



**15TH DISTRICT:** Republican incumbent Dent easily tops Bennett, **A13**



**11TH DISTRICT:** Kanjorski survives close contest with Hazleton's Barletta, **A13**

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# THE MORNING CALL

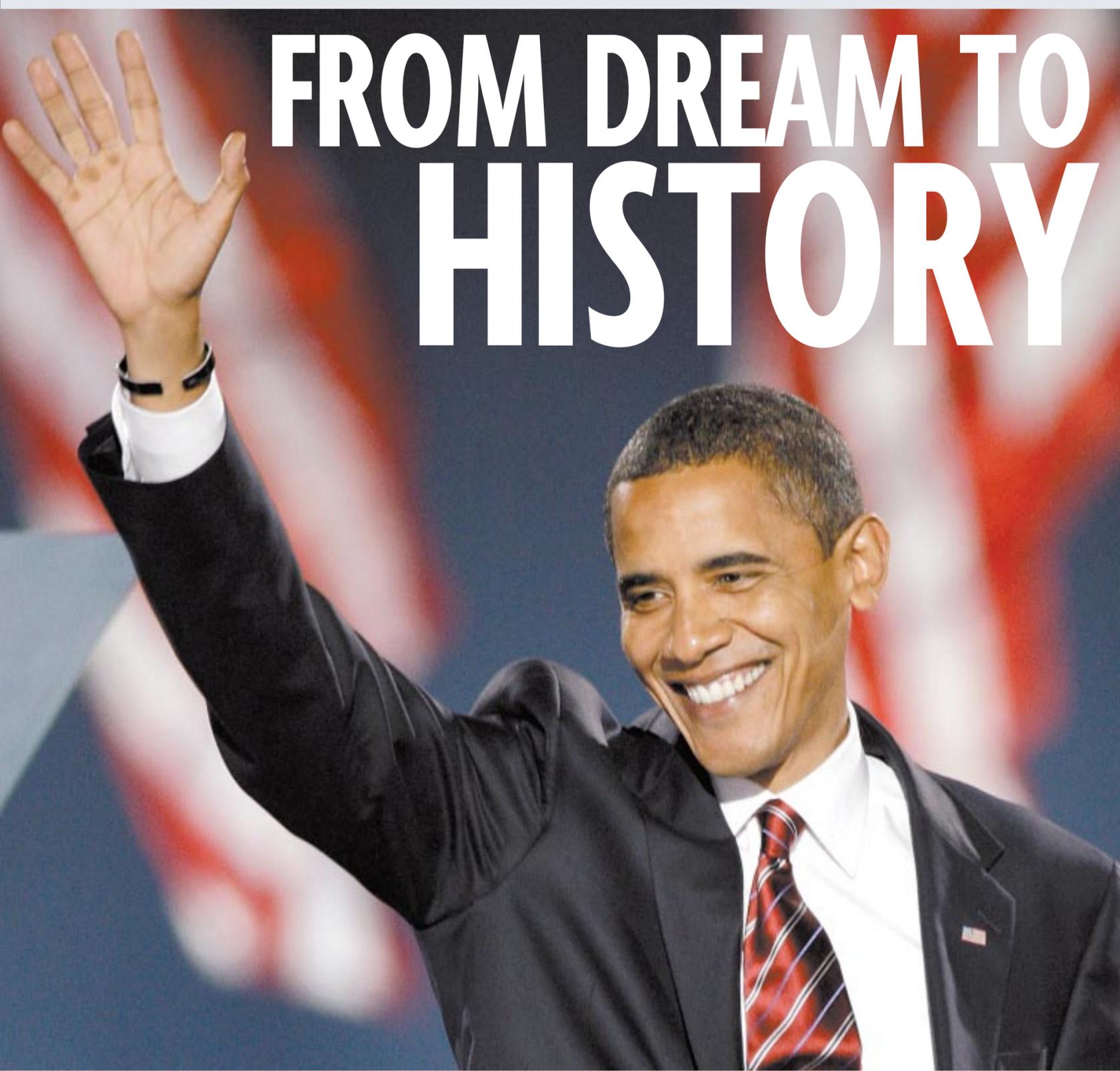


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**BARACK OBAMA** was elected the nation's 44th president on Tuesday, becoming the first black American to occupy the nation's highest office. On his way to victory, Obama, 47, shattered fundraising records and, many Americans believe, his ascendancy will help lighten the nation's centuries-old burden of racism. Serving just half his six-year Senate term before launching his White House bid, Obama attracted record crowds along the campaign trail, drawn in part by his formidable skills as an orator. He will face the challenge of unifying a nation in financial crisis and orchestrating the U.S. role at a pivotal moment on the world stage.



# FROM DREAM TO HISTORY

Morry Gash Associated Press

**PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA** waves to supporters as he takes the stage at his Election Night party at Grant Park in Chicago. He'll become the nation's 44th president in January.

## With sweetest victory, blacks' joy is unbounded

By **William J. Ford and Tim Darragh**  
Of The Morning Call

Clyde Bosket Sr. was in Washington, D.C., on that hot August day in 1963 when Martin Luther King Jr. revealed his dream to the world, speaking memorably about blacks "languishing in the corners of American society."  
"This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass," King intoned from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, "until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality."  
Now, on a sweet autumn day 45

years and 68 days later, Bosket watched as Barack Obama, son of a Kenyan father and American mother, became the president-elect of the United States of America.  
Bosket and his wife, Mattie, could hardly contain themselves around 11 p.m. as the television networks declared Obama the winner.  
"Oh boy, this is beautiful," Mattie said, beaming.  
The couple laughed and hugged, and the 79-year-old semi-retired barber even lifted his wife off the floor as they watched the returns from their

**HISTORIC PAGE A7**

## Obama first black president — in electoral landslide

By **Scott Kraus**  
Of The Morning Call

Batting away John McCain's furious last-minute push to take Pennsylvania, Barack Obama built an insurmountable lead Tuesday night to become the nation's first black president.  
Obama also picked up vital victories in Ohio and Virginia, critical swing states captured in 2004 by George Bush on his way to re-election. No Republican has captured the White House without Ohio's 20 electoral votes. Virginia hasn't picked a Democratic president since 1964.  
McCain had pinned his hopes on

Pennsylvania, but a two-week blitz of visits and campaign ads failed to close an Obama lead that had swelled to double digits in October as the economy faltered.  
Obama fared well in Philadelphia and its suburbs, as well as in western Pennsylvania. He also held leads in Lehigh, Northampton and surrounding counties. McCain won only the central and northern regions of the state.  
Obama also swept through territory typically friendly to Democrats in the East and Midwest of the nation.

**OBAMA PAGE A5**

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