

Dead heat in N.M. Democratic caucus

by UPI

ALBUQUERQUE - Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton were locked in a tight race late Tuesday as the votes were counted in the New Mexico Democratic caucus. Clinton held a narrow lead over Obama of 49 percent to 47 percent with 47 percent of the vote tallied, according to the Albuquerque Journal's count. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson remained on the ballot despite shelving his presidential bid. He did not appear to be playing a spoiler Tuesday with only about 1 percent of the vote. There were 38 delegates up for grabs Tuesday, which Obama and Clinton both pursued vigorously. Both candidates visited the state in the run-up to Super Tuesday, the Journal said. The Republicans did not hold a caucus Tuesday. The results trickled in slowly Tuesday night as party officials plowed through the high volume of ballots. The Journal said the polls closed at 7 p.m., with party officials reporting lines of people still waiting to vote. But Democratic Party Chairman Brian Colon said people waiting in line at closing time would still be able to vote. "The turnout's off the charts," Democratic Party Chairman Brian Colon said. "We're just thrilled and overwhelmed with the turnout."

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