

OBAMA WINS

Nation elects first black president in historic vote

BY THE NUMBERS

Popular vote
OBAMA
52%
55,405,834 votes

MCCAIN
47%
50,659,481 votes
81% precincts reporting

Electoral votes
OBAMA
338
MCCAIN
141
270 needed for victory

Louisiana vote
OBAMA
40%
754,011 votes
MCCAIN
59%
1,132,400 votes
99% precincts reporting



Associated Press photo by MORRY GASH

President-elect Barack Obama waves as he takes the stage Tuesday night at his election party in Chicago's Grant Park.

BY DAVID ESPO

AP special correspondent

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama was swept to victory as the nation's first black president Tuesday night in an electoral college landslide that overcame racial barriers as old as America itself. "Change has come," he told a jubilant hometown Chicago crowd estimated at nearly a quarter-million people.

The son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, the Democratic senator from Illinois sealed his historic triumph by defeating Republican Sen. John McCain in a string of wins in hard-fought battleground states — Ohio, Florida, Iowa and more. He captured Virginia, too, the first candidate of his party in 44 years to do so.

On a night for Democrats to savor, they not only elected Obama the nation's 44th president but padded their majorities in the House and Senate, and in January will control both the White House and Congress for the first time since 1994.

A survey of voters leaving polling places showed the economy was by far the top Election Day issue. Six in 10 voters said so, and none of the other top issues — energy, Iraq, terrorism and health care — was picked by more than one in 10.

Obama's election capped a meteoric rise — from mere state senator to president-elect in four years.

Spontaneous celebrations erupted from Atlanta to New York and Philadelphia as word of Obama's victory spread. A big crowd filled Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House.

In his first speech as victor, to an enormous throng at Grant Park in Chicago, Obama catalogued the challenges ahead. "The greatest of a lifetime," he said, "two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century."

He added, "There are many

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6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



Advocate staff photo by LIZ CONDO

Republican Bill Cassidy celebrates with his daughter Meg, 11, after being elected representative for the 6th U.S. Congressional District.

Cassidy elected

State Sen. Bill Cassidy ousted U.S. Rep. Don Cazayoux Tuesday in the 6th U.S. Congressional District race. State Rep. Michael Jackson, No Party-Baton Rouge, trailed in third place. The winner only has to get the most votes, not a 50 percent-plus-one majority. Much of Cassidy's television advertising focused on his support of Republican presidential nominee U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona. He also had the public endorsement of Gov. Bobby Jindal. Cassidy and Cazayoux shared similar conservative stances, such as their pro-life and pro-gun rights stances.

Bill Cassidy (R)
48%
150,226 votes

Don Cazayoux (D)
40%
125,716 votes

Michael Jackson (NP)
12%
36,133 votes

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U.S. SENATE



Associated Press photo by BILL HABER

U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., slaps hands with a supporter Tuesday night after claiming victory in her re-election to the Senate.

Landrieu wins third term

Democratic U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu easily won a third term Tuesday, holding off Republican state Treasurer John Kennedy with all but two of the state's 3,956 precincts reporting. Landrieu won by less of a margin than expected in the final days of the campaign. Landrieu was leading with 963,905 votes or 52 percent — while Kennedy garnered 855,723 votes or 46 percent. The remaining 2 percent of the votes cast went to three other lesser known candidates. Landrieu, 52, portrayed herself as a political centrist who works effectively with Democrats and Republicans alike.

Mary Landrieu (D)
52%
963,905 votes

John Kennedy (R)
46%
855,723 votes
(3,954 of 3,956 precincts)

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EBR TAX PROPOSAL

Holden plan fails

Voters on Tuesday rejected Mayor-President Kip Holden's proposal to raise sales and property taxes to fund a \$989-million construction program. With all 314 precincts reporting late Tuesday, there were 90,464 votes against and 87,393 votes for Holden's proposed half-cent sales tax and 9.9-mill property tax to fund the program, according to complete but unofficial returns.

The proposal included plans for public works projects, a new jail, expansion of the River Center and a new riverfront attraction operated by the Audubon Nature Institute. Supporters said Audubon's \$247.5-million project would have generated enough economic development to pay off the 30-year bond issue in less than 20 years.

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For
49%
87,393 votes
Against
51%
90,464 votes
(314 of 314 precincts)

Business	1D	Deaths	18A
Classified	1F	Movies	5E
Comics	7E	Notices	10F
Commentary	7B	Opinion	6B

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