



NOW-NYC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 5, 2008

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Obama Wins in Historic Victory! *Obama-Biden Victory is a Big Win for Women*

New York, NY—NOW-NYC and women’s advocates across the U.S. are celebrating the reality of a pro-choice and pro-woman President in the White House, and the election of the first African-American President in U.S. history. NOW-NYC President Sonia Ossorio states, “This brings an end to the repressive and what felt like an excruciatingly long Bush administration. The Obama victory creates a unique opportunity to implement a far-reaching and pro-active agenda for women’s equality that will make a substantive difference for the women of New York and the U.S.”

The historical significance of Barack Obama’s victory extends beyond the breaking of racial barriers. Obama won clear victories in states across the country formerly in the Republican column, garnering support across voter demographics and capturing notable majorities of both the youth vote and the women’s vote. Ossorio notes, “Obama’s decisive victory supports evidence of shifting social values that are more likely to embrace full equality for women than to deny it. Obama ran his campaign on a platform of unity, reaching across the red state-blue state political divide.”

In many ways, this was a campaign for the record books. Hillary Clinton was the first woman to ever come so close to clinching a major party nomination for the presidency, attaining a historic 18 million votes across the United States. The campaign also broke records for its sheer duration (almost two full years), most money raised (Obama raked in over \$600 million), and the first woman to run on the Republican party’s presidential ticket, Sarah Palin for Vice President.

Though the record-breaking is significant, advocates are focused on how the Obama victory is an encouraging stamp of approval for advancing women and girls. Obama is a strong advocate for reproductive rights, supporting comprehensive sex education and programs to reduce teenage pregnancy. He supports women’s equal rights and has returned the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Democratic Platform. He has promised to reverse the Global Gag Rule and reinstate funding for the UNFPA which will enable the flow of millions of dollars to support family planning and health clinics in developing nations that desperately need it. He will make health care a priority and has proposed a plan that will make health insurance available and affordable for every American. He also supports policies that will have a tangible impact on working families: creating tax credits for child care expenses, cutting taxes for the middle class, supporting pay equity for women, and expanding paid leave programs, including paid family and maternity leave.

The National Organization for Women is the nation’s largest organization working to advance women’s rights and improve women’s lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is the largest chapter in the country with more than 5,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to protect women’s reproductive choices, end violence against women, and eliminate sex discrimination in our schools, workplaces, and the justice system in New York.

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