



BARACK OBAMA for PRESIDENT

BEGINNINGS -

Barack Obama was born in Hawaii in 1961. Growing up, his family didn't have much, but they instilled in him core American values: accountability and self-reliance, love of country, and treating your neighbor as you'd like to be treated.

Barack worked his way through school with loans and part-time jobs, and after college passed up Wall Street jobs to help rebuild communities in Chicago that had been devastated by steel plant closings.

After three years, Barack enrolled at Harvard Law School. In his second year, he was elected President of the Harvard Law Review by his fellow students, making him the first African American to hold that prestigious position.

After graduating, Barack turned down high-paying corporate jobs and returned to Chicago, where he ran a voter registration drive that brought 150,000 new voters into the political process. In 1992, Barack married Michelle Robinson.

$^{\scriptscriptstyle -}$ PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST $^{\scriptscriptstyle -}$

In 1996, Barack was elected to the Illinois State Senate, where he took on some of the most challenging issues. Working with legislators from both parties, Obama passed new laws to provide tax breaks to working families, move thousands from welfare to work, and expand health care to 150,000 children and parents.

In 2003, Barack launched his improbable run for the U.S. Senate, and won in a landslide -- across big cities, suburban areas, and small towns alike. In the Senate, Barack has worked to create laws that reflect our values -- on foreign policy, education, health care, and the environment.

CHANGING WASHINGTON

In Washington, Barack joined the Senate Foreign Relations and Veterans' Affairs Committees. Working with Republican Dick Lugar, he passed a new law to help keep loose nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists. On the Veterans' committee, he worked for legislation improving care for our wounded warriors of Iraq and Afghanistan. To strengthen the voices of everyday Americans in the halls of Congress, he passed the toughest ethics law since Watergate to rein in the power of lobbyists and special interests.

Barack Obama's economic growth plan starts with an understanding that middle class families are struggling. His plan will jumpstart our economy, create new jobs, and build an economy that works for everyone.

Whether it's the poverty exposed by Katrina, the genocide in Darfur, or the role of faith in our politics, Barack Obama continues to speak out on the issues that will define America in the 21st century. But above all his accomplishments and experiences, he is most proud and grateful for his family. His wife, Michelle, and his two daughters, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, live on Chicago's South Side.



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