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| **Barack Obama's Biography (from procon.org)** |
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| **Title(s):**  | 44th US President  |  |  |
| **Personal Information:**  |

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| **Full Name:** Barack Hussein Obama, Jr. |  | **Marital Status:** Married |
| **Birthdate:** Aug. 4, 1961 |  | **Children:** Two |
| **Birthplace:** Honolulu, HI |  | **Religion:** Member of United Church of Christ for 20+ years |

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| **Involvement:**  | * 44th US President, Jan. 20, 2009-present
* Recipient, Nobel Peace Prize, 2009
* US Senator (D-IL), 2005-Nov. 16, 2008
* Former Member, US Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Foreign Relations Committee, Environment and Public Works Committee, and Veterans' Affairs Committee
* Member, Illinois State Senate, 1997-2004
* Civil Rights Attorney, Miner, Barnhill & Galland, 1993-2004
* Former Teacher, Constitutional Law
* Community Organizer, Chicago, 1985
* Senior Lecturer, Constitutional Law, University of Chicago Law School
* Former Editor, *Harvard Law Review*
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| **Education:**  | * JD, *magna cum laude*, Harvard University, 1991
* BA, Columbia University, 1983
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| **Affiliations and Memberships:**  | * Recipient, Honorary JD, University of Massachusetts at Boston, 2006
* Recipient, Best Spoken Word Album, Grammy Award, 2006
* Recipient, Chairman's Award, National NAACP, 2005
* Recipient, 100 most influential people in the world, *TIME* magazine, 2005
* Recipient, 10 people who will change the world, *New Statesman*, 2005
* Recipient, Honorary Doctorate, Knox College, 2005
* Recipient, Harold Blake Walker Award, Christopher House, 2005
* Recipient, Rock the Nation Award, Rock the Vote, 2005
* Recipient, Outstanding Legislator Award, Campaign for Better Health Care and Illinois Primary Health Care Association, 1998
* Recipient, Best Freshman Legislator Award, Independent Voters of Illinois, 1997
* Recipient, Monarch Award for Outstanding Public Service, 1994
* Recipient, 40 Under 40 Award, Crain's Chicago Business, 1993
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| **Other:**  | * [Barack Obama: Document History from Birth to Harvard (1961-1991)](http://2012election.procon.org/view.additional-resource.php?resourceID=004760)
* Born at the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, Honolulu, HI on Aug. 4, 1961
* Married Michelle Robinson, JD, on Oct. 3, 1992
* Has two children, Malia Ann (born 1998) and Natasha ("Sasha," born 2001)
* Barack Obama attended Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, the United Church of Christ's largest congregation. At a May 31, 2008 Press Conference in Aberdeen, SD, Obama announced that he and his wife were "withdrawing as members of Trinity" because of "offensive statements" by church leadership including Rev. Jeremiah Wright.
* First African-American president of the United States
* First US president to chair a session of the United Nations Security Council
* The 2009 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Barack Obama "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

**Select Publications:** * *Barack Obama in His Own Words*, Ed. Lisa Rogak, 2007
* *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*, 2006
* "One Nation... Under God?," *Sojourners Magazine*, Nov. 1, 2006
* "US Must Encourage Biofuel Revolution," *Chicago Sun Times*, May 1, 2006
* "The Political Movement in Black America," *Ebony*, Nov. 1, 2005
* "Veterans Should Be Priority," *Chicago Sun Times*, Aug. 8, 2005
* *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*, 1995
 |  |  |
| **Contact\_Information:**  |

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| **Campaign:Phone:** 312-698-3670 **Fax:** None listed **E-Mail:** None listed **Web Site:** [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com) **Twitter:** [twitter.com/#!/barackobama](http://twitter.com/#!/barackobama) **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/barackobama](http://www.facebook.com/barackobama)  |  |

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Barack Obama: Document History from Birth to Harvard (1961-1991)

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| **Hawaii: Barack Obama born Aug. 4, 1961** |
| Barack Hussein Obama II was born at the Kapiolani Maternity & Gynecological Hospital at 7:24 PM on Aug. 4, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii. His father was Barack Hussein Obama (Kenyan citizen), and his mother was Stanley Ann Dunham (US citizen). |
| **Documentation:**  |
| 1. [Short form birth certificate](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/barack-obamas-short-form-birth-certificate.pdf) (53 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gif, DOB: Aug. 4, 1961
2. [Long form birth certificate](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/barack-obamas-long-form-birth-certificate.pdf) (377 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gif, DOB: Aug. 4, 1961
3. [Birth announcement](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-birth-announcement-honolulu-advertiser.pdf) (345 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifin the *Honolulu Advertiser*, Aug. 13, 1961
4. [Birth announcement](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-birth-announcement-honolulu-star-bulletin.pdf) (291 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifin the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, Aug. 14, 1961
5. [White House statement](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/white-house-press-release-apr-27-2011.pdf) (1.7 MB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifon release of long form birth certificate, Apr. 27, 2011
 |
| **Indonesia: Barack Obama age 6-11** |
| Obama’s mother moved to Indonesia in 1967, and Barack Obama attended the following two schools in the country from age 6-11. |
| **Fransiskus Assisi School, elementary school, Jakarta, Indonesia (age 6-8)** |
| Barack Obama attended this Catholic school in Jakarta, Indonesia before transferring to Besuki Public School. He was registered at Fransiskus Assisi under the name Barry Soetoro by his step-father, Lolo Soetoro. The document lists Barry Soetoro as an Indonesian citizen, born on Aug. 4, 1961 in Honolulu, and shows his Muslim step-father listed Barack Obama's religion as Islam. |
| **Documentation:**  |
| 1. [Registration document](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/fransiskus-assisi-registration-document.pdf) (144 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.giffrom Fransiskus Assisi, Jan. 1, 1968
2. [*Los Angeles Times*](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-latimes-mar-15-2007.pdf)article (573 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifon Obama’s childhood in Indonesia, Mar. 15, 2007
3. [*Chicago Tribune* article](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-chicago-tribune-mar-25-2007.pdf) (1.5 MB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifquotes former classmates and teachers as having known Obama at the school, Mar. 25, 2007
 |
| **Besuki Public School, elementary school, Jakarta, Indonesia (age 8-11)** |
| Barack Obama attended this public school in Indonesia until moving back to Hawaii to live with his maternal grandparents at age 11. |
| **Documentation:** |
| 1. [*Chicago Tribune* article](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-chicago-tribune-mar-25-2007.pdf) (1.5 MB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifquotes former classmates and teachers as having known Obama at the school, Mar. 25, 2007
 |
| **Hawaii: Barack Obama age 11-18** |
| Obama and his mother return to Hawaii to live with her parents. Barack Obama lived in Hawaii from age 11 to age 18. |
| **Punahou School, private college preparatory school, Honolulu, Hawaii (age 11-17 or 18)** |
| Barack Obama attended Punahou Prep school in Hawaii where he graduated high school. |
| **Documentation:** |
| 1. [*Chicago Tribune* article](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-chicago-tribune-mar-25-2007.pdf) (1.5 MB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifquotes former classmates and teachers as having known Obama at the school, Mar. 25, 2007
 |
| **California: 1979-1981** |
| Obama moved to California in 1979 at age 18 to attend Occidental College after graduation from high school in Hawaii. |
| **Occidental College (1979-1981)** |
| Barack Obama attended Occidental College from fall 1979 through spring 1981 and then transferred to Columbia University in New York. His transcripts have not been made publically available. |
| **Documentation:** |
| 1. [Occidental College webpage](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-FAQs-occidental-college.pdf) (63 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifon Barack Obama attendance record
2. Published [two poems](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-occidental-poetry-publications.pdf) (83 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifin the Occidental College poetry journal *Feast*, available at the Library of Congress website, Spring 1982
3. [*Los Angeles Times*](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-latimes-jan-29-2007.pdf) article (66 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifquotes student recollections of Obama while he was attending Occidental College, Jan. 29, 2007
 |
| **New York: 1981-1983** |
| Obama moved to New York City to attend Columbia University in 1981. He lived there until graduation in 1983 and for a period of time afterward. Obama eventually moved to Chicago where he landed a job as a community organizer. He worked for about four years before moving to Massachusetts to attend Harvard Law School. |
| **Columbia University (1981-1983)** |
| Barack Obama graduated from Columbia University with a BA in Political Science in 1983. His transcripts have not been made publically available. |
| **Documentation:** |
| 1. Article written by Barack Obama and published in the Columbia University weekly magazine *The Sun Dial*, "[Breaking The War Mentality](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-article-sun-dial-columbia-breaking-war-mentality.pdf)” (1 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gif, Mar. 10, 1983
2. [Article](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-columbia-college-today-jan-2005.pdf) (344 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifpublished in *Columbia College Today* by Shira Boss-Bicak about Obama’s background, Jan. 2005
3. [*New York Times*](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-new-york-times-jan-20-2009.pdf)article (71 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifwith interview of Obama’s friend while at Columbia, Jan. 20, 2009
 |
| **Massachusetts: 1988-1991** |
| Obama moved to Massachusetts to attend Harvard Law School where he lived from 1988 to 1991. |
| **Harvard Law School (1988-1991)** |
| Barack Obama entered Harvard Law School at age 27 and attended from 1988 to 1991. He graduated with a JD degree in 1991. While at Harvard, he served on the board of the Black Law Students Association, and was elected President of the *Harvard Law Review* in spring 1990. Obama spent one summer during law school as an associate at the Chicago law firm Sidley & Austin. His transcripts have not been made publically available. |
| **Documentation:** |
| 1. [Harvard Law School webpage](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-harvard-law-webpage-accessed-may-22-2012.pdf) (89 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifon Barack Obama and his time there
2. [*New York Times* article](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-new-york-times-feb-6-1990.pdf) (69 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifon Obama’s Election as the First Black President of the *Harvard Law Review*, Feb. 6, 1990
3. Article about abortion authored by Barack Obama in the *Harvard Law Review* titled "[Tort Law. Prenatal Injuries. Supreme Court of Illinois Refuses to Recognize Cause of Action Brought by Fetus against Its Mother for Unintentional Infliction of Prenatal Injuries](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama_harvard_law_review_article.pdf)” (788 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gif, Vol. 103. No. 3, Jan. 1990
4. [*New York Times* article](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-new-york-times-jan-28-2007.pdf) (77 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifon Obama’s leadership style while president of the *Harvard Law Review*, Jan. 28, 2007
5. [*Wall Street Journal* article](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-wall-street-journal-may-11-2007.pdf) (77 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifon Obama’s time at Sidley & Austin, May 11, 2007
6. [*Politico* article](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-politico-apr-22-2008.pdf) (44 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifexplaining why Obama’s article in the *Harvard Law Review* was unsigned, Aug. 22, 2008
7. [*PBS Frontline* interview](http://2012election.procon.org/sourcefiles/obama-pbs-frontline-july-10-2008.pdf) (547 KB) http://2012election.procon.org/files/1-2012-election-images/pdf-logo.gifwith Casandra Butts, a fellow student on the *Harvard Law Review* who knew Obama, July 10, 2008
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