

## CAMPAIGN 2000



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Lynne Cheney, wife of Republican vice presidential candidate Dick Cheney, speaks Tuesday at the Daytona Beach Hilton Resort.

# Lynne Cheney predicts a 'less rancorous' debate

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DAYTONA BEACH SHORES — Lynne Cheney, wife of GOP vice presidential candidate Dick Cheney, tried to draw a clear distinction between the Republican and Democratic presidential tickets during a campaign stop here Tuesday.

The differences between Texas Gov. George W. Bush's and Vice President Al Gore's platforms are the key to a Republican victory Nov. 7, Cheney told more than 200 residents at the Daytona Beach Hilton Resort.

The event was Cheney's last stop during a two-day tour of Florida, a state that has become critical in the neck-and-neck presidential race. Recent polls show the contest too close to call in Florida and the nation. Cheney's visit to Volusia County was the first for any of the candidates or their wives.

During an hourlong question-and-answer session led by

WNDB radio talk show host Marc Bernier, Cheney touched on nearly all of the campaign's major issues.

Cheney, past chairwoman of the National Endowment for the Humanities and former co-host on CNN's Crossfire, criticized Gore's behavior during a debate with Bush last week, saying he was "as arrogant, as condescending and as annoying as I've ever seen him." Cheney predicted that tonight's debate between the two candidates would be "less rancorous" because they will be sitting at a table together rather than standing at separate podiums.

During tonight's debate, Cheney said she expects Bush to refute Gore's repeated claims during the first debate that Bush's tax cut would primarily benefit the nation's wealthiest people. "You have all heard Al Gore trying to convince people that this is only for the rich," Cheney said. "Well, that's just baloney."

Under Bush's tax proposal, the richest 1 percent of the population would actually pay a greater percentage of the taxes than they do now, she said. Today, they pay 62 percent of the taxes; under Bush's plan, they would pay 64

percent, she said.

"Al Gore's tax plan leaves out 50 million people. That's half of all taxpayers," Cheney said. Bush's proposal does not give a tax break to the "wrong people" as Gore claimed; it gives a break to everyone, she said.

If the Republican ticket is elected, Cheney said her main interest in the next four years would be education, an issue she researched and wrote about at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Although both candidates are pushing for more accountability in education, Cheney said their ideas about how to achieve accountability differ tremendously.

Bush plans to test every student in the nation annually, she said, adding, "You have to be able to know whether your child is failing or succeeding. You have to be able to know whether your local school is failing or succeeding."

Gore only favors testing a sample of students, she said. "Maybe you could get some idea of how Florida was doing, but you're not going to know how your child is doing," Cheney said.