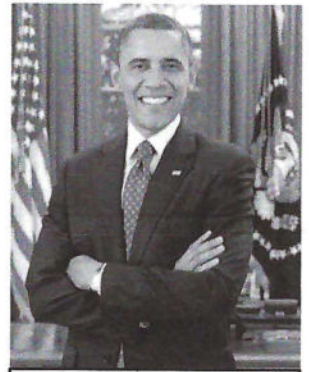


# The 44<sup>th</sup> President



Barack Obama in  
the Oval Office

1 History was made when Barack Obama, our first African-American president, was sworn in. The country's presidents had always been white men until 2008. Obama lived **scholarly** and family-oriented life before becoming president.

## Early Life

2 Obama was born in 1961 in the state of Hawaii. His parents divorced shortly after he was born, and his father later died in a car accident when Obama was 21 years old. As a child people called him "Barry", and he attended a private school in Hawaii. Academics seemed to consume his life from the beginning. Aside from this, he grew up with his mother and then his grandparents, and was known for talking about how diverse his extended family was.

## College and Early Career

3 To begin his higher academic career, Obama attended Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. As a Junior in 1981, Barry transferred to Columbia University in New York. He was interested in political science, as well as English, and he graduated studying these two subjects. When he got out of college, he planned large projects for different businesses to get some experience. After working in these jobs he decided to visit Kenya to meet some of his relatives on his father's side of the family. This made a major impact on Barry. Obama also started and took part in various organizations to help others in the community.

## Law School

4 Next, Obama attended the **prestigious** Harvard Law School in 1988. He quickly rose to become the president of the *Harvard Law Journal*. Obama eventually taught Constitutional Law at Chicago Law School. Obama was a lawyer and had an active law license until 2007.

Best law schools according  
to U.S. News & World Report:

1. Yale University
2. Stanford University
3. Harvard University

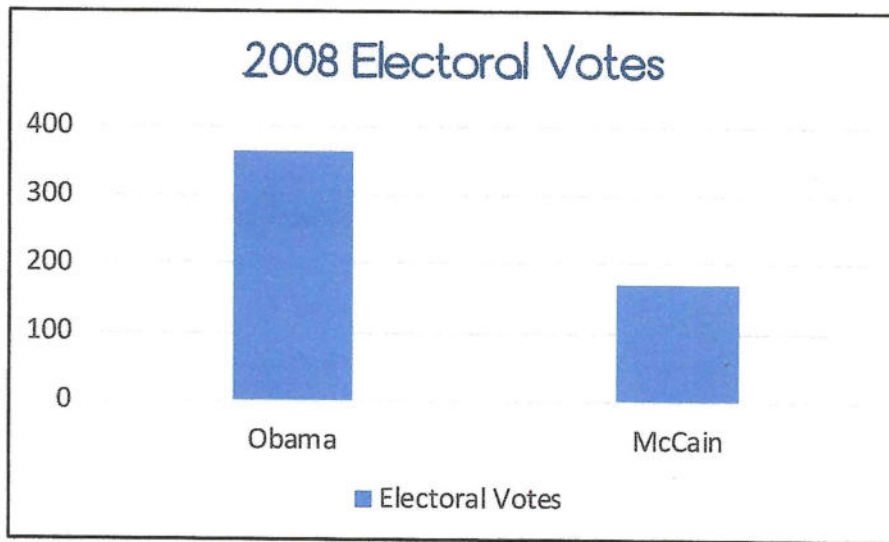
## Glossary

- **scholarly**: educated, successful in academics
- **prestigious**: highly regarded, something with a good reputation, famous



## Political Life

5 Barack Obama became a state senator from Illinois in 1997. Obama worked as a senator until 2008, when he was elected to be the President of the United States. During Obama's presidency, he focused on issues such as gun control, health care reform, foreign policy, and more. A major event that Obama gave the executive order for was the killing of Osama bin Laden, who was the leader of al-Queda, the terrorists who flew planes into several U.S. buildings on September 11, 2001. Obama was reelected in 2012 and his presidency ended in 2016, when Donald Trump became president.



2008  
Presidential  
election  
results

## Family Life

6 Many describe Barry as a loyal family man. He has two daughters, Sasha and Malia, and a wife, Michelle. The First Lady of the United States, Michelle, focused on healthy eating and exercise for children and in schools. The Obamas also looked for hypo-allergenic dogs to live in the Whitehouse with them. They brought home two Portuguese Water Dogs, Bo and Sunny. Many describe Obama as intelligent, charismatic, and personable.



## Comprehension Reading Questions

### 1. Part A.

**What is a main idea of the passage? Circle the correct answer.**

- A. Obama was the best president in the history of the United States.
- B. Obama should have kept his job as a lawyer.
- C. Obama loved his dogs that lived with him at the Whitehouse.
- D. Obama had a scholarly and family-oriented life.

### Part B.

**Select the two sentences that best support the main idea in Part A.**

- ☐ "Academics seemed to consume his life from the beginning." (paragraph 2)
- ☐ "Next, Obama attended the prestigious Harvard Law School in 1988" (paragraph 4)
- ☐ "The country's presidents had always been white men until 2008." (paragraph 1)
- ☐ "As a child people called him "Barry." (paragraph 2)



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### 2. Which detail from the passage shows that Barack Obama valued his family and where he came from?

- A. "After working in these jobs he decided to visit Kenya to meet some of his relatives on his father's side of the family." (paragraph 2)
- B. "Barack Obama became a state senator from Illinois in 1997." (paragraph 5)
- C. "Obamas also looked for hypo-allergenic dogs to live in the Whitehouse with them." (paragraph 6)
- D. "Obama was a lawyer and had an active law license until 2007." (paragraph 4)

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### 3. Read this sentence from Passage 1.

"A major event that Obama gave the executive order for was the killing of Osama bin Laden..." (paragraph 5)

**What does the word executive mean as it is used in the sentence?**

- A. supervisory
- B. fashionable
- C. silly
- D. brainless



## Comprehension Reading Questions

4. How does the graph on under "Political Life" help you understand the passage better? Write your answer on the lines below.

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5. Which section in the passage would help a reader find information about Obama's childhood?

- A. Political Life
- B. Law School
- C. Early Life
- D. College and Early Career

6. Based on the passage, circle the adjectives that might describe Barack Obama.

Unintelligent

Motivated

Handsome

Caring

Intelligent

Likeable

7. Which text feature would be best to use to show the sequence of events in Obama's life?

- A. Pie chart
- B. Glossary
- C. Timeline
- D. Map

