Massachusetts voters approve Question Three, keeping dog racing legal

BY RICK KLEIN
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Turning back an emotion-fueled crusade for animal rights, voters late Tuesday appeared to narrowly reject a ballot measure that would have banned dog racing in Massachusetts.

"I'm still a firm believer in waiting until the votes are in," said Glenn Totten, a spokesperson for the pro-racing Massachusetts Animal Interest Coalition. "But I would at least say that we are optimistic... There's still a chance of vote out, but the prediction is probably valid."

A razor-thin margin persisted against the ban throughout the evening. But with a good fraction of the votes still not reporting results by midnight, the initiative's backers said the vote was too close to determine the measure's fate.

"I'd rather be them than you right now, but I don't think this is over by any means," said Carey Theil, a spokesman for Grey2K, the group formed to support the ban. "The vote split stands, greyhound race tracks - which have been legal in the state for 65 years - will be able to stay open. That would mean that about 1,200 people employed by tracks, kennels, and breeders in Massachusetts will keep their jobs, Totten said.

The final hours of the tight race were busy for both sides, with pro- and anti-racing forces funneling out across the state to plead their cases directly with voters. Supporters and opponents of the initiative both said they had more than 1,000 volunteers working yesterday, and each side brought along greyhound advocates to make their points.

The two sides paint starkly different pictures of those dogs' lives. Proponents of the ban say that racing dogs live only a few malnourished and diseased years before being put down when they're no longer profitable. Defenders of greyhound racing say the animals are fed well and treated with care until they retire from racing, when many are adopted.

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Here are some of the campaign finance records that have been broken this year:

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- Most money spent by a congressional candidate: Donald Ritchie.
- Biggest one-night fund-raiser: Democratic National Committee, $26.5 million in May. (Old record: $21.5 million, Republican National Committee in April. Prior to that previous record was the RNC in April 1999, $14 million.
- Biggest convention fund-raiser: Republican National Committee, $10.1 million in August. (Old record: RNC, $6.5 million, August 1996)

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That's News to Me
National and International News Stories

Record amount spent on 2000 elections

Missouri elects deceased former governor to Senate

BY JONATHAN D. SALANT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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