

Democratic Senator Barack Obama has won the 2008 presidential election and will be **sworn** in as the first black president of the United States on January 20, 2009.



"It's been a long time coming, but tonight... change has come to America," the new president told a **thrilled crowd** at a **gathering** in Chicago. His rival John McCain **accepted defeat**, and called on his **supporters** to help the next president. The **outcome** of the election shows that American people are strongly unhappy with the **status quo**, and that they are **slamming** the door on the country's racial history.

Mr. Obama **appeared** with his family, and the new Vice President Joe Biden, before a **crowd** of tens of thousands in Grant Park, Chicago. Many people in the crowd cried as Mr. Obama spoke. "If there is anyone out there who still **doubts** that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our **founders** is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer," he said.

He said he had **received** a call from Mr McCain whom he **praised** as a **brave** and **selfless** leader. He had warm words for his family, telling his daughters: "Sasha and Malia, I love you both more than you can imagine, and you have **earned** the new puppy that's coming with us to the White House."

But he added: "Even as we **celebrate** tonight, we know the **challenges** that tomorrow will bring are the greatest of our lifetime - two wars, a planet in **peril**, the worst financial crisis in a **century**. "The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be **steep**. But America - I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there."

Mr Obama won the **key battleground** states of Pennsylvania and Ohio, before getting the 270 **Electoral College** votes. Then came the news that he had won Florida, Virginia and Colorado - all of which voted Republican in 2004 - turning the **map** from red to blue.

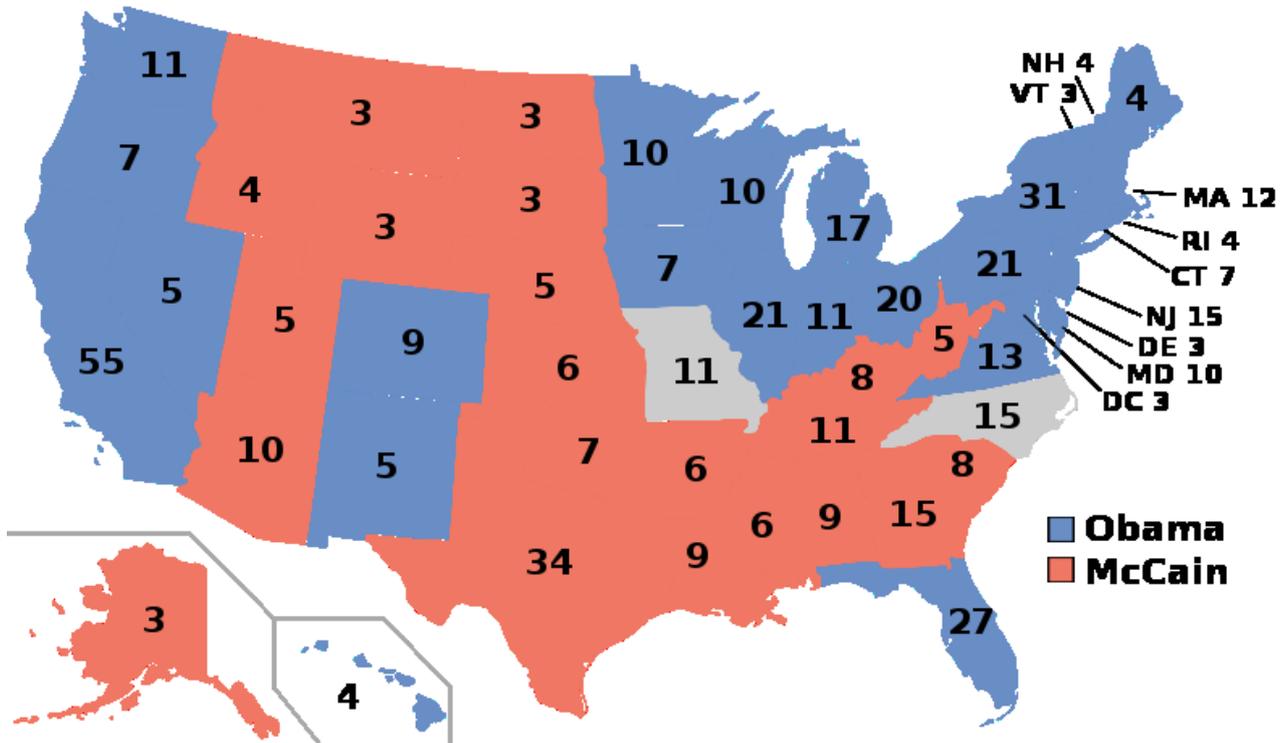
Mr Obama got about 52.3% of the **popular vote** compared with Mr. McCain's 46.4%.

About 130 million Americans went to vote - more than for any election since 1960. The Democrats also **increased** their **majority** in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Words

- **accept** = *annehmen*
- **appear** = show yourself
- **battleground** = here: something you have to fight for
- **brave** = fearless
- **celebrate** = *feiern*
- **century** = a hundred years
- **challenge** = something difficult = *Herausforderung*
- **crowd** = many people who are together in a small area
- **defeat** = *Niederlage*
- **doubt** = to think that something may not be true = *zweifeln*
- **earn** = *verdienen*
- **electoral college** = group of people from each state who get together to elect the President
- **founder** = the people who were the first to live in America and start a new country = *Gründungsväter*

- **gathering** = meeting
- **increase** = to make bigger
- **key** = very important
- **majority** = *Mehrheit*
- **map** = *Landkarte*
- **outcome** = result
- **peril** = danger
- **popular vote** = the votes by the people themselves = *direkte Stimmen*
- **praise** = admire
- **receive** = get
- **selfless** = if you care about other people more than about yourself
- **slam** = shut very loudly
- **status quo** = the situation as it is now
- **steep** = opposite of flat = *steil*
- **supporter** = helper
- **swear-sworn** = a statement that you make when you take on an official position
- **thrill** = very excited, happy



Electoral College votes	Winning post 270
 Obama - Democrat	349
 McCain - Republican	162
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