

News8  
INTERNATIONAL

WE NEED  
CHANGE

This is News8's formal endorsement of  
United States Senator Barack Obama for  
President. *Obama for America!*

This election isn't about "experience". It is purely about **change**. After America made the worst possible decision of electing President Bush for a second term in 2004, change from now is the only choice. We can't have four more years of destructive policies and bad leadership plague what was once the world's most powerful and free country. But, we can't just blame poor old Bush for causing the mess we are in. No, we must blame *ourselves* for electing him in the first place. We should have all seen this political rhapsody coming when Bush was on the ballot in 2004, but Americans were too naïve and brainwashed into voting the other way. After Bush's response to 9/11, America applauded him. Now, after re-electing this torn leader, we have gradually come to despise his sometimes ignorant and careless leadership. Americans all say that the mortgage crisis and FEMA's response to Katrina were entirely "Bush's fault," but it was partly ours for putting him in the commanding chair in the first place. Now, America is craving change. Only Barack Obama is the man to bring it.

Many say Obama is too inexperienced and unknown to be a good leader. But Obama's skill at reaching out to people and connecting with them makes him a great choice for helping U.S. citizens out in troubled times. John McCain, however, owns seven houses and is filthy rich. Sarah Palin is also a millionaire. Meanwhile, Mr. Obama is a regular family man who owns *one* house and doesn't have heaps of cash in the basement. Sure, he does make more than many of us, but he doesn't go on shopping sprees, snapping up huge mansions like McCain does. Mr. Obama is a very regular guy – not as "regular" as Joe the Plumber, but still like us.

As for experience, one could say both candidates have too little experience to be on the big stage. Jobs in the Senate are nothing compared to the international ranking and power of President. John McCain says he is the one who is "ready to lead" and is able to make decisions on the first day in office, yet no one in the world is prepared to take command of such an awesome yet challenging position. During the first 100 days, both McCain and Obama will have to have some time to get used to the new job. After reading this, many will still say that McCain has still had more time in government than Obama. The problem with McCain, though, is that he has shown that he is terrible, frankly, at handling a national crisis. The new recession that the United States has entered was the perfect hurdle to inject into the race. McCain stumbled, but Obama glided right over it. Obama has not failed holding the reputation for being cool and collected, but McCain has become erratic and confused. While Americans were worrying about their stocks and 401(k)s, McCain swerved off the road and started trying to connect Obama to terrorists instead of talking about the issues. This is one of the fatal flaws McCain has revealed, and it will cost him dearly.

The second mistake was choosing Sarah Palin, the literally unknown Governor of Alaska, for his VP nominee. Palin, who has been Governor for two years and was mayor of a

town of only 7,000 for just a little longer, is beyond “inexperienced”. She just doesn’t know the answers. McCain’s goal with Palin was to shake up the base and encourage Hillary Clinton voters to switch sides. Sadly, the McCain campaign’s strategy was too short-term and underestimated the intelligence of former Clinton supporters. Palin did give way to a lead in the national poll, but only for a week – Obama, as cool as ever, just came right back. The Palin Plan failed, and now her missteps and foolishness is costing McCain votes. Almost every endorsement for Obama so far has criticized McCain’s choice, and now many are thinking about what a President Palin would be like for the country. Sure, she has that great Alaskan personality, but we can’t vote on that. Americans have to vote for someone who can handle a situation like a president would. Someone calm, with steady hands. Sound familiar?

Now, with a day before this historic election, I call on all Americans to cast their vote for Barack Obama. His leadership skills, policies and running mate will change the United States and the world. Now is not the time for bickering, negativity and foolishness – now is the time for change. Change for the better. Change in Iraq, in the economy, in healthcare, education, taxes, gay rights, abortion – **now is the time to change this country**. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the world will witness a great change. A new leader will march in and fix the messes we face. But, if McCain wins, the mess will grow. Instead of widespread change, we will receive widespread despair. America must make its choice. It’s now or never – and we must choose right, or we will be forever wrong.

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