

HISTORIC

‘Change has come to America’

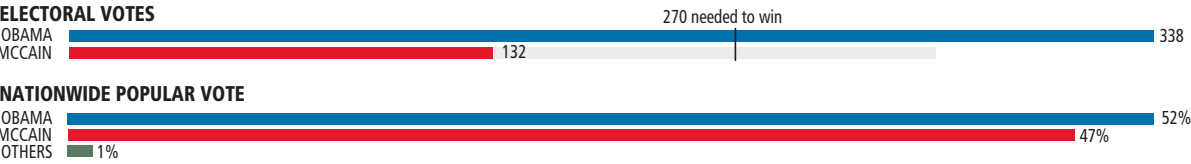
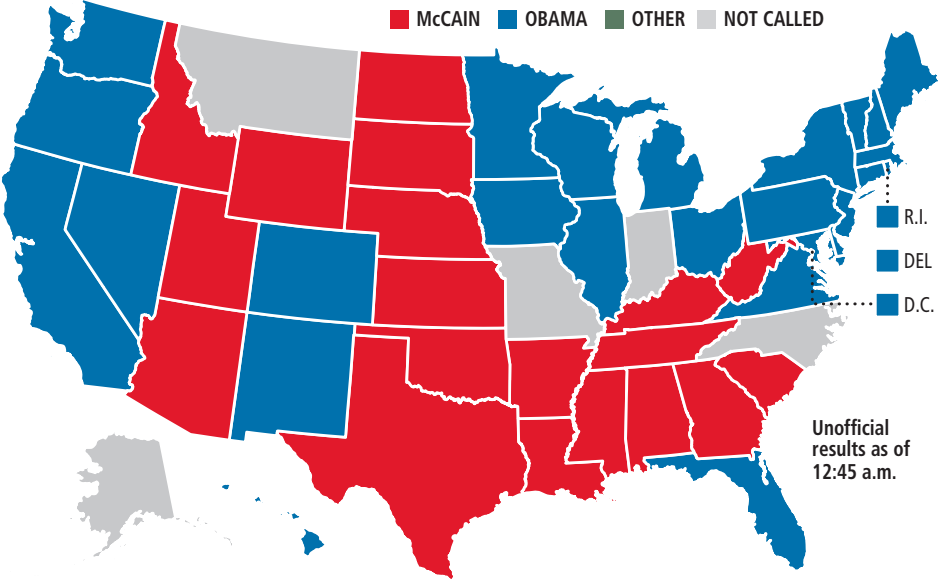
Barack Obama becomes the 44th President of the United States

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PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION
BREAKDOWN

In the end, Barack Obama swept to victory with an electoral college landslide kicked off by a string of victories in hard-fought battleground states — Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa and more. It was a meteoric rise from state senator to president-elect in just four years, riding on a promise of change and unity.

Source: Associated Press



By ADAM NAGOURNEY
New York Times News Service

Barack Hussein Obama was elected the 44th president of the United States on Tuesday, sweeping away the last racial barrier in American politics with ease as the country chose him as its first black chief executive.

Obama's election amounted to a national catharsis — a repudiation of a historically unpopular Republican president and his economic and foreign policies, and an embrace of Obama's call for a change in the direction and the tone of the country. But it was just as much a strikingly symbolic moment in the evolution of the nation's fraught racial history, a breakthrough that would have seemed unthinkable just two years ago.

Obama, a 47-year-old first-term senator from Illinois, defeated Sen. John McCain of Arizona, 72, a former prisoner of war who was making his second bid for the presidency. To the very end, McCain's campaign was eclipsed by an opponent who was nothing short of a phenomenon, drawing huge crowds epitomized by the tens of thousands of people who turned out Tuesday night to hear Obama's victory speech in Grant Park in Chicago.

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