

The State News

“CHANGE HAS COME”



JASON CHIOU/THE STATE NEWS

The next president of the United States, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks to a crowd of 70,000 Tuesday night at Grant Park in Chicago after receiving the poll results. Obama will be sworn in Jan. 20, 2009 in Washington, D.C.

Obama pledges a new dawn for American people; McCain ends 10-year bid for White House

“If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible ... tonight is your answer.”

Barack Obama, president elect

From staff and wire reports

History. It was the defining theme of the election season, from Hillary Clinton's groundbreaking campaign, to Barack Obama's historic nomination, to Sarah Palin's arrival on the Republican ticket. And Tuesday, history was written again. America will have a black president for the first time. “If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible ... tonight is your answer,” Obama, a senator from Illinois, said in his first speech to America as the president elect.

After gaining a substantial lead over Republican candidate John McCain in the polls during the past several weeks, Obama secured the oval office by 11 p.m. Tuesday, with the announcement that he had clinched the usually Republican-voting state of Virginia. Chicago's Grant Park, where tens of thousands had gathered to hear Obama's acceptance speech, immediately erupted in an enormous, prolonged roar and a flurry of camera flashes.

“(Tonight) will be people high-fiving, holding hands and people talking about their dreams,” said San Diego resident Heather Currie, who came to Chicago to celebrate Obama's victory.

Obama will be sworn in Jan. 20, 2009, and will become the 44th president of the United States. To win, a candidate must obtain 270 of the possible 538 electoral votes.

For many, this election was about change. With the nation in a financial crisis and a seven-year-old war in Iraq, many voters believed a change of party leadership will lead to a change of policy.

Now that Obama has clinched the

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NICHOLE HOERNER/THE STATE NEWS

James Madison College freshman Michael Overton, an intern for the Barack Obama campaign, reacts to TV coverage from Chicago at Dublin Square Irish Pub, 327 Abbot Road, after Obama won the 2008 presidential election.



NICHOLE HOERNER/THE STATE NEWS

East Lansing resident and MSU alumna La Rae Griggs, a volunteer for the Barack Obama office, cheers while watching the results of the presidential election Tuesday night at Dublin Square Irish Pub, 327 Abbot Road.

SWINGING THE VOTE

Out of all 50 states, 13 have been listed as important battlegrounds. Here's how the toss-ups landed: (rounded to the nearest percent)



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