

AGONIZING TO THE END



Clinton, Trump battle state by state for electoral victory

By **STEPHEN DINAN** AND **S.A. MILLER**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican candidate Donald Trump traded wins in the East and Midwest on Tuesday night, and Mr. Trump flipped the key battleground of Ohio, one of the blue states he would need to win the White House.

Races were too close to call at press time in Florida, Michigan and North Carolina — the three states that seemed poised to determine the winner. Mr. Trump needed to sweep all of them, and a Clinton victory in any would effectively close down his path to victory.

Exit polling showed Mr. Trump trailing significantly among women, who made up the majority of voters, and among minority voters. Among Hispanics, an expanding portion of the vote, he trailed Mrs. Clinton by significant margins — though he did appear on track to come close to Mitt Romney's share of the Hispanic vote four years ago.

Mrs. Clinton was striving for the history books, looking to become the first woman to win the nation's top office. Mr. Trump, meanwhile, was aiming to jump the line and be the first person to win the

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Republicans hold seats as Senate hangs in balance

By **DAVID SHERFINSKI** AND **TOM HOWELL JR.**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Rep. Tammy Duckworth unseated incumbent Republican Sen. Mark Kirk in Illinois on Tuesday night but the GOP held serve in a handful of other key seats, narrowing Democrats' path to wrest control of the chamber.

Republicans' projected victories in Florida, Ohio, Arizona and North Carolina — all seats Democrats had eyed at points during the campaign — gave the GOP the edge.

But just enough targets remained on the board for Democrats as Senate Republicans struggled to defend their 54-46 majority.

The U.S. House of Representatives, meanwhile,

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FINALLY WRAPPING IT UP: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton both cast their votes Tuesday in their home state of New York. The two were also close on election night when their long, divisive race came to an end with tight results in key battleground states.

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Democratic left wing's willingness to compromise uncertain

By **BEN WOLFGANG**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Democrats emerged from Tuesday's election having been pulled further to the left than at any other time in modern political history, and analysts said the party could struggle to govern unless it is willing to forgo some of its more ambitious goals.

Six years after the tea party pushed the Republican Party to the right, Sens. Bernard Sanders and Elizabeth Warren exposed a similar rift within the

Democratic Party this year by marginalizing the moderates.

While some prominent progressive activists reject the notion that the party will be "allergic to compromise" like the tea party, analysts say Democrats are at risk of becoming just as hard-lined as their rivals on the right.

"Both wings of each party believe that they're in the right, and when you believe you are ideologically righteous or justified, then there is no compromise," said Lara Brown, an associate professor

of political management at George Washington University who studies the evolution of political parties.

"Do I think some of the progressives would say we'd rather not have a deal than a deal that undermines all that we believe? Yes," she said. "The idea that Democrats would be better partners than Republicans, I think, misses much of the polarization that exists in our country and among various

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North Carolina delays poll close because of computer issues. **A4**

NeverTrump bloc takes fight to ballot box

Cast votes for past GOP nominees Romney, McCain, others. **A5**

Kasich's rejection of Trump both helped and hurt image. **A5**



Van Hollen wins U.S. Senate bid in Maryland to replace Mikulski. **A14**

D.C. voters embrace a measure formally calling for statehood. **A14**

New president will lack a popular mandate

By **S.A. MILLER**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA. | The next president walks into the Oval Office in January without the benefit of a vital political asset: a mandate for a governing agenda.

The stark divisions in the country only deepened as a result of the cutthroat campaigns waged by Hillary Clinton

and Donald Trump, experts said, breeding ferocious opponents in Washington and throughout the citizenry to almost anything the 45th president hopes to accomplish.

"It is really concerning. We elect presidents to do stuff," said Michael G. Miller, political science professor at Barnard College in New York City. "I think, in this election, it really feels like the opening salvo."

A president typically earns a mandate with a resounding victory that demonstrates undisputed support for the agenda articulated during the campaign. The last candidate to achieve that was President Reagan in his landslide reelection win in 1984.

An overwhelming victory in the popular vote or in the Electoral College

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Lame-duck status frees Obama for pivotal moves

Pardons predicted for Abedin, Weiner

By **STEPHEN DINAN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Look out for the executive orders, the "midnight" regulations and, perhaps most controversially, the pardons.

As President Obama runs out the clock on his eight-year tenure, analysts say, he still has plenty of business left undone, and they expect him to follow the lead of other presidents and issue a series of rules, to add to his list of executive orders, to continue his record-setting pace of commutations and perhaps add a controversial pardon or two into the mix.

"I do think a pardon for Huma and Weiner might happen," said Michael McKenna, a Republican lobbyist, referring to Huma Abedin and her estranged husband, Anthony D. Weiner, whose emails are being scoured by the FBI for wrongdoing.

Truly lame-duck presidents are freed from political concerns, don't have to worry about other elections and can even help take political heat off their successor — or try to lock in their own



ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNTETHERED: President Obama is likely to use his power of the pen to unilaterally finish some controversial business during his last weeks in office.

policies that their successor might not fully support.

For Mr. Obama, who already has set records for the most expansive regulatory agenda in U.S. history, his final months offer a chance to pad his lead

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