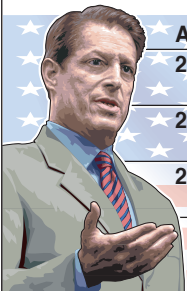


# George W. Bush becomes 43rd U.S. president

Following the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that the manual recount in Florida violated the Constitution, Vice President Al Gore ordered his supporters to suspend operations, acknowledging that further legal challenges would be fruitless. Gore has now called for the nation to rally round George W. Bush



**Al Gore**

2,907,451

2,910,192

2,912,253

**Florida vote**

**Nov 7: Election night**  
Bush lead 1,725

**Nov 14: Recount**  
Bush lead 930

**Nov 26: Certification**  
Bush lead 537  
**Dec 8: Partial recount**  
Bush lead 154-193

**George W. Bush**

2,909,176

2,910,492

2,912,790



## How the courts played political ping-pong

### Florida Supreme Court

#### Nov 21: Voter intent

Extends certification deadline to Nov 26, to include manual recounts in three counties

#### Dec 8: Recount resumed

Confirms recount based on state law. Bush lead cut to 154 in new recount, but standards to determine voter intent vary in different counties

#### Dec 12: Concession

Uniform statewide recount permissible but with no time due to expiry of electoral college deadline, Gore concedes

### Issues

#### Jurisdiction



#### Standards



#### Electoral deadline



### U.S. Supreme Court

#### Dec 4: Recounts halted

Refers case back to Florida, questioning whether ruling was based on state or federal law

#### Dec 9: Ruling overturned

Justices vote 5-4 to stop new Florida recount

**Dec 12: Justices vote 7-2 that varying standards infringe 14th Amendment, giving "equal protection of the laws" to all citizens**

#### Dec 18: Endgame

Electoral colleges meet in all 50 state capitals to formally elect new president