

# COCKREL: 'I'M READY TO LEAD'



**NOLAN FINLEY**

**D**ENVER — Ken Cockrel moves through the Michigan delegates in the lobby of the Renaissance Hotel on Tuesday, and hands reach out from everywhere. “Good morning, Mr. Mayor.” “Not yet,” he protests, and keeps walking. Later, the Detroit City Council president bows his head and says, “It’s a little

weird. I’ve suddenly got a lot of new best friends. But I try to keep it in perspective.” Speculation on the fate of Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick is nearly as pervasive as talk of presidential politics among the Michigan delegation. And even Cockrel, who has carefully avoided seeming presumptuous, admits, “it’s more a question of when, rather than if.”

The betting line here favors Gov. Jennifer Granholm removing Kilpatrick shortly after her Sept. 3 hearings. If that’s the case, Cockrel could find himself in the Mayor’s Office in just a couple of weeks. And he wants Detroit to

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## CLINTON SAYS OBAMA IS HER CANDIDATE



Andy Cross / Associated Press

Hillary Clinton tells convention delegates that only by backing Barack Obama could they honor the principles on which she campaigned.

# She tells supporters: ‘No way. No how. No McCain’



Charlie Neibergall / Associated Press

Former President Clinton listens to his wife Tuesday in Denver as she threw her full support behind her former opponent.

BY GORDON TROWBRIDGE AND MARK HORNBECK  
*The Detroit News*

**DENVER** — Hillary Clinton introduced herself Tuesday night to nervous Democrats as “a proud supporter of Barack Obama,” seeking to heal whatever divisions remain from a bruising nomination fight.

Amid media speculation of a continued rift between Clinton and Obama camps, and worried delegates looking for a signal from the New York senator and former first lady, Clinton was unequivocal: “Barack Obama is my candidate. And he must be our president.”

She exhorted her backers — “my sisterhood of the traveling pantsuits,” she called them — to unite behind her party’s nominee.

“Whether you voted for me or voted for Barack, the time is now to unite as a single party with a single purpose,” she said.

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And to those considering a vote Obama’s Republican opponent, John McCain, her message was simple: “No way. No how. No McCain.”

Michigan delegates to the Democratic National Convention, some of whom acknowledged continued divisions, applauded her call.

“The name of the game is unity for the future of our country and that’s what she did,” said former Gov. James Blanchard, one of Clinton’s most prominent Michigan supporters.

And party leaders clearly hoped her address would end talk

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# GOV TO CONDUCT REMOVAL HEARING

## MAYOR MAY ASK COURT TO BLOCK SEPT. 3 PROCEEDING

BY DAVID JOSAR AND CHRISTINE MACDONALD  
*The Detroit News*

**DETROIT** — Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick’s tenuous grip on his fate slipped even further Tuesday when Gov. Jennifer Granholm authorized a historic Sept. 3 hearing on whether to bounce him from office.

Putting even more pressure on the mayor to cut a deal in his dual felony cases, Granholm rejected every argument from Kilpatrick attorneys to cancel the hearings. Instead, the mayor’s tenure will rest on two questions: Did Kilpatrick settle police whistle-blower lawsuits in “furtherance of his private and personal interests,” and did he conceal key elements of the deal from the City Council?

The order means the writing is on the wall, said Councilman



Granholm Kilpatrick

Kwame Kenyatta: Kilpatrick’s best bet is to resign, salvage some dignity and spare the city more embarrassment.

“He really has no choice at this point,” Kenyatta said.

The mayor’s general counsel, Sharon McPhail, denied persistent claims that a plea bargain is in the works, but said the mayor hasn’t ruled out a court challenge of the hearings.

“Obviously, we’re going to

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**FORD RETOOLS:** The truck and SUV plant will be redone to make small cars from Europe in the face of a changing market.

Todd McInturf  
*The Detroit News*

# For \$75M, Mich. Truck will soon roll out cars

BY BRYCE G. HOFFMAN  
*The Detroit News*

**WAYNE** — Ford Motor Co.’s Michigan Truck Plant is about to get an extreme makeover.

On Tuesday, Ford said it will invest \$75 million to retool the plant to produce a new generation of small cars from Europe. It will be one of three North American truck and SUV factories to convert to car production as part of Ford’s effort to respond to one of the most dramatic shifts in consumer demand Detroit has ever seen.

A decade ago, Michigan Truck was a money machine, a plant so profitable the automaker would fly parts in by helicopter if neces-

sary to make sure the assembly line did not go down for even a few minutes.

Today, the factory is in the middle of an 11-week shutdown. Production was halted because dealers could not sell the trickle of oversized sport utility vehicles the plant’s single shift churned out.

Next spring, Ford will move production of the Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator to its Kentucky Truck Plant. After that, Ford will begin retooling Michigan Truck to produce smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles based on its new global compact

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