

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008

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Election 2008

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Obama barrels past Clinton in N.C.; Perdue will face McCrory in fall



Obama celebrates his decisive North Carolina win at N.C. State's Reynolds Coliseum. Clinton eked out a victory in Indiana.

STAFF PHOTO BY COREY LOWENSTEIN

The two remaining candidates for governor offer competing goals and visions for the future of N.C.

By BENJAMIN NIOLET
STAFF WRITER

When voters pick a governor in November, they must consider whether state government is the remedy or the problem.

Democratic nominee Beverly Perdue talks of government in terms of how it can improve the lives of North Carolinians. Republican nominee Pat McCrory says it is broken and needs an overhaul.

Perdue, the lieutenant governor, defeated state Treasurer Richard Moore by a healthy margin with a largely positive campaign that promised better education, increased health care coverage and higher wages.

"I actually think that the real difference was the decision we made to stay focused on the issues that mattered to voters," Perdue said in an interview.

"Everywhere I went, people talked about the economy, concerns with health care, and affordable college, the price of gas."

McCrory touted his experience as mayor of the state's largest city as the antidote to what's wrong with the Democrat-controlled state government.

McCrory said he wants a series of debates with Perdue.

"We need to debate the culture of the old status quo of the old politics of North Carolina," McCrory said. "I plan to bring a new culture, a culture of vision, a culture of problem-solving, a culture of strategic thinking, a culture that understands that quality of life is our No. 1 goal in North Carolina."

GOVERNOR

DEMOCRAT
(93% REPORTING)

Perdue 56%
Moore 40%



Perdue is focused on education, health care.

GOVERNOR

REPUBLICAN
(93% REPORTING)

McCrory 47%
Smith 37%
Graham 9%
Orr 6%



McCrory seeks to change the status quo.

MORE ON GOVERNOR'S RACE, 9A

CLINTON TAKES INDIANA



AP PHOTO BY DARRON CUMMINGS

Strong support in southern Indiana helps her as Gary precincts close the margin. **8A**

HE COULDN'T LOSE, BUT HE TRIED

Stan Morse endorsed his opponent in his N.C. House race. He campaigned for him. He conceded Monday. He won Tuesday. **1B**

HAGAN TO FACE DOLE

U.S. SENATE: North Carolina is set for a fall faceoff between two women. **1B**

VETERAN PROSECUTOR WINS

DURHAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Tracey Cline prevails over three Democratic rivals. **4B**

Obama scores a lopsided victory here over Clinton, putting her on the ropes as campaign slogs ahead. But the former first lady vows to keep fighting.

By BARBARA BARRETT
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

RALEIGH — Sen. Barack Obama's double-digit victory in North Carolina and a narrow loss in Indiana brought him closer to clinching the Democratic nomination for president.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, meanwhile, said she would continue her fight even as she fell further behind in the delegate count.

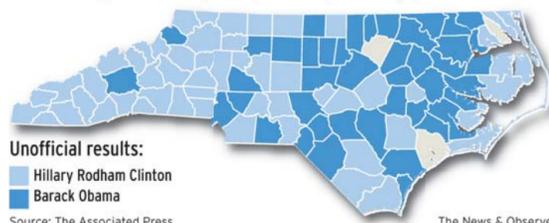
Obama carried North Carolina on Tuesday, winning a good chunk of its 115 pledged delegates and soaring to a solid victory on cascades of support from blacks, young people and voters who say they have been hit hard by the troubled economy.

With 99 percent of the state reporting, he was ahead 56 percent to 42 percent.

Obama celebrated his victory in the Tar Heel state, speaking to thousands of cheering volunteers and supporters at N.C. State University's Reynolds Coliseum.

"They've been saying that North Carolina would be a game-changing state in this election," Obama said. "But what North Carolina

Democratic presidential primary results (as of midnight)



Unofficial results:
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Barack Obama

Source: The Associated Press

	OBAMA	CLINTON
NORTH CAROLINA	56%	42%
INDIANA	49%	51%

decided is that the only game that needs changing is the one in Washington, D.C."

He also pledged to bring the troubled Democratic party together.

"We cannot give John McCain the chance to serve out George Bush's third term," he said of the

presumptive Republican nominee. "We will be united in November."

But Clinton carried almost two-thirds of the white Democratic vote here, and many of those voters told exit pollsters they would not support Obama in November if he's the Democratic nominee.

She also squeaked past Obama in the mostly white, working-class state of Indiana, keeping her presidential hopes alive.

In her speech in Indianapolis, Clinton said she would now move to other primary states such as Kentucky and West Virginia where, she said, "their voices have

SEE PRESIDENT, PAGE 8A

A fresh, fractious era for N.C. Democrats

For most of North Carolina's history, there was no chance that a man named Barack or a woman named Beverly would finish atop the heap on election day.

But in casting their ballots for Sen. Barack Obama for president and Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue for governor, Tar Heel Democrats wrote a new chapter in the state's history that had been clouded by the era of Jim Crow and a deep skepticism about women's role in politics.

The victory of a black presidential candidate won the headlines. But the most sweeping change may have been the victories of women up and down the ballot — with, of course, one notable exception: Hillary Rodham Clinton. Not only did Perdue win the Democratic nomination for governor, but state Sen. Kay Hagan won her party's nod as the U.S. Senate nominee who will face Republi-



Rob Christensen

SEE CHRISTENSEN, PAGE 9A

Wake schools regain control over year-round assignments

By T. KEUNG HUI AND KINEA WHITE EPPS
STAFF WRITERS

RALEIGH — A state appellate court decision Tuesday means that beginning in the 2009-10 school year, Wake County will resume sending children to year-round schools even if their parents object.

The Wake school board flexed its muscles in the afternoon after the state Court of Appeals ruled that the county can assign students anywhere it pleases. The appellate court overturned a ruling that had required the district to get permission from parents to send children to year-round and modified-calendar schools.

The board decided that Wake residents will still be able to opt out of year-round and modified-calendar schools for the 2008-09 year.

"We need to make it clear this is a one-year assignment," said school board member Patti Head. "They will be assigned back to a year-round school."

Newcomers will have no such privilege. In 2008-09 the district will assign their children to the schools it sees fit.

"These people need to go where they're supposed to go," said Beverley Clark,

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 14A

WEATHER

TODAY: Warmer with a few afternoon clouds. High 84, low 61.

THURSDAY: Variably cloudy, maybe afternoon storms. High 82, low 63. **10B**

INDEX

Comics 10E Films 9E
Deaths 8B Puzzles 2E
Editorials 12A TV 8E

A B ● ● ●

Rape victim feels remorse for innocent man's lost years

By MANDY LOCKE
STAFF WRITER

GOLDSBORO — When the sky darkens at night, Tomeshia Lasha Artis paces the hallways of her Wayne County home. She peers into the faces of her three sleeping children, then tugs at their windows to check the locks once more.

Artis is 33, two decades past the night in 1987 when a man slipped through her window and forced himself on her. She had tried to forget that 12-year-old girl, telling herself that the bad guy was in prison and her life should go on.

Then came August. A DNA test proved

that Dwayne Dail, the man she'd pointed out as her rapist so long ago, was innocent. On Monday, another man was charged with the rape.

Now guilt steals her sleep. A panic she can neither explain nor temper makes her walk.

"I'd tried to block it out. I never really dealt with it," Artis said. "Now, I'm having to deal with it because I'm grown. It feels like it's happening all over again."

The News & Observer does not typically identify people who report they have been sexually assaulted. Artis asked to be

SEE RAPE, PAGE 14A