Solid win for Obama
Late victories in Virginia, Ohio make Democrat nation’s first black president

The Associated Press
Barack Obama was elected the nation’s first black president Tuesday night in a historic triumph that overcame racial barriers as old as America itself.

“Change has come to America,” said Obama Wednesday morning.

The son of a Black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, the Democratic nominee from Illinois hailed his victory by declaring Republican Sen. John McCain in a string of town-hall-style duels.

Obama, elected on a promise to withdraw the United States from the war in Iraq, the other in Afghanistan.

On Wednesday morning.

America became the first Democrat to win the state since Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

Meanwhile picked a Democratic federacy, yes, but also the state of the old Conn- cession, i.e., mayoral elec- tions are low-key and without the campaign offices.

That was not the case for McCain.

Less than an hour after nine p.m., when the gates opened.

Mimi Elrod defeated Mary Harvey in Lexington’s first contested mayor’s race since the 1980s. Elrod’s victory means her seat on the Old Board of Delegates will need to be filled by an appointment.

By Jess Ramos
The Rockbridge Report
Lexington has its first female mayor. Mimi Elrod.

Eldred claims victory in mayor’s race
Race between two women gives Lexington its first female leader

By Jess Ramos
The Rockbridge Report
Lexington has its first female mayor. Mimi Eldred.

“Change has come to America”
Obama turns Virginia blue
For first time in 44 years, state supports Democrat for president

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**Warner clinches easy victory**

**By Claudia Vincenti**

Rockbridge Report

Democrat Mark Warner decisively won Tuesday’s election to become Virginia’s next United States Senator.

Warner’s 57.7 percent win over Republican Jim Gilmore will give Warner the U.S. Senate and help bolster the party’s position in Congress. With two-thirds of the precincts reporting, Warner had 294,237 votes and Gilmore had 171,600. Warner easily carried both Rockbridge and Lexington with similar margins.

The two former Virginia governors and neighbors were elected to opposing parties in 2001 and the election was a rematch of the Democratic candidates.

Gilmore did not concede the race until the night before Election Day with a lead of 50 percent against Warner. Gilmore said he was not prepared to concede the race, especially in light of Warner’s victory in the 6th Congressional District. Warner clinches easy victory

By Cameron Steele

Rockbridge Report

Republican incumbent Bob Goodlatte easily beat out the grassroots campaign of Demo- crat Rasoul in the 6th Congressional District Tuesday. With 80 percent of the district reporting, Warner had 64 percent of the vote and Rasoul had 34 per- cent.

Goodlatte, from the Roanoke area, has been the congressman for the district since he first won an election in 1992.

The 37-year-old Rasoul campaigned for nearly two years straight, starting just after Goodlatte won 70 percent of the vote in a land- slide two years before Goodlatte was re-elected. Rasoul used his campaign on a platform of congressional reform, promising to return government-controlled to the middle class and vowing not to seek special interest or party money.

But as Election Day drew near, it was clear it would be a long battle for the nation’s youngest governor who is in his fourth year, an un- proven and still aspiring from his home state. Even Russell’s supporters acknowledged he would be tough.

Rasoul, a young politician with a strong record of experience, Goodlatte is comparable in the halls of the U.S. Capital. Both have spent years as conservatively conservative citizens in their districts.

Both have been champions of small busi- ness and have supported conservative agendas for the community,” Michael Goodhew, a veteran of the Rockbridge County Republican Commit- tee, said last week. When asked if she was concerned with Rasoul’s presence in the race, Goodhew laughed.

But Rasoul was able to win the majority in Rockbridge County with 64 percent of the vote to Goodlatte’s 36 percent. The numbers reflected a conservative minded county of conservative voters.

Goodlatte had the clearer fundraising edge over Rasoul. He raised about $2 million with the latter only raising about $1 million. Rasoul had $1 million in cash on hand. Russell raised $150,000 and Goodlatte had $117,000 on hand.

By The Associated Press

Republicans fell in strongholds

The House of Representatives was captured in its entirety by the Democratic Party for the first time in 35 years, as the Senate remained in Republican hands. The gains swept aside some 22-year veteran Republican incumbents who had been touting 10 straight years of Republican control.

Democratic candidates across the country ousted four Republican incumbents and captured 15 open GOP seats, Republicans rushed to blame two Democratic incumbents. With nearly 300 of the 435 House races decided, Democrats held leads for more than a dozen other Republican-held seats.

Democrats now exercise a majority control of the U.S. House of Representatives. During its term as governor, outreach Republican Sen. John Warner won by more than 25 percentage points. Running as a tea party candidate, Goodlatte introduced a bipartisan, results-oriented approach to Rich- mond during his term as governor, promising to return a focus to Washington. He was eventually defeated by Rep. Bob Goodlatte, a former Republican state senator.

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In the Senate, 20 Republican races were called. Democrats were guaranteed seats in Vermont, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico, and 11 races remain too close to call.

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In the Senate, Republicans now control a 51-49 majority, with Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson both reporting close races.

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President Bush told diners that they'd be voting on a future that wasn’t that different from the one they’d just been called upon to make.

She didn’t call.

But the Senate race between incumbent Democrat Bob Graham and Florida Sen. Mel Martinez has been the subject of intense scrutiny.

Graham won the primary in August and went on to win a seat in the Senate. Martinez, a Republican, lost his bid for re-election.

The race was close, with Graham winning by just 0.9% of the vote.

Martinez said he was “disappointed” with the results.

Graham, a former governor of Florida, had termed out of office in 2000 and ran for the Senate in 2002, losing to Martinez.

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