

Carter triumphs over Ford, vows to 'make nation great'

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Unabashed tears of joy

Future First Lady Rosalynn Carter, wife of President-elect Jimmy Carter, wipes tears of joy from her eyes as her

husband addresses old neighbors and other townspeople upon his return to Plains, Ga., following his victory over

President Ford. Carter had interrupted his speech momentarily to embrace his sobbing wife. — AP photo

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jimmy Carter's long, once-solitary journey from Plains, Ga., ended in triumph Tuesday as he defeated President Ford in the nation's Bicentennial election.

Carter will go to the White House in January with a victory forged from the traditional Democratic party coalition of the Old South and industrial North.

Carter was declared the victor over President Gerald Ford early Wednesday when his electoral vote total reached 272, two more than the 270 needed for election. Wisconsin and Mississippi were the states that established the Democratic candidate's majority in the Associated Press tabulation.

Three states — Oregon and Maine, where Ford held a slim lead, and Ohio, where Carter was ahead — remained too close to call. If Ford carried all three, Carter's victory margin would remain just two electoral votes.

Lead goes back and forth

The lead in California passed back and forth through the night with Ford finally declared the winner near daybreak.

The latest returns showed Carter carrying 22 states and the District of Columbia with 272 electoral votes. Ford had 25 states with 231 electoral votes.

Here are the vote totals for president with 100 per cent of the nation's 178,159 precincts reporting:

Carter 40,209,092 — 51 per cent.

Ford 38,468,797 — 48 per cent.

McCarthy 655,769 — 1 per cent.

Maddox 168,915 — 0 per cent.

"I pray that I can live up to your confidence and never disappoint you," Carter told jubilant supporters in Atlanta after the results were clear. "It's time for us to get together, to correct our mistakes, to answer difficult questions and to make our nation great."

Carter praised Ford as "the most formidable opponent that anyone could possibly have." And he called his defeated opponent "a good and decent man."

Ford concedes defeat

President Ford conceded defeat later Wednesday.

In a "Dear Jimmy" telegram to the Democratic victor, read for the hoarse President by his wife Betty, Ford pledged a smooth and effective transition. Mrs. Ford said her husband had also telephoned his message to Carter.

"You have my complete and wholehearted support," Ford told Carter.

"It is apparent now that you have won our long and intense struggle," Ford acknowledged. "I congratulate you on your victory."

Before appearing before reporters, Ford underwent medical treatment for a hoarse throat.

Returning to Plains from his election headquarters in Atlanta, Carter received a tumultuous, emotional welcome from a crowd that included most of the town's 683 residents.

Beaming his now-famous smile, Carter

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Ecologists win on cans, take A-loss

By the Associated Press

Environmentalists have suffered a setback in their efforts to impose strict safety controls on nuclear power plants, but they fared better in their campaign to cut down the use of nonreturnable bottles and cans.

Proposals that would have limited nuclear development, generally by requiring stringent safety measures and compensation for accidents, were defeated Tuesday easily in Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Ohio, Arizona and Montana, where opponents had spent heavily.

Supporters of the measures claimed they were justified by the hazard posed by nuclear power; opponents said they would hamper nuclear development and lead to electricity shortages. A similar antinuclear measure was defeated in California in June.

In Washington, the vote was 62 per cent against to only 38 per cent for. In Oregon, the vote was 58-42 against; in Colorado and Arizona, it was 70-30 against; in Ohio, it was 68-32 against; and in Montana it was 60-40 against.

Measures designed to ban or at least require deposits on most nonreturnable beverage containers were approved in Maine — by 58-42 per cent — and Michigan — by 63-37 per cent. A similar measure in Colorado was defeated 68-32.

The contest in Massachusetts — where opponents spent more than \$1 million to try to defeat the proposal banning pull-tab tops and requiring deposits on other beverage containers — was too close to call. Early Wednesday, with almost one million votes counted, there were only 5,000 votes

separating the two sides.

Similar measures already are law in Oregon and Vermont. Supporters claim the bans save raw materials, cut costs and reduce litter. Opponents say they cause inconvenience to consumers, higher manufacturing costs and loss of jobs.

In other key referenda on ballots across the country:

— New Jersey voters approved a plan to allow casino gambling in Atlantic City, the decaying coast resort. A proposal to

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