

OBAMA

RACIAL BARRIER FALLS IN DECISIVE VICTORY

Democrats in Congress Strengthen Grip

By ADAM KARDESHY

Barack Obama (center) was elected the 44th president of the United States on Tuesday, sweeping across the tea-party revolt in American politics with ease as the country chose him as its first black chief executive.

The election of Mr. Obama amounted to a national referendum — a repudiation of a historically unpopular Republican president and the economic and foreign policies, and an embrace of Mr. Obama's call for a change in the direction and the tone of the country.

But it was just as much a strikingly symbolic moment in the evolution of the nation's fraught racial history, a breakthrough that would have seemed unthinkable just two years ago.

Mr. Obama, 47, a first-term senator from Illinois, defeated Senator John McCain, 67, a former prisoner of war who was making his second bid for the presidency.

In the very end, Mr. McCain's campaign was outflanked by an opponent who was nothing short of a phenomenon, drawing huge crowds splattered by the likes of thousands of people who turned out to hear Mr. Obama's victory speech in Grant Park in Chicago.

Mr. McCain also fought the tide of a relentlessly hostile political environment, weighted down by the baggage left to him by President Bush and an economic collapse that took place in the middle of the general election campaign.

"If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all citizens are created equal, who still wonders if the Dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer."

Mr. Obama, standing before a huge wooden balcony with a row of American flags in the back, cast his eyes to a crowd that stretched far into the Chicago night.

"It's been a long time coming," the president-elect added. "But tonight, because of what we did on this date in the election of this defining moment, change has come to America."

Mr. McCain delivered his concession speech under clear skies on the ball field of the Arizona Stadium, in Phoenix, where he and his wife had both their wedding reception. The crowd reacted with scattered applause as he offered his congratulations to Mr. Obama and echoed the historical significance of the moment.

"This is a historic election, and I recognize the significance it has for African-Americans and for the special pride that must be theirs tonight," Mr. McCain said, adding, "We both realize that we have come a long way from the separation that once stained our nation's reputation."

Not only did Mr. Obama capture the presidency, but he also led his party to gains in Congress. The new Democrats in control of the House, the Senate and the

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President-elect Barack Obama with his wife, Michelle, and their daughters in Chicago on Tuesday night.

ONLINE

• The latest state-by-state results of the presidential election and House, Senate and gubernatorial races.
• The Census Bureau updates from The Times's political blog.



• Interactive graphics: the electoral map, major profiles and analysis.
• Video, audio and photo reactions from the voters and the campaign.

PRESIDENT ELECT

THE LONG CAMPAIGN

Journey to the Top
The story of Senator Barack Obama's journey to the presidency of the United States is the story of a campaign that was, even in the eyes of many rivals, almost flawless. After a somewhat lackluster start, Mr. Obama and his team delivered. They developed a strategy to secure the nomination, and stuck with it even after setbacks. PAGE 7

SENATE

SENATE

Elizabeth Dole Is Out
After leading to a double-digit margin, the Republican Senator Elizabeth Dole, left, was defeated by Sen. Kay R. Hagan, in the campaign's final week. Mrs. Dole never under estimated her chances of winning re-election, but she was not to be. Ms. Hagan to a group called the Coalition Americans. PAGE 12

VIETNAM

Mark Warner Wins
Extending the Democrats' advantage in the Senate, former Sen. Mark W. Warner of Virginia easily won his re-election. Mr. Warner (re-elected), a rising Republican. PAGE 12

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Somers Is Defeated
Another leading Republican, Senator John S. Somers, was ousted by a wide margin by James Blaine, the former New Hampshire governor whose he lost in 2002. PAGE 12

HOUSTON

G.O.P. Stuntable Falls
Representative Christopher Wherry, the last Republican House member from New England and a political insider who escaped previous Democratic attempts to ouster him, was defeated by a political novice, Rep. Stenmark. PAGE 12

NEW YORK

Democrats Take Senate
Democrats won a majority in the New York State Senate, pushing the party to control of both houses of the Legislature and the governor's office for the first time since the New Deal. Voters ousted five Republican senators whose combined years in office equaled more than half a century. PAGE 12



No Time for Laurels; Now the Hard Part

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — No president since before Barack Obama was born has ascended to the Oval Office confronted by the accumulation of serious challenges awaiting him. Historians grasping for parallels point to Abraham Lincoln taking office as the nation was emerging from the Civil War, or Franklin D. Roosevelt arriving in



Washington on the brink of the Great Depression.

The task facing Mr. Obama does not seem to show levels, but that there are the comparisons most often cited: a 47-year-old first-term senator, with the power of Congress and an initial executive experience, now holds the responsibility of governing one vast, fractious nation from two very different and warring halves together in a divided country.

Given the depth of these issues, Mr. Obama has to do more than to "just give us some change," in the words of Louis C. Paparella, the former White House chief of staff who has been advising the transition team.

"You better start with the tough stuff up front, because if you think you can delay the tough decisions and then just the president, you're in for a lot of trouble," Mr. Paparella said. "Make the decisions that are tough and move on."

What kind of decisions? Mr. Obama will be expected to take steps to repair the economy, or at least to be more constructive and less being paralyzed by competing demands from within his own party. His performance under the harsh lights of the campaign may suggest a figure with remarkable calmness and confidence under enormous pressure, but also one who merely reacts off the metaphorical path he lays out.

"It's hard to be realistic whether passivity is the way he approached most things," said John S. Ruben, President Bush's former ambassador to the United Na-

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After Decades, A Time to Reap

By KEVIN SPACE

ALBANY, Ga. — Facing Max Baucus' locked but wily, pointed it toward her polling place on Market Avenue and started to sing.



"I'm going to vote like the spirit says," she said. "I'm going to vote like the Lord, I'm going to vote where the spirit says too."

As a 32-year-old she does not quite fit the mold of a typical voter, but she followed the same tradition long as many here: to sing at the polls. Sen. Max Baucus, a former pastor, was born in Wyoming, a former pastor, the song is often heard in Albany's City Hall, where she and other black students demonstrated the right to vote, and in the cramped and noisy halls of the city jail, which the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. described as the worst he ever inhabited.

For three days Max Baucus, who without jangling and heaving and clanking to their livelihoods, all because they wanted to vote, the short drive to the polls on Tuesday culminated a lifelong journey from a time that is to some inconceivable and nearly bordering here to another world. As they entered the voting booths, some in wheelchairs, others with canes, those that suffered of the civil rights movement could not express either their joy or their amazement at having voted for an African-American for president of the United States.

"They didn't give us our souls and our lives, but they gave us hope," Max Baucus, 67, said with a grateful smile. "It's time to reap some of the harvest."

When Max Baucus arrived at the city government where she works, her 49-year-old friend Walter L. Nelson greeted her with a hug. "We married, we sang and now it's happening," Mr. Nelson said. "It's really a blessing."

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For Many Abroad, An Ideal Renewed

By ETHAN BRONFEN

CAIRO — From the way this is being looked, there is a moment in time where a sense of optimism is being renewed, not only in the hearts of the people, but in the hearts of the world.



There where the United States is held in special esteem, the hope is that Barack Obama's election will be the beginning of a new era of peace and stability in the world.

Barack Obama, a former pastor, is a man who has inspired millions of people around the world. His election is seen as a sign of hope for a better future.

They say the country that weakened democracy has been placed through a lifetime but offers ineffective campaign for democracy — a campaign that is based on money, not on ideas. It is a time when a new ideal is being renewed.

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FINAL SCORES

Your guide to the election

Results in '08

528 races across USA. Also, interactive map at politics.usatoday.com has latest on 3,100 counties



NO. 1 IN THE USA

Congressional races



Democrats tighten grip on Senate

Dole ousted in North Carolina; Warner wins in Virginia, 11-13A

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

America makes history Obama wins



'Change has come to America,' he says after election to presidency erases a racial barrier; Democrats make gains

Where the race was won

- Florida**
McCain 40%
Obama 51%
99% of the vote
- Colorado**
McCain 45%
Obama 53%
69% of the vote
- Ohio**
McCain 47%
Obama 51%
85% of the vote
- Pennsylvania**
McCain 44%
Obama 55%
98% of the vote
- Virginia**
McCain 48%
Obama 52%
98% of the vote



The new first family! Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, and daughters, Sasha, 7, and Malia, 10, greet supporters in Chicago on Tuesday.

How the states voted



Taps into the public's anger over economy and war

By William M. Welch
USA TODAY

Democrat Barack Obama secured a historic presidential victory Tuesday, shattering a racial barrier that once rendered untenable by tapping voters' anger over the sinking economy and a long-running war.

Obama swept at least seven states that President Bush carried in 2004, including Florida, Virginia and Ohio, as he reshaped the political map. Republican John McCain saw his candidacy crumble under the weight of an unpopular GOP president and his own vigorous support for the Iraq war.

Obama, 41, will be the first African-American president and one of the youngest. Just four years ago, the son of a Kenyan father and a white woman from Kansas was elected to the Senate from Illinois.

"It's been a long time coming," Obama told more than 200,000 supporters jammed around Chicago's Grant Park. "Because of what we did on this day, in this election, in this defining moment, change has come to America."

The crowd chanted "Yes, we can" as statistics showed Obama crushed the grandstanding white-savior GOP and died two days before the triumph that will make him the nation's 44th president.

"The dream just won't," said Clara Jones, 54, a retired store manager in Chicago. "This is something I hoped I'd see but never expected to see in my lifetime... We can't stop smiling."

McCain congratulated Obama and rewarded him with a powerful crowd of supporters in Phoenix. "The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly," the Arizona senator said.

"This is a historic election, and I recognize the special significance it has for African-Americans and for the special pride that must be theirs tonight."

That a person of Obama's background won the White House is remarkable in a nation where race animates an 800-year-old issue. Only four decades ago, when Obama was 4 years old, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act to ensure blacks can vote.

He won at least 334 electoral votes, far more than the 270 necessary, and became the first Democrat

since 1876 to capture a popular vote majority.

Obama swept Democrats to victory across the country; the party gained at least five Senate seats in Colorado, Virginia, North Carolina, New Hampshire and New Mexico and picked up at least 11 House seats. Among the ousted GOP senators was North Carolina's Elizabeth Dole, a White House hopeful in 2008. Governor Jay Byrd was elected Missouri's governor.

The McCain, 72, a former Navy pilot and grandson of war in Vietnam, the less likely choice for White House duties. He led short of the GOP nomination in 2008 and was among the latest to drop out.

Surveys of voters as they left polling places showed broad support for Obama, especially among young voters, women and minorities.

Strong voter interest was visible in lines at polls in many states — evidence of a likely record turnout. A track-and-field meltdown at the polls failed to mar a historic day. Scattered problems included hours-long delays caused by faulty malfunctioning machines.

Contributing: Martha T. Moore in Chicago

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- Constitutional amendment also leads in Arizona
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- President-elect will need plan of action to deal with urgent transportation issues 1B
- Stocks post biggest gains under Democrats 1B

In Congress, a Democratic wave

Economic concerns fuel a 'turning point' in politics

By Susan Page
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — America's election of an African American as president wasn't the only breakthrough Tuesday night.

By defeating John McCain in such initially Republican states as Colorado and Virginia, Republican voters in Colorado and Virginia backed a Democrat for president in four decades — Barack Obama reshaped the electoral map that has defined American politics for a generation.

Surveys of voters as they left polling places nationwide also showed shifts in allegiances among young people, Hispanics, upscale voters and others that could intensify through future elections.

Obama's victory and Democratic gains in the House and Senate led Democrats to their strongest governing position since the post-Vietnam election in 1976. Among the Republicans who lost re-election bids were North Carolina Sen. Elizabeth Dole and New Hampshire Sen. John Sununu, members of one of the GOP's signature families.

Other analysts see a turning point in American politics like what occurred in 1980 when Republican Ronald Reagan's victory over President Carter set the nation on a more conservative course.

Please see CONGRESS next page »



John McCain: At outdoor rally in Phoenix, Republican candidate concedes and pledges his support to Obama, 7A

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LANDSLIDE

OH-BAMA!



THE WINNER: President-elect Barack Obama, his wife, Michelle, and daughters Malia, 7, and Sasha, 10, wave Tuesday in Chicago.

JOE L. HOON, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY BRYAN BURKE
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

For Democrats, the news Tuesday was all good. "That winning tone is for an American," said Nita Allen, chairman of the Democratic Foundation of Orange County. "The fact that we elected this human being is going to bring our country together."

The polls had barely closed in California when Barack Obama had enough electoral votes to be declared president. "Of course it's exciting and there are still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dreams of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our institutions."



Gay marriage ban holds slight lead

Required parental notification for girls' abortions lags by 4 points.

BY BRIAN JOSEPH
AND JENNIFER MUIR
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

SACRAMENTO • While a Democrat easily won California's vote for president, two needed issues supported by conservatives held strong late Tuesday, as ballot measures on gay marriage and abortion appeared they could go either way.

With 38 percent of precincts reporting, Proposition

8, the proposal to outlaw gay marriage, was leading, 52 percent to 43 percent — a far cry from the 25-point margin for a 2003 measure that defined marriage as between a man and a woman but a winning vote for voters who believed in a Christian right issue.

Meanwhile, Proposition 4, which would require parental notification 48 hours before a

SEE PROP. 8+ PAGE 6



ELECTION SUMMARY: 12 PAGES OF COVERAGE INSIDE

KEY STATE PROPOSITIONS FULL COVERAGE ON NEWS 4

- PROP. 10: BEHIND**
Renewable energy measures
- PROP. 4: BEHIND**
Parental notification measures for abortions
- PROP. 8: AHEAD**
Ballot initiative measure
- PROP. 5: FAIL**
Three related drug-related measures
- PROP. 1A: AHEAD**
High-speed rail measure
- PROP. 2: PASS**
Four related treatment measures



INCUMBENTS LEAD IN IRVINE
Governor Schwarzenegger, alone, held a slight lead over Clinton in the first round while 50 percent of voters were leading, Clinton's support.

SCHOOLS BONDS AHEAD EARLY
General school revenue measures were passing, while a demand for state bonds to fund a new state school system.

DEMOCRATS LEADING IN LEGISLATURE
Democrats looked to boost their majority in the state Legislature to two-thirds for the first time in at least three decades.



DEMOCRATS GAIN SEATS IN SENATE
Sen. Elizabeth Cain, D-A.C., lost to Democrat Kay Hagan, alone, but Democrats were short of a 50 percent majority.

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