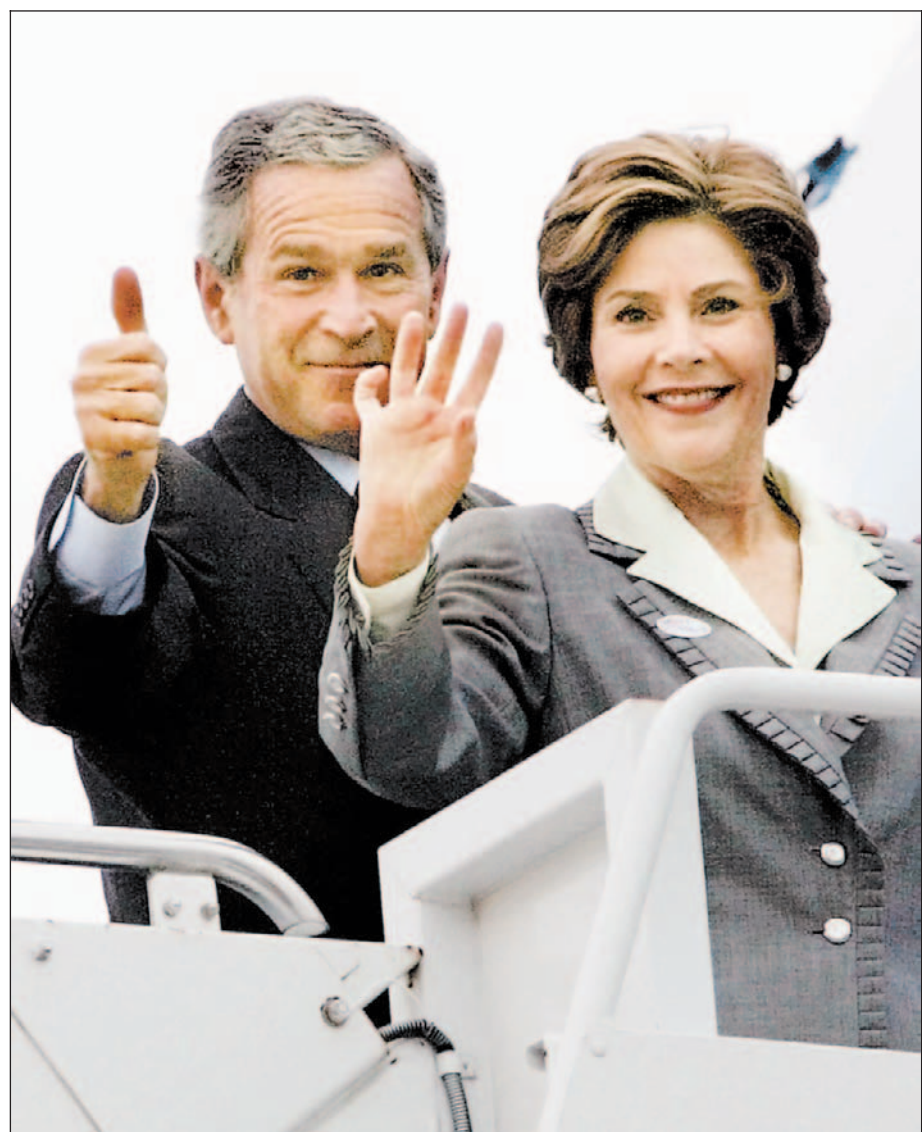




ELECTION 2004

Bush leads popular vote; Kerry camp vows a fight

Obama sails to Senate win | Midwest states hold key



AP photo by Pablo Martinez Monsivais
President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush board Air Force One on Tuesday in Texas. "I know we've got a lot of work to do," the president said.



Los Angeles Times photo by Carolyn Cole
Sen. John Kerry and Teresa Heinz Kerry leave the State House in Boston. The senator talked about "the power of democracy, the power of good argument."

By Jeff Zeleny and Rick Pearson
Tribune staff reporters

President Bush held a commanding lead in the popular vote over Sen. John Kerry early Wednesday, but the two rivals were locked in a tenacious Electoral College fight for the White House as officials in key Midwest states painstakingly counted ballots amid historic voter turnout that left Election Day hanging with a question mark.

For the second consecutive presidential race, Americans endured a spellbinding conclusion to an intensely fought campaign, with Bush winning Florida and Kerry claiming Pennsylvania. The outcome remained in doubt and could be the subject of a postelection legal battle as both sides anxiously pored over results in Ohio, Iowa and Wisconsin, which held the electoral votes critical to each candidate.

"I believe I will win, thank you very much," Bush said while awaiting results with his family in the private quarters of the White House.

Sen. John Edwards, the Democratic vice presidential candidate, said early Wednesday that the Kerry campaign would not concede the election despite trailing Bush in the polls and on the Electoral College map.

"We've waited four years for this victory," Edwards told supporters in Boston. "We can wait one more night. ... We will fight for every vote."

Election night unfolded with all the drama of a political reality show, with Kerry and Bush trading predictable wins throughout the evening. Kerry tracked his progress from his home in Boston, waiting for a conclusion to his come-from-be-

PLEASE SEE ELECT, PAGE 15

THE TURNOUT

First-time voters flock to the polls

By Howard Witt and Andrew Martin
Tribune correspondents

MILWAUKEE — Michael Froelich didn't follow the presidential race much. He didn't even get around to registering to vote until Election Day.

But the 20-year-old junior joined millions of other young people who voted for the first time Tuesday, and he stood patiently in a long line that snaked through his Marquette University polling precinct.

First-time voters played a crucial role and their participation boosted voter turnout to historic levels Tuesday.

"I just felt the need to contribute because it's our future," said Froelich, who was able to vote because a Wisconsin law allows voters to register on Election Day.

Huge numbers of voters queued in lines, some as long as six hours, and many states reported record turnouts. Forecasts that up to 120 million people, or nearly 60 percent of the voting-age population, cast

PLEASE SEE TURNOUT, PAGE 18

Full index, Page 2



ANALYSIS

Race hinged on choice between fear and anger

By Michael Tackett
Tribune senior correspondent

In the end, it came down to a choice between fear and anger.

Throughout his campaign, President Bush traded on fear, the threat of terrorism and a hot war in Iraq. Sen. John Kerry traded on anger—about the war and job losses—that was directed squarely toward the president.

The American electorate woke up worked up on Tuesday. No one would call this the "era of good feeling." Fear and anger were fighting to a standoff.

And like four years ago, the process turned Election Day in-

to Election Days, as counting issues in Ohio and Iowa foreshadowed the prospects of courts again ultimately being asked to settle a national election.

Voters in unusually high numbers were clearly motivated by animus more than anything positive about either candidate, a problematic sign for an incumbent asking to be judged on his record. If voters appeared to see Bush metaphorically as an exclamation point, a man of fixed and firm view, they saw Kerry as a question mark, a slate credible but largely blank.

Many seemed to cast a vote for

PLEASE SEE ANALYSIS, PAGE 14

Presidential election results

POPULAR VOTE

BUSH

51%

KERRY

48%

88% of precincts reporting

ELECTORAL VOTE

BUSH

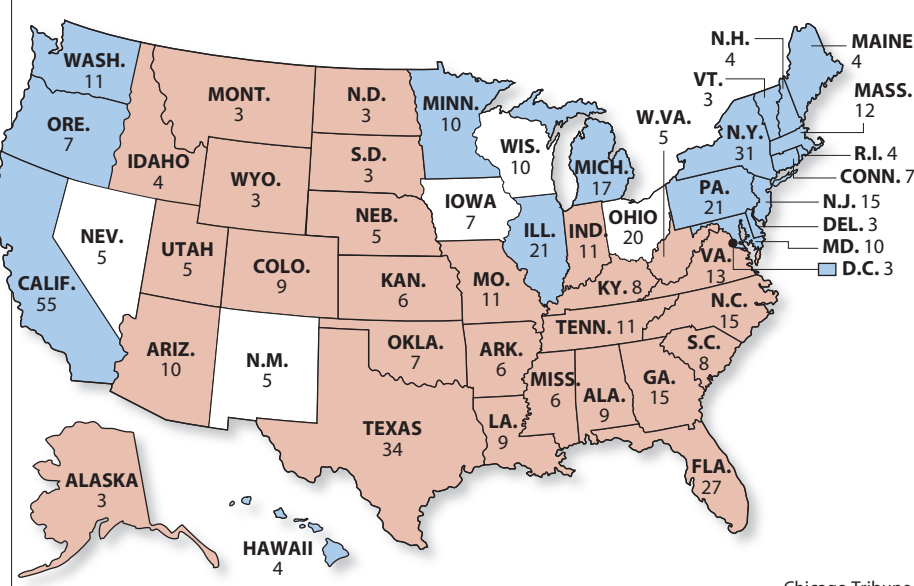
249

KERRY

242

STATE BY STATE

■ BUSH ■ KERRY □ TOO CLOSE TO CALL



Chicago Tribune

ELECTION 2004

Crane ousted

Democrat Melissa Bean ends suburban congressman's 35-year run. **METRO**

Battlegrounds

How Election Day unfolded in nine key states. **PAGES 12-13**

Court faceoff

Republican claims victory in Supreme Court race. **METRO**

On the Internet

Get the latest election results at **CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM**

- Election results by the numbers, **PAGES 20-21**
- State and local races, **METRO**
- Tribune editorial, **PAGE 30**

Obama scores a record landslide



Tribune photo by Nuccio DiNuzzo
U.S. Sen.-elect Barack Obama, holding his daughter Malia, 6, thanks supporters Tuesday night after his historic victory.

By John Chase and David Mendell
Tribune staff reporters

Democrat Barack Obama, a state legislator whose compelling personal story and stirring message of opportunity and inclusion propelled him to national prominence, swept to a historic and decisive victory Tuesday in Illinois' U.S. Senate race.

In defeating Republican Alan Keyes by the largest margin ever in a Senate contest here, the 43-year-old Obama becomes the only African-American elected this year to the world's most powerful legislative body and only the third since Reconstruction.

His victory also regains for Democrats a seat lost in 1998 to Republican Peter Fitzgerald, who decided not to seek reelection this year. Fitzgerald had ousted Illinois' last black U.S. senator, Carol Moseley Braun.

U.S. SENATE • ILLINOIS

OBAMA

70%

KEYES

27%

92% of precincts reporting

■ Obama's first goal is health care for poor. **METRO**

With 92 percent of precincts in the state reporting, Obama had 70 percent of the vote to 27 percent for Keyes. Obama proclaimed victory around 9:15 p.m. even though Keyes refused to concede the race, according to Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs. Aides from the two camps spoke five separate times. Keyes declined to acknowledge defeat and addressed his supporters gathered at the

PLEASE SEE SENATE, BACK PAGE