



Campaign stop:
Gov. Charlie Crist
touts Republican
candidates. **Story, 3B**



Crist extols GOP ticket in cafe stop

*It's giddyup time,' he
tells a morning crowd.*

By MITRA MALEK
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Gov. Charlie Crist stumped for Republican candidates Monday, just half a block from the Palm Beach County elections office where voters were casting early ballots.

"It's giddyup time," Crist told the pre-lunchtime crowd at the Gun Club Cafe in suburban West Palm Beach.

Others attending the event included state Rep. Carl Doinino, R-Jupiter, who is up for re-

election against Democratic challenger Bryan Miller.

The governor said he will vote for John McCain because the Republican presidential nominee wants to cut taxes.

"When he says something, he means it," Crist said. "He's just a wonderful, good, decent man."

A few dozen residents came to the café hoping to shake hands with the governor. The state GOP coordinated the event, using e-mails to alert registered Republicans about Crist's visit.

Jim Hill drove down from Jupiter, as did three women from Century Village who dressed for the occasion in

American flag-themed hats.

Two men who had stopped in while campaigning for Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama, dressed in shirts that read as much, found themselves in an awkward spot but hung around to see Crist anyway.

"We wanted to hear what he had to say," said Eddie O'Bryan of Lake Park.

The cafe on Gun Club Road is a popular spot for political figures to greet crowds, said Becky Kiel, the restaurant's general manager. Al Sharpton and former Gov. Lawton Chiles have made rounds there, she added.

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