Barack Obama

**Barack Hussein Obama II** is an American politician and attorney who served as the 44th [president of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) from 2009 to 2017. A member of the [Democratic Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)), Obama was the first [African-American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African-American) president of the United States. He previously served as a [U.S. senator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._senator) from [Illinois](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois) from 2005 to 2008 and an [Illinois state senator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois_state_senator) from 1997 to 2004.

Obama was born in [Honolulu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honolulu), [Hawaii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaii). After graduating from [Columbia University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_University) in 1983, he worked as a community organizer in [Chicago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago). In 1988, he enrolled in [Harvard Law School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_Law_School), where he was the first black person to be president of the *[Harvard Law Review](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_Law_Review)*. After graduating, he became a civil rights attorney and an academic, teaching constitutional law at the [University of Chicago Law School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Chicago_Law_School) from 1992 to 2004. Turning to elective politics, he [represented the 13th district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois_Senate_career_of_Barack_Obama) from 1997 until 2004 in the [Illinois Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois_Senate), when he [ran for the U.S. Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_United_States_Senate_election_in_Illinois). Obama received national attention in 2004 with his March Senate primary win, his well-received July [Democratic National Convention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_Democratic_National_Convention) [keynote address](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_Democratic_National_Convention_keynote_address), and his landslide November election to the Senate. In 2008, he was nominated for president a year after [his presidential campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama_2008_presidential_campaign) began, and after [a close primary campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_presidential_primaries,_2008) against [Hillary Clinton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillary_Clinton), Obama was [elected](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_United_States_presidential_election) over [Republican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) nominee [John McCain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_McCain) and was [inaugurated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_inauguration_of_Barack_Obama) alongside [Joe Biden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Biden) on January 20, 2009. Nine months later, he was named the [2009 Nobel Peace Prize](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_Nobel_Peace_Prize) laureate.