

Huckabee files complaint in Wash. caucuses

by UPI

SEATTLE - GOP officials Sunday resumed the delegate count in Washington state's caucuses after presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee challenged Saturday's results. The former Arkansas governor alleged the Republican caucus was called prematurely for Arizona Sen. John McCain. Washington state Republican Party Chairman Luke Esser called the state for McCain Saturday night with 87 percent of the precincts counted and McCain leading Huckabee by 242 delegates out of the 13,000 counted, The Seattle Times reported. The Huckabee campaign argued there were about 1,500 more delegates to be counted. The state Republican Party had planned to resume its count Monday, but picked it up Sunday instead after the Huckabee campaign issued a news release claiming there were "obvious irregularities" in the process -- and saying it would send a legal team to Washington to explore "all available legal options." GOP officials had said McCain won about 26 percent of delegates, while Huckabee won 24 percent, Texas Rep. Ron Paul had 21 percent and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney got 17 percent. Most of the rest were non-committed, the newspaper said. New results posted were based on 93 percent of precincts reporting, but the individual numbers hadn't change much, the report said.

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