

FINAL SCORES

Your guide to the election



528 races across USA

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Congressional races



Kay Hagan: Defeats Elizabeth Dole.

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

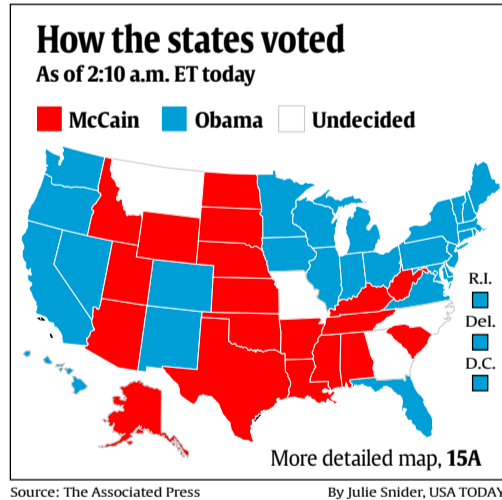
Florida McCain 49% Obama 51% 99% of the vote

Colorado McCain 45% Obama 53% 69% of the vote

Ohio McCain 47% Obama 51% 85% of the vote

Pennsylvania McCain 44% Obama 55% 99% 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.

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 seemed unbreakable by tapping voter 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 crushed under the weight of an unpopular GOP president and his own vigorous support for the Iraq war.

Obama, 47, 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 emotions flowed. Obama recalled the grandmother who raised him and died two days before the triumph that will make him the nation's 44th president.

"I'm almost past words," said Clara Jones, 58, 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 conceded before a tearful 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 relations are still sometimes tense. 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 338 electoral votes, far more than the 270 necessary, and became the first Democrat

since 1976 to capture a popular-vote majority.

Obama swept Democrats to victory across the country: His 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 2000. Democrat Jay Nixon was elected Missouri's governor.

For McCain, 72, a former Navy pilot and prisoner of war in Vietnam, the loss likely ended his White House dreams. He fell short of the GOP nomination in 2000 and was among the oldest nominees ever.

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 much-feared meltdown at the polls failed to materialize. Scattered problems included hours-long delays caused by faulty malfunctioning machines.

Contributing: Martha T. Moore in Chicago

Newsline

News Money Sports Life

Chicago celebrates Obama victory

'Is this real?' reveler asks; others pray, weep. 3A. Michelle Obama's focus on family. 3A.

Gay-marriage ban gains in California

Constitutional amendments also lead in Arizona, Florida; two states loosen marijuana laws. 18A. Democrats win statehouse in Missouri. 13A.

Money: Winner faces economic mess

President-elect will need plan of action to deal with urgent marketplace issues. 1B. Stocks post bigger gains under Democrats. 1B.

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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 reliably Republican states as Colorado and Virginia — capital of the Confederacy and a state that hasn't 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 na-

tionwide also showed shifts in allegiances among young people, Hispanics, upscale voters and others that could reverberate through future elections.

Obama's victory and Democratic gains in the House and Senate led Democrats to their strongest governing position since the post-Watergate 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 two of the GOP's signature families.

Some 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 conserva-

Please see COVER STORY next page



John McCain: At outdoor rally in Phoenix.

McCain: 'People have spoken'

Republican candidate concedes and pledges his support to Obama, 7A

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