



## BARACK OBAMA

### United States Senator

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Barack Obama (Democrat) became the fifth African-American U.S. Senator in history when he was elected by an overwhelming majority on Nov. 2, 2004.

Obama has dedicated his life to public service as a community organizer, civil rights attorney and leader in the Illinois State Senate, where he served for eight years. He continues his fight for working families in Illinois and throughout the country in the U.S. Senate. Obama currently serves on several committees including Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Veterans' Affairs; and Foreign Relations.

In the U.S. Senate, Barack Obama has focused on tackling the challenges of a globalized, 21st-century world with fresh thinking and a politics that no longer settles for the lowest common denominator. Recognizing the terrorist threat posed by weapons of mass destruction, he traveled to Russia to begin a new generation of non-proliferation efforts designed to find and secure deadly weapons around the world. Knowing the threats to our economy and security as a result of America's addiction to oil, he's working to bring auto companies, unions, farmers, businesses and politicians of both parties together to promote the greater use of alternative fuels and higher fuel standards in cars. He also has been the lead voice in championing ethics reform that would root out corruption in Congress. Whether it's the poverty exposed by Katrina, the genocide in Darfur, or the role of faith in our politics, Barack Obama continues to lead on the issues that will define America in the 21st century.

Obama was born Aug. 4, 1961, in Hawaii. He graduated from Columbia University in 1983 and moved to Chicago in 1985 to work as a community organizer in poor neighborhoods plagued with crime and high unemployment. In 1991, he graduated from Harvard Law School, where he was the first African-American president of the *Harvard Law Review*.

Sen. Obama and his wife, Michelle, have two daughters, Malia and Sasha. They reside on Chicago's south side.

**Web site:** [www.obama.senate.gov](http://www.obama.senate.gov)