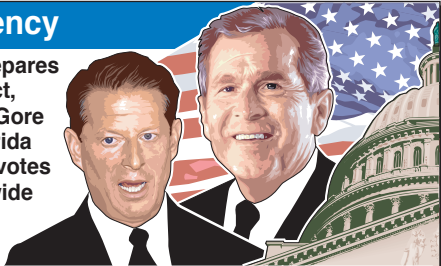


Bush claims the presidency

As Republican George W. Bush prepares to take office as U.S. president-elect, Democrat lawyers representing Al Gore plan to contest results in three Florida counties, arguing that over 10,000 votes were not tallied despite two state-wide machine recounts and one hand recount in some counties



<i>Florida vote count totals</i>	<i>November 7</i>	<i>First Recount</i>	<i>Certified result</i>
Bush Republican	2,909,176	2,910,492	2,912,790
Gore Democrat	2,907,451	2,910,192	2,912,253
Bush lead	1,726	300	537

What's next?

Gore lawyers to file "contests of election"
– Bush camp has 10 days to respond

Rev. Jesse Jackson to file lawsuit on behalf of "disenfranchised" voters



Hearings on contested results in Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Nassau counties to begin in Florida courts



U.S. Supreme Court to hear Republican appeal against Florida recounts

Dec 12: Florida certifies electors to represent state in Electoral College

Dec 18: Electoral College votes – with or without Florida delegates