

THE Labor and Liberal Parties have both predicted a win in today's Nunawading re-run election — but the result could be in doubt until late next week.

The seat is likely to be decided on preferences, which will be allocated late next week.

The Premier, Mr Cain, would not predict a margin but said he was confident of victory, and the Liberal leader, Mr Kennett, said the Liberals would win by "multiples of a hundred votes."

The chief electoral officer, Mr Eric Richardson, said he expected a voting trend to become apparent by about 8 p.m.

Final figures for the night will be posted at 10 p.m., and counting of the 9000 postal votes and distribution of preferences would continue next week.

The intense campaign wound up yesterday in much the same way as it began, with a war of words between the two leaders.

Mr Cain said he had no doubt the Liberal Party would force an early election if it won the poll and control of the Upper House.

"We can't govern as well and I can't go on taking the tough decisions if I have to keep looking over my shoulder every six months to see whether I am going to be chucked out by an opportunistic Opposition," he said.

"I have been accused of being mild and mellow. But don't be under any apprehension about what happens to a conservative when his back is to the wall.

"They will bite and fight and scratch and do anything to win — anything."

Mr Cain said the Liberal Party would drum up some reason to block supply, forcing the Government to an election as the then Federal Opposition Leader, Mr Fraser, had done in 1975.

"The reprehensible circumstances — the so-called Malcolm Fraser dictum — will be drummed up," he said.

## Still it's neck-and-neck

THE Labor and Liberal parties remain locked as they face voters in the Nunawading re-run election today.

A revised opinion poll conducted for The Sun shows Labor polling 40 per cent and the Liberals 41.

But the poll has found that 10 per cent of voters intend voting for other candidates, and 6 per cent still are undecided. Three per cent did not state an intention.

The new figures are based on a callback poll by McNair Anderson as a follow-up to its telephone poll of 505

eligible voters on Sunday. The callback poll on Thursday involved those voters who earlier were still undecided or doubtful about their voting intention.

It finds there has been no significant change in the views expressed by those voters.

The results of the original poll, published in The Sun on Thursday, were almost identical to the callback poll — with support for the major parties the same, 15 per cent supporting other parties and 4 per cent not stating an intention.



● Mrs Varty

Mr Kennett said he was calm, confident and relaxed about the result, despite Mr Cain's campaign of vilification and personal abuse, which failed to address the major issues.

"It is a very sad campaign when our major political opponents haven't seen fit to address themselves to the issues we have raised, and have utilised not only a great deal of their own money but, more importantly, the community's money to buy success tomorrow," Mr Kennett said.

Mr Kennett said it was essential that the Liberal candidate, Mrs Rosemary Varty, win to reject any Government legislation discriminating against non-unionists and to reject any increases in taxes and charges above the CPI.

However, Mr Kennett repeated his commitment not to block supply.

"Given that we will be given the responsibility to

again provide the safeguard, I pledge that we will use our numbers responsibly to ensure the State of Victoria can advance," he said.

"We believe we have earned the right to be successful tomorrow — we don't believe our opponents have earned the right, because they have ignored the issues."

The Labor candidate, Mr Bob Ives, said the people of Nunawading would support the Labor Party because they wanted strong representation.

"They want a stable government, a government that is confident and a government that will not be frustrated," Mr Ives said.

"What this state needs — and what the people of Nunawading need — is four years of good government."

"If Jeff Kennett is allowed to throw a spanner in the works, we will not have stability. We will have political turmoil."

Mrs Varty said the voters had a very clear view of the issues involved.

"The interesting thing is the number of Labor voters who have told me they are going to change their vote," she said.

"They are upset at their treatment by the Cain Government and the issues which haven't been addressed. They have felt badly let down."

"This is a great opportunity for the people of Nunawading to send a very clear message to Mr Cain that they are very unhappy."

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