times (Runyan can't see digital clocks at every mile). The cyclist was diagonally behind Runyan, so as not to act as a



pacesetter for her.

She started her athletic career as a heptathlete but soon found her "strength and passion were in running." After winning five Paralympic gold medals, Runyan became the first to go from that competition to the Olympics, finishing eighth in the 1,500 at the 2000 Sydney Games. She won the U.S. indoor title at 3,000 that year, broke the national record for the indoor 5,000 in New York in 2001, and won the U.S. outdoor title at 5,000 in '01-02.

While Runyan, coached by husband Matt Lonergan, already is an accomplished performer on road courses, she plans on competing on the track at the 2004 Olympics.

ENTERTAINMENT:

New Potter Premiers

The world's most famous boy wizard took to the skies again on Sunday with the glittering world premiere in London of "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."



Radcliffe was fiercely proud of what the cast had achieved in the second Potter movie. "It is a lot scarier, a lot darker but at the same time it is a lot funnier. There is a good balance," he said.

The first Potter movie "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" grossed \$965 million, a total only ever topped by "Titanic," and Warner Brothers have high hopes for the sequel to be released in Britain and the US on November 15.

Tickets for "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" went on sale in Britain seven weeks before its opening date, sparking Potter fever among his legion of devoted followers. The premiere attracted hundreds of fans, many dressed as the boy wizard.

The Potter books by author JK Rowling have sold almost 180 million copies. She is currently finishing the fifth saga. The next Potter movie is due to go into production next March. Christopher Columbus, who directed the first two films, is handing over the reins to Mexican director Alfonso Cuarón.

The cinematic celebrations were tinged with sadness after the death last weekend of flamboyant actor Richard Harris, who played Potter's wily old headmaster at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:**November 4, 1842****Abraham Lincoln
Marries Mary Todd**

After a stormy three-year courtship marked by a broken engagement, Abraham Lincoln marries Lexington-born Mary Todd.

The couple first met in 1839 when Mary Todd moved from Kentucky to Springfield, Illinois, to live with her oldest sister, Elizabeth. Mary came from a distinguished family, and some of her relatives frowned upon her association with Lincoln, who was a country lawyer and a minor figure in the state legislature. Todd was nine years younger than Lincoln and stood just five feet two inches to his towering six-foot four-inch height. Over the objections of her sister, she married Lincoln on November 4, 1842.

The course of their marriage was not always smooth, owing largely to their differences in character--Lincoln was introspective and deficient in social graces, whereas his wife was lively, volatile, and self-indulgent. Temperaments clashed, but their love endured, even as the Civil War raged less than 30 miles from their home at the White House in Washington, D.C.

WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW:*Mary Ann Todd*

On December 13, 1818 Mary Ann (Molly) Todd was born in Lexington, Kentucky. Her parents, Eliza and Robert Smith Todd, were members of a prominent Kentucky family. She had 15 brothers and sisters.

In 1839, Mary went to Springfield, Illinois, to live with her sister's (Elizabeth Edward) family. There, she met a rising lawyer/politician named Abraham Lincoln (most likely at a ball). They were engaged in 1840.

They broke up a few months later and Mary started dating others, including a rising

political star named Stephen A. Douglas. Rumors that they became engaged are false, however.

In 1842, Mary and Abraham got back together again and were married in the Edwards' home. Abraham placed a gold wedding ring on her finger. The words "Love is Eternal" were engraved inside the ring. The Lincolns boarded at the Globe Tavern in Springfield for \$4.00 a week.

Eventually the Lincolns purchased a home in Springfield for \$1500, which is now a museum.



They had four children Robert, Edward (Eddie), William (Willie), and Thomas (Tad). Only Robert lived to adulthood.

When Abraham heard he was elected President in the 1860 fall election, he said, "I guess there's a little lady at home who would like to hear this news." As he neared his home, he yelled out, "Mary, Mary, we are elected."

In the White House Mary spent time in seances (at least 8 at the White House) and doing charitable works. After Abraham was shot, Mary entered a period of extreme grief.

In 1875, her son, Robert, instigated a hearing in which Mary was declared insane by a jury of 12 men. The court admitted that "the disease was of unknown duration; the cause is unknown." Mary, now 56, spent several months in a private asylum in Batavia, Illinois.

Upon release, Mary went to Springfield to live with her sister Elizabeth where the insanity ruling was reversed. Worried that she would still be regarded as crazy, Mary went to Europe and spent the next 4 years living in Pau, France.

By 1880, Mary had a cataract in her right eye, her weight had declined to approximately 100 pounds, and her arthritis was getting worse. She lived in a darkened room in her sister's home where, on July 15, 1881, the anniversary of Tad's death, she collapsed in her bedroom (possibly from a stroke), and died the next day. She was still wearing her wedding ring and was 63 years old.

FEATURE:**Stupid Crooks****IT DOESN'T ALWAYS PAY TO
ADVERTISE**

An inmate at the San Mateo County, California, minimum-security jail decided he'd had enough of prison life and simply strolled away during work release. He got a little tired of walking after a while and stopped at a pay phone to call a friend to come pick him up. But try as he might, the convict couldn't remember his friend's phone number, so he called directory assistance to get it. Unfortunately, he accidentally dialed 911 instead of 411, then quickly hung up the phone when a dispatcher answered. The police sent out a cruiser to check on the 911 hang-up anyway and found the man still in the phone booth and still wearing his prison shirt, with the words **PROPERTY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY HONOR CAMP** written on it. "They could see it though the top of his jacket," Sheriff's lieutenant Larry Boss said. At least when they took the inmate back to celebrate his reunion with his prisoners, he was already dressed for the occasion.

NINETY-PROOF MORON

Before the cashier knew what was happening, a man with a shotgun appeared at the counter and demanded all the cash in the register. The cashier quickly filled a paper bag with the register's contents and handed it over to the shotgun-wielding robber. Before he made his escape, the robber saw a bottle of Scotch on the shelf behind the counter — and it looked pretty good to him. He stuck the barrel of the gun in the clerk's face and told him to put the Scotch in the bag with the cash. The cashier said he wouldn't do it. It wasn't that it was a particularly aged or valuable bottle of Scotch, he told the robber; he didn't think the man was old enough to drink.

The robber claimed he was, but the cashier still refused to give him the liquor. To prove he was over twenty-one, the robber produced a valid

driver's license and showed it to the conscientious clerk. The clerk looked it over, realized that the man was over twenty-one, and gave him the bottle of Scotch. The robber then dashed out of the store, ready to celebrate his newly acquired cash with a shot or two of fine single-malt Scotch. The cashier celebrated the man's stupidity by calling the police and giving them the robber's name and address, which he had memorized from the driver's license.

**TOO MUCH TIME ON THEIR HANDS:
ZANY, WACKY PRISONER LAWSUITS**

Shortly after being made a jail trusty, inmate Ross Chadwell tried to escape the Benton County, Arkansas, Prison. He was soon captured and punished. He then filed a lawsuit against both the county and Sheriff Andy Lee, claiming civil rights violations. Chadwell accused Sheriff Lee of acting "recklessly" by making him a trusty and therefore putting him in a position that made it possible for him to attempt escape.

Randy Kraft, a convicted serial killer, filed a \$60 million defamation lawsuit against Warner Books and the author of the book *Angel of Darkness*. Kraft, a death-row inmate convicted of the sexual torture and murder of sixteen men, claimed the book cast him in an unfair light by portraying him as a "sick, twisted" man.

ON THE CUTTING EDGE

A convicted criminal being escorted to jail in St. Petersburg, Florida, somehow managed to escape and go on the lam. During his escape, however, he suffered several deep cuts to his feet, but even with the loss of blood the criminal was able to vanish into thin air, and the authorities didn't have a clue as to his whereabouts. They got their break from the most unexpected of places — the local hospital. The authorities at the hospital got suspicious of their most recent patient — not because of his wounds. When asked to fill out the standard hospital forms, on the line for cause of the injury he wrote, "Escape from jail."

*Excerpted from "The Stupid Crook Book"
by Leland Gregory.*

Quote of the Week:

“Mary, Mary, we are elected!”

-President Abe Lincoln

Fact of the Week:

White House meals were cooked over a fireplace until 1850.

Word of the Week:

gubernatorial (gu*ber*na*to*re*al) a. Pertaining to government or to a governor.

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And
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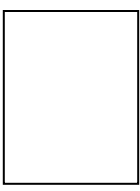
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