



### Blunt makes history in triumph over McCaskill

Matt Blunt's victory marks the first time since 1921 that the GOP controls both houses of the legislature and the state's top job. **Page 6A**



### Marijuana measures pass easily

Columbians back citizen initiatives supporting medicinal marijuana use and making pot possession the lowest priority for local law enforcement. **Page 9A**

# MISSOURIAN

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50 cents

**George W. Bush**

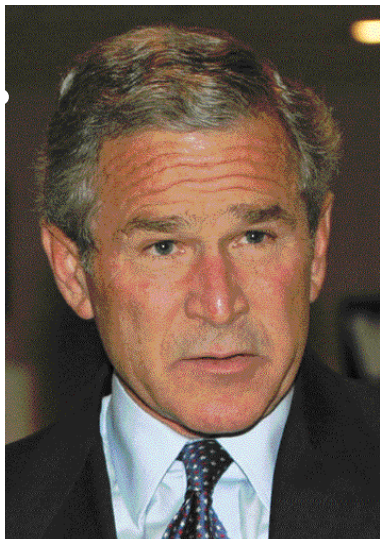
68 undecided electoral votes as of 1:30 a.m.

**John Kerry**



# AGAIN?

## Midwest states leave U.S. wondering



This morning began the way many people feared and predicted: without an answer on who the next president of the United States will be. At 1:30 a.m., President Bush was close to the magic number of electoral votes, 270, required for a victory. Ohio and Iowa hung in the balance. Even if answers evolved overnight, questions will linger as to whether challenges could prolong our national angst.

**DAYS UNTIL INAUGURATION: 79**



### What created the uncertainty

In a nail-biting election that kept Americans guessing the outcome well past midnight, Ohio could turn out to be this year's version of Florida 2000. President Bush kept Florida in his corner, while Kerry held onto Pennsylvania, a state coveted by the Republicans. "We promised every vote would count, and every vote will be counted," John Edwards said.

### What it means

As candidates, Bush and Kerry defined sharp differences in policy and philosophy. As president, the winner will help shape world politics. "The differences that the candidates embody are not merely of policy but of values and culture," said the Belfast Telegraph. "The division marks a line between two Americas."

### Two of the states in the balance: Ohio and Iowa



At 1 a.m., President Bush led Sen. Kerry by approximately 150,000 votes in Ohio. The Kerry campaign had not conceded the state, and its 20 electoral votes were up for grabs.



Iowa's seven electoral votes could still go to either candidate. Election officials are dealing with broken machines and delays in counting absentee ballots.

### New sheriff in town

Dwayne Carey, 15-year department veteran, to succeed Ted Boehm as county's top law officer. **Page 8A**

### Highway funding

Nearly 80 percent of Missourians vote to steer fuel taxes toward road construction. **Page 6A**

### Big GOP gain

Ed Robb finally breaks Democrats' 22-year lock on the 24th District seat in the Missouri House. **Page 7A**

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