



The Birmingham News

OBAMA WINS

PRESIDENT-ELECT | 'Change has come to America'
CONGRESS | Democrats expand control of Senate and House. **4B-5B**



AP/MORRY GASH

"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," president-elect Barack Obama said during his acceptance speech in Chicago on Tuesday.

THE ALABAMA VOTE

More than 2 million Alabamians cast ballots

By **CHARLES J. DEAN**
News staff writer

Record numbers of Alabama voters kept the state Republican red Tuesday, but it mattered little on a day that saw Democratic Sen. Barack Obama defeat Sen. John McCain to become the nation's first African-American president.

"It's a wonderful piece of history, a wonderful time in history, almost a miraculous time, from my point of

view," said Richard Arrington as, at his home, he watched television networks declare Obama the winner; he will be the nation's 44th president. Arrington knows a little something about making history: He was elected Birmingham's first black mayor 29 years ago.

At the Bottle Tree Cafe, on Birmingham's Southside, a crowd of about 200 Obama

See **ALABAMA** | Page 3B

THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEGACY

Civil rights foot soldiers watch a racial sea change

By **TOM GORDON, THOMAS SPENCER and GREG GARRISON**
News staff writers

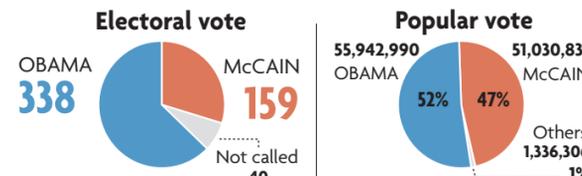
Even as they made history, breaking down barriers to black participation in American life, Fred Gray, Richard Arrington and Alvin Holmes never believed they would live long enough to see a black man elected president.

All were happy to be proved wrong by Barack Obama on Tuesday night.

"It tells me the country is headed in the right direction because in order for him to be where he is now, he had to receive a lot of votes from people who do not look like he does," said Gray, who represented civil rights figures such as Rosa Parks and

See **CIVIL** | Page 2B

STATES WON



ALABAMA RESULTS 97% of precincts reporting

JOHN McCain	BARACK OBAMA
1,217,628 votes	788,141 votes
60%	39%

INSIDE

How will Obama lead? 1B
Alabama Supreme Court race undecided. 1B
In exit polls, women, blacks support Obama. 8B

THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Nation elects its first black president

By **DAVID ESPO**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Barack Obama swept to victory as the nation's first black president Tuesday night in an electoral college landslide that overcame racial barriers as old as America itself. "Change has come to America," he told a jubilant hometown Chicago crowd estimated at nearly a quarter-million people.

The son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, the Democratic senator from Illinois sealed his historic triumph by defeating Republican Sen. John McCain in a string of wins in hard-fought battleground states — Ohio, Florida, Iowa and more. He captured Virginia, too, the first candidate of his party in 44 years to do so.

On a night for Democrats to savor, they not only elected Obama the nation's 44th president but padded their majorities in the House and Senate, and in January will control both the White House and Congress for the first time since 1994.

See **PRESIDENT** | Page 3B

INDEX

Classified	1F	Money	8D
Comics	6G	Movies	5G
Deaths	4B	Scene & Heard	2A
Editorials	6A	Sports	1D
Food	1G	Tech Report	11D
Local News	1C	Television	4G

WEATHER
 Details / 6C

High **78** Low **51**

IN TODAY'S PAPER

An interview with John Parker Wilson

SPORTS | Section D

For home delivery, call **205-325-4444**

6 58884 10001 1

Printed on 100% recycled paper