

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

NEWS UPDATES AT WWW.NEWSOBSERVER.COM • FINAL EDITION, 50 CENTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008

©2008 THE NEWS AND OBSERVER PUBLISHING COMPANY • RALEIGH, N.C.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 11 PAGES OF ELECTION 2008 COVERAGE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

OBAMA WINS

A RACIAL BARRIER FALLS AS AMERICA ELECTS ITS FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT
'LET US SUMMON A NEW SPIRIT' ★ N.C. LEANS TO FIRST DEMOCRAT SINCE 1976

HAGAN TAKES DOLE'S SENATE SEAT

PERDUE TO BE FIRST FEMALE N.C. GOVERNOR



AFP/GETTY IMAGES PHOTO BY EMMANUEL DUNAND

Barack Obama, the Democratic senator from Illinois, stepped into history Tuesday, becoming the first black man elected to the nation's highest office. He won the hard-fought race by out-organizing his opponent, Arizona Sen. John McCain, surpassing his rival in fundraising and getting far more volunteers on the ground in crucial states. Obama also benefited from a political climate that heavily favored Democrats — an economic meltdown that took place under the watch of an unpopular Republican president. See story, **Page 7A**.

★ ★ ★ **ELECTION COVERAGE: PAGES 7A-13A AND 1B-4B** ★ ★ ★

WEATHER

TODAY: Mostly cloudy with some morning rain. High 63, low 50.
THURSDAY: Partly cloudy skies and breezy. High 70, low 47. **16B**

INDEX

Business 9B Editorials 14A
Classified 13D Films 9D
Comics 10D Puzzles 2D
Deaths 14B TV 8D



U.S. SENATE



STAFF PHOTO BY TED RICHARDSON

HARDLY KNOWN A YEAR AGO, HAGAN STUNS DOLE

In a result that would have been virtually unthinkable, Democrat Kay Hagan defeated Sen. Elizabeth Dole. With 95 of 100 counties reporting, Hagan led Dole by 52.5 percent to 44.4 percent. **10A**

GOVERNOR



STAFF PHOTO BY ETHAN HYMAN

PERDUE WINS A TIGHT RACE WITH McCRORY

Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue defeated Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory to become the state's first female governor. The slumping economy will challenge Perdue and hamper her efforts to enact new initiatives. **13A**

Obama's updraft lifts N.C. Democrats

North Carolina, long one of the most contested pieces of political turf in America, was trending blue Tuesday as Democrats rode uncertainty about the economy and the Iraq war to a strong showing.



Rob Christensen

Sen. Barack Obama, a black man from Chicago, was running a more competitive race than any Democrat since Bill Clinton in 1992 — locked in a tough contest with Republican Sen. John McCain.

Obama's powerful and well-financed grass-roots organization helped lift Democrat Kay Hagan to the U.S. Senate and Beverly Perdue to the governor's office. The Obama effect also fueled a strong Democratic showing up and down the ballot, with the Democrats retaining control of the legislature and picking up a congressional seat.

"The last time the Democrats pulled the hat trick was 1960," when Gov. Terry Sanford, Sen. B. Everett Jordan and President Kennedy won, said Gary Pearce, a long-time Democratic strategist. Whether Obama wins North Car-

SEE **CHRISTENSEN**, PAGE 13A