

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008

PALM BEACH COUNTY EDITION » 50¢



'Change has come to America'

TIMOTHY A. CLARY, AFP

On a historic night, Barack Obama sweeps to victory as nation's 44th president

By William E. Gibson
WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

Propelled by enthusiastic supporters who demanded a dramatic change in the course of the country, Democrat Barack Obama won a historic election on Tuesday to become the first black president.

Obama's convincing victory over Republican John McCain set off ecstatic celebrations in his hometown of Chicago and at election-night parties in South Florida and across the country.

"It's been a long time coming. But tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this election at this defining moment, change has come to America," Obama declared before a crowd of tens of thousands and a television audience of millions.

Obama won the states of the Northeast, the Midwest and the West Coast. Florida, the largest contested state, helped clinch his victory and will cast its 27 electoral votes for a Democrat for only the second time in the last eight presidential elections.

"The people have spoken and they have spoken clearly," McCain told a disheartened throng of supporters in Phoenix. "This is an historic election, and I recognize the special significance it has for African-Americans and for the special pride that must be theirs tonight."

Obama inspired a big turnout from voters who demanded change after two wars, a financial crisis and eight years of Republican control of the White House.

Election 2008 put Democrats firmly in charge of the federal government, with strengthened

» ELECTION PAGE 3

★ NATIONAL COVERAGE BEGINS ON PAGE 3

Obama speaks: "A new dawn of American leadership is at hand," he told a massive victory rally at Grant Park in Chicago. » **Page 4**

Impossible dream: South Florida blacks express pride and joy at the election of the first black president. » **Page 4**

U.S. Senate: Democrats strengthen their grip, but might not get the filibuster-proof majority they hoped for. » **Page 6**

U.S. House: It was a good night for most of South Florida's U.S. representatives. » **Page 12**

★ LOCAL COVERAGE BEGINS ON LOCAL FRONT

Elections Supervisor: Susan Bucher was leading Bob Margolis in the high-profile county race. » **Local, page 3**

Gay Marriage: With more than 90 percent of the vote in, it appeared a Florida amendment banning gay marriage was approved. Several other constitutional amendments also were winning. » **Local, page 3**

Wexler looks safe: U.S. Rep. Robert Wexler was winning against Democratic challenger Ben Graber in Congressional District 1 » **Page 4**

Late results: See late results on state and local races. » **Page 26**
Continuous updates at **SunSentinel.com**

