

To read about the MSU men's basketball team's win in an exhibition game against Northern Michigan, go to [stateneews.com](http://stateneews.com).

# The State News

## ELECTION

### CITY CLERK: E.L. HAD 65 PERCENT VOTER TURNOUT

#### Voter turnout in primarily student precincts

**Precinct 1:** 1,655 voters, 63.07 percent of registered voters

**Precinct 13:** 1,410 voters, 60.23 percent of registered voters

**Precinct 14:** 1,240 voters, 61.54 percent of registered voters

**Precinct 15:** 1,958 voters, 63.10 percent of registered voters

SOURCE: THE CITY OF EAST LANSING

#### By Allison Bush

THE STATE NEWS

Students who were gathered at the polls by 7 a.m. on Election Day had taken East Lansing City Clerk Nicole Evans' advice: Get to the polls early to avoid the peak hours.

"Students heard the call about off-peak hours being at 7 a.m. — so they all showed up at 7 a.m. and created a new peak time," she said, laughing.

These students were part of the 23,850 registered East Lansing voters who voted in the presidential election Tuesday, a 29.8 percent increase from 2004.

"The turnout for East Lansing was 65 percent (of registered voters), and the turnout in 2004 was 63 percent — it doesn't look like a record turnout; however, you have to compare the number of registered population in 2004 and in 2008," Evans said.

There were 18,376 registered voters in East Lansing in 2004.

East Lansing resident Dave Guerra said although the weather was great, the turnout number was more a result of the candidates.

"It was the candidates for sure," Spanish education senior Caitlin Bahra said. "People were ready for a change after the past few years, and (Barack) Obama focused his message on young people more than anyone else has."

However, the record number of voters did not come without

See **VOTERS** on page 2A

## Bringing about change

Obama plans for presidential staff, shapes policies

#### By Kelly House

THE STATE NEWS

Now that the votes have been counted and the confetti has cleared, it's time for President-elect Barack Obama to begin contemplating the people and policies that will shape his administration. Obama began to tackle the first items of business Wednesday in several hours of meetings, during which he reportedly made calls to possible cabinet members.

Although no formal announcement was made as of press time, several media outlets reported that Obama had selected Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill., to be his chief of staff.

Emanuel is a former aide to President Bill Clinton and chairman of the Democratic caucus. His reported selection is the first in what is expected to be a slew of appointments of competent, experienced policymakers and thinkers to Obama's cabinet, experts said.

"His emphasis is going to be on putting together the best possible administration and having those people he is selecting begin to work on the best possible plans," said Steve Mitchell, chairman of East Lansing-based Mitchell Research and Communications Inc.

Obama announced in a written statement that former Clinton chief of staff John D. Podesta, longtime adviser Valerie Jarrett and Pete Rouse, his Senate chief of staff, will co-chair his transition team.

Mitchell said the team's cabinet selections will include some of the nation's best economic planners and foreign affairs specialists to deal with the nation's most pressing issues: The economic crisis and the



JAE C. HONG/AP

President-elect Barack Obama, left, and Vice President-elect Joe Biden celebrate Tuesday after Obama's acceptance speech at the election night rally in Chicago.

wars in the Middle East.

"He's being elected to lead, and that's the primary thing that people want right now," he said.

Mitchell said Obama's cabinet likely will be "as diverse as the electorate who nominated him."

After 21 months of campaign promises, it's likely that Obama will have to rethink and revise some of the policies he outlined in the campaign, experts said.

They said the economic crisis will make it more difficult for Obama to remodel tax

and expenditure policies.

"President-elect Obama will have to pick and choose," economics professor Charles Ballard said. "That is the essence of leadership: Having to make choices, some of which are difficult."

But which policies Obama will choose to scale back, the ones that might be axed and those that will be kept as is are anyone's guess, Ballard said.

"It's not an all-or-nothing thing," Ballard said. "There's

See **OBAMA** on page 2A

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Steve Mitchell, chairman of Mitchell Research and Communications Inc.

## UNIVERSITY

### DEMS TAKE 2 TRUSTEE POSITIONS

#### By Justin Harris

THE STATE NEWS

Riding the coattails of President-elect Barack Obama, Democrats were elected to the state's three public university boards, including MSU's Board of Trustees.

Democrats Dianne Byrum and Diann Woodard beat Republican candidates Lisa Bouchard and incumbent G. Scott Romney, giving the board a 6-2 Democratic majority come January 2009.

"Even though a lot of what we deal with is not necessarily partisan, I'm excited that I'm going to be joining a Democratic majority," Byrum said.

Woodard, a school administrator in Detroit and a 1973 MSU graduate, said she has a lot to learn before January.

"I've got to learn all that there is to know about what trustees do," she said. "I've got to talk with others about what's happened past and present and then look toward the future."

A 1974 MSU graduate, Byrum said she is excited about serving on the university's governing board.

"I have a lot of love for the university and I have a desire to make sure it remains an outstanding, high-quality university for today's students and future generations of students," she said.

Byrum and Woodard replace Romney and Democratic trustee Dorothy Gonzales.

Romney, the son of former Michigan Gov. George Romney and brother of former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, served on the board for eight years after being elected in 2000.

"I'm disappointed I didn't win and I'm honored to have served as long as I did," Romney said. "(I) hope that everybody continues — and I believe that everybody will continue — to work for the best of the university. But it was great fun to serve while I did."

Bouchard could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Republican Trustee Melanie Foster said Tuesday night she was disappointed with the election's

See **BOARD** on page 2A

## CIVIL RIGHTS

### Bans on same-sex marriage pass

#### By Abby Lubbers

THE STATE NEWS

Same-sex marriage was banned in three more states Tuesday amid an election that many Americans viewed as progressive.

But the mantra of change did not sweep as far as the gay and lesbian community was hoping it would.

Arizona and Florida passed bans on gay marriage, and it looks as though the ban also will pass in California.

"It indicates, as a country, that we still have a long way to go," said Brent Bilodeau, director of MSU's LGBT Resource Center.

But California's ban on same-sex marriage does not fully exclude gay and lesbian couples of spousal rights — they are still granted limited rights through domestic partnerships.

The California same-sex marriage ban, known as Proposition 8, passed by about 400,000 votes. But the state still needs to count about 3 million absentee and provisional ballots, assistant James Madison College professor

#### Same-sex unions

**Same-sex marriage:** Massachusetts is the only state to issue marriage licenses to gay couples.

**Twelve states banned same-sex marriage in 2004:** Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Ohio, Utah and Oregon.

**Three states banned same-sex marriage Tuesday:** Arizona, California and Florida.

and gay politics expert Michael Crow said.

Twelve states, including Michigan, banned same-sex marriage in 2004.

Although America decisively favored the Democrats on Tuesday, Crow said the voter demographic actually favored the bans.

"Senator Obama's election made it easier to pass these measures because of the increased African American voter turnout,"

#### Want to know more?

Check out more about same-sex marriage on page 5A.

Crow said. "African American voters tend to be socially conservative; a lot of white voters opposed the ban."

But Obama's campaign stressed change, and Josh Mendelson, an advertising junior, said he hopes the democratic government majority will be able to reverse the bans.

"Right now, we've lost a battle, but we haven't lost the war. We still have time to get it passed," he said.

Bilodeau said same-sex marriage bans reinforce a negative message about gay couples.

"I am very disturbed by the message (the bans) send to LGBT people. It reinforces an idea that our relationships are not legitimate," Bilodeau said.

Massachusetts is the only state with legalized same-sex marriage, although four other states grant civil unions.

See **BAN** on page 2A

## CITY COUNCIL

### Rentals restricted, AT&T cable approved for E.L.

#### By Allison Bush

THE STATE NEWS

East Lansing residents soon will have a choice between cable service providers, as the

East Lansing City Council voted Tuesday to approve AT&T Michigan's video service in the city.

"Residents already have a choice of different dish services, but this will be another choice for them in terms of cable services in their homes," said Ted Staton, city manager for East Lansing.

However, the city did not have a choice in approving this issue, because the state took local franchising authority away from municipality governments about two years ago, Staton said.

"They did this because they felt some local governments were unreasonably restricting competition within their boundaries," he said.

The City Council also approved a rental restriction overlay on a portion of the Farwood Neighborhood at its meeting.

The overlay prohibits certain types of houses from converting to rentals, though already existing rentals will be allowed to remain as rentals.

"It was petitioned for by the folks in that particular area, that was something they have requested," said Annette Irwin, East Lansing's operations administrator for Code Enforcement and Neighborhood Conservation.

Several residents spoke at the meeting to show their support of the overlay.

"It's a very stable neighborhood, and I believe stable

See **COUNCIL** on page 2A

## OBAMA

**MSU's black community responds to the election of the nation's first minority president, page 3A.**

## RESEARCH

**A new drug could help treat potentially fatal staph infections that are sometimes common among college-aged students, page 3A.**



Weather

Mostly sunny  
High 70° | Low 51°

Three-day forecast, Page 2