



BARACK H. OBAMA

President of the United States

Barack H. Obama (Democrat) was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States on Jan. 20, 2009, the first African-American to hold the office. He was re-elected to a second term on Nov. 6, 2012.

Upon taking office, President Obama faced the worst economic recession in decades and immediately led passage of a \$787 billion stimulus package, the largest in the nation's history. The plan provided funding to save and create jobs; cut taxes for working families and small businesses; and invested in energy, infrastructure and technology sectors vital to the economy. He also implemented a \$60 billion bailout plan for auto manufacturers that is credited with saving as many as 1.4 million jobs and rescuing the auto industry.

President Obama also signed sweeping financial regulatory reform legislation to promote financial stability in the wake of the economic crisis. Affecting nearly every aspect of the nation's financial services industry, the law provides stricter oversight and accountability of financial firms, and protects consumers from deceptive and abusive financial services and credit-lending practices.

President Obama won a historic victory with passage of a comprehensive health-care reform bill in March 2010. The groundbreaking measure provides health insurance options to more than 30 million Americans who do not have coverage, subsidizes tax credits to help middle- and low-income taxpayers afford health insurance, and precludes insurance companies from denying coverage to individuals with pre-existing health conditions.

In May 2011, Obama ordered elite military forces in Pakistan to capture and kill Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. With the completed withdrawal of American military troops from Iraq in December 2011, he fulfilled his promise to end the Iraq War. He also signed a reform measure to phase out unnecessary and outdated defense weapon systems and to stop waste and fraud in Pentagon contracts and procurement.

Obama entered public service when he was elected to the Illinois Senate in 1996, representing Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. As a candidate for the U.S. Senate in 2004, he rose to national prominence after delivering an inspirational keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in Boston. He won his U.S. Senate seat by the largest vote margin in Illinois history. As the junior Senator from Illinois, Obama reached across the aisle to pass lobbying and ethics reform, and brought transparency to government by allowing the public to track federal spending online.

President Obama was born Aug. 4, 1961, in Honolulu, Hawaii, to a mother from Kansas and a father from Kenya. He graduated from Columbia University in 1982, and moved to Chicago in 1985 to work as a community organizer. After obtaining his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1991, where he was the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review, he returned to Chicago and taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago.

President Barack Obama has published two books and was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. He and his wife, Michelle, have two daughters.

The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1414; 202-456-6213 (TTY/TDD); www.whitehouse.gov