

Obama Wins!

First black president elected



(AP) — Barack Obama was elected the nation's first black president Tuesday night in a historic triumph that overcame racial barriers as old as America itself.

The son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, the Democratic senator from Illinois won the victory by defeating Republican Sen. John McCain's coalition of two hard-fought battleground states — Ohio, Florida, Virginia and Iowa.

A signature in Grant Park in Chicago erupted in jubilation at the news of Obama's victory Tuesday night.

McCain called to concede defeat — and the end of Obama's 18-year quest for the White House. Obama and his running mate, Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, will take their oaths of office as president and vice president on Jan. 20, 2009.

As the 44th president, Obama will move into the Oval Office as leader of a country that is almost equally in recession, and fighting two long wars, one in Iraq, the other in Afghanistan.

The popular vote was close, but not the closest in the Electoral College, where it mattered most.

Then, Obama's watershed decision to endorse McCain in states that hadn't gone Democratic in over 60 years shocked Obama fans and his. Some order of presidential business will be to tackle the economy. McCain also pledged to withdraw most U.S. combat troops from Iraq within 18 months.

fellow Democrats made his campaign to larger aspirations in both houses of Congress. They defeated incumbent Republicans and now open seats by him.

The 47-year-old Illinois senator was little known just four years ago. A widely praised speech at the Democratic National Convention, delivered when he was merely a candidate for the Senate, changed that.

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Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., was elected president Tuesday, becoming the first African American or any person of color to win the nation's highest office.

Obama Wins! Nov. 5, 2008 – Portland Observer cover issue reports on the election of Barack Obama as first Black President of the United States, a historic triumph that overcame racial barriers as old as America itself.



Reflecting on its diversity mission by paying tribute to community leaders, the Portland Observer Foundation held its first annual service awards dinner on Friday. Pictured (from left) are Rakewen Washington, Mary Murphy, SarahVine Dixon, Chuck Washington, Raymi Elser, Andrea Brown, Clarina Boston and Karanja Crews.

Community Service Awards

Foundation dinner promotes diversity

by CARL HADENCOX
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Congregants from The Light Road poured into the room as more than 200 community supporters settled into their seats at the Portland Observer Foundation's first Community Services Award Dinner inside the Double Tree Hotel in southeast Portland on Friday.

Warm mingling and chatter came to a halt as JOHN S. Anchor and Master of Ceremonies



Community Service Awards, Nov. 14, 2012 – The Portland Observer hosts more than 200 community members for its First Community Services Award Dinner. Special recognition was made to Ron Herndon of Albina Head Start, John Jackley of the Portland Development Commission, Charlene Williams of Portland Public Schools, former Sen. Avel Gordly, TriMet's Mary Fetsch and Bruce Watts, Corliss McKeever of the African American Health Coalition, and Cinna'mon Williams of Home Forward. Six Portland area students were awarded scholarships for their work as outstanding contributors to their schools and community.



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