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## Gore concedes to Bush, Dec. 13, 2000

By **ANDREW GLASS** | 12/13/12 04:35 AM EST

On this day in 2000, Al Gore, the incumbent Democratic vice president, conceded that he had been defeated by his Republican rival, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, in his bid for the presidency.

The outcome of the 2000 election hinged on Florida's 25 electoral votes, a near statistical tie that precipitated a 36-day political crisis in the aftermath of the Nov. 7 election, the closest such contest in U.S. history.

On the day before Gore gave up his claim to the White House, the U.S. Supreme Court had decided by a 7-2 vote that a Florida Supreme Court's ruling requiring a statewide recount of ballots was unconstitutional. The high tribunal's conservative majority also decided that Florida's recount effort could not be completed before a Dec. 12 "safe harbor" deadline and so should cease. The 5-4 vote meant that the previously certified total declaring Bush the winner by 537 votes, issued on Nov. 26, would stand.

In a televised speech from his ceremonial office in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, next door to the White House, Gore said that while he was deeply disappointed and sharply disagreed with the high tribunal's verdict, "partisan rancor must now be put aside."

"I accept the finality of the outcome, which will be ratified next Monday in the Electoral College," Gore said. "And tonight, for the sake of our unity as a people and the strength of our democracy, I offer my concession."

Gore said he had telephoned Bush to offer his congratulations, referring to him, for the first time, as "president-elect" by virtue of his 271 to 266 victory in the Electoral

College. (Gore had won the nationwide popular vote by more than 500,000 votes.)

About an hour later, Bush declared: "I was not elected to serve one party, but to serve one nation."

SOURCE: WWW.HISTORY.COM