

Four More for 44! President Obama

Written by Jeffrey L. Boney, Associate Editor
Wednesday, 07 November 2012 14:39



The votes have been cast and the results are in.

And, after one of the most grueling and contentious presidential elections in U.S. history, the winner and STILL, the 44th President of the United States.....

Four More for 44! President Barack Obama!!!

By a wider margin than many political pundits, polls and even the most hardened Democrats could have imagined, President Obama secured a second term Tuesday night, winning decisively to be re-elected as the 44th President of the United States.

President Obama becomes only the sixth Democratic President and the 12th U.S. President overall to be elected to serve two full-terms as President of the United States.

Obama joins fellow Democrats, Andrew Jackson (1829–1837), Grover Cleveland (1885–1889), (1893–1897), Woodrow Wilson (1913–1921), Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933–1945), Bill Clinton (1993–2001) along with other U.S. Presidents Thomas Jefferson (1801–1809), James Madison (1809–1817), James Monroe (1817–1825), Ulysses S. Grant (1869–1877), Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953–1961), Ronald Reagan (1981–1989) and George W. Bush (2001–2009), to bear that distinction.

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The Election Results

President Obama only needed 270 electoral votes to win the 2012 U.S. Presidential election, and was able to secure 303 electoral votes to Republican challenger Mitt Romney's 206 electoral votes.

The number of electors is 538, based on the total voting membership of the United States Congress (435 Representatives and 100 Senators) and three electors from the District of Columbia. The Electoral College is the institution that officially elects the President and Vice President of the United States every four years. The electors are chosen by each state of the United States and by the District of Columbia.

President Obama has a narrow lead in the popular vote nationwide by two percentage points, 50% to 48%, showing that the country is deeply divided. President Obama lost Indiana and North Carolina, two key battleground states that he won in 2008. He did manage to win the other major battleground states such as Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Colorado, Nevada, Virginia and the granddaddy of them all, Ohio.

With the ballots in Florida still being counted, Obama is currently ahead in the state and could add another 29 electoral votes to his already impressive victory. Nationally, exit polls showed that the economy was the number one issue on voters' minds.

This is a historical achievement for the first African-American president of the United States, who has had to endure countless odds and unprecedented challenges.

Suppression Tactics Intensified

In key battleground states like Ohio, voters let their voices be heard. Voters faced unprecedented legally deceptive suppression tactics that many activists and community leaders argued were put in place to disenfranchise select voters.

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Ohio GOP Secretary of State Jon Husted significantly reduced early voting hours and placed last-minute restrictions on many voters' opportunity to cast and count a ballot in Ohio. In an eleventh-hour order to election officials in Ohio, Husted shifted the burden of correctly filling out a provisional ballot from the poll worker to the voter, specifically pertaining to the recording of a voter's form of ID, which was previously the poll worker's responsibility. Any provisional ballot with incorrect information will not be counted, Husted maintains. This significant change had the potential to impact the counting of thousands of votes in Ohio and could have swung the election in favor of Republican challenger, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney.

Similar instances in Florida occurred in Florida with their Governor Rick Scott.

Sadly, voters in many other states also experienced hardships and challenges, caused by people who sought to create challenges for voters that simply sought to cast their vote early and on Election Day.

People in predominately Democratic neighborhoods received mailers from campaigns and various county offices indicating that the day of voting was Wednesday, November 7th as opposed to Tuesday, November 6th.

People received calls at their homes, from certain groups who told the potential voter that they could take their votes over the phones. Some people received robocalls informing them that their original polling location had been moved.

Early voting locations were closed early or opened late in some states, while some locations never opened at all due to some building malfunctions.

Some individuals attempted to vote twice in different locations. Many individuals' voter registration applications were destroyed or discarded.

So-called "poll workers" from groups like True the Vote were dispatched all over the country to

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monitor polling locations in predominately minority polling areas.

Many of these tactics were employed, but in the end none of them prevailed in the presidential outcome, but who knows how many state and local races were impacted as a result.

Moving Forward

This presidential election has been deemed the most expensive election in U.S. history. Most of the public polling leading up to the election, showed President Obama with a small, but steady, lead over Romney.

Obama has had to deal with a Republican-controlled House of Representatives, who declared and made every effort to make him a one-term president. Well, that is no longer an option or an opportunity. Obama is a two-term president and has many issues to deal with to keep this country moving forward.

With the GOP maintaining control of the House and the Democrats picking up two seats in the Senate, it is going to be important for all parties to come together and work together for the American people.

Whether it is dealing with the looming fiscal cliff issue, addressing immigration, winding down the war in Afghanistan and dealing with the economy, Obama has earned four more years to make a difference.

We at the Houston Forward Times salute President Barack Obama on his historic and monumental achievement.

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