

Tipping Points®

Find out more about President-elect Obama's Plan for Science and Innovation at:
www.usinnovation.org/files/ObamaSciencePlan111208.pdf

PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA : Barack Obama defeated John McCain by about just over 8.3 million votes out of 124.4 million voters on November 4. With most unofficial results in, the spread between the candidates appeared to be about 6.5% of the popular vote. Contrary to media reports, the number of voters stayed about the same when compared to 2004, and the so-called “youth” vote again did not turn out. The Web publication *Politico*, quoting noted authority **Curtis Gans** of American University, estimates that between 60.7 percent and 61.7 percent of the 208.3 million eligible voters cast ballots this year, compared with 60.6 percent of those eligible in 2004...

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED? According to **Ed Morrissey**, writing in *Politico*, “Obama got six million more votes than **John Kerry** and **John McCain** got slightly under five million less than **George Bush**. Given the efforts at new registrations, it looks like Democrats turned out well, while a significant chunk of Republicans stayed home. Democratic ‘get out the vote’ (GOTV) efforts worked better than in 2004, but it didn’t produce a landslide. Republican GOTV efforts had been in full swing, but in the end, the ticket simply didn’t produce the excitement needed to carry the GOP to victory.”

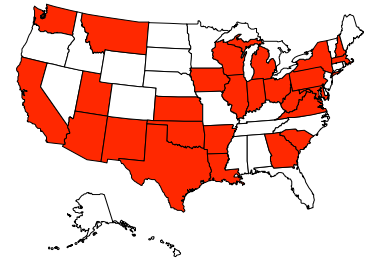
RED, WHITE & BLUE: For a fascinating “time lapse map” of the election throughout most of the evening of November 4, as well as unofficial results in most races, visit the interactive map provided by *USA Today* at this link: www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/results.htm

SIGN THE “10 POINTS FOR AMERICAN FUTURE”

PETITION DRIVE: **ASTRA** and the **Information Technology Association of America (ITAA)** are heading up community-wide efforts to provide a concise agenda to the incoming Obama Administration. The Petition has been developed over the past year by scores of organizations across the science and engineering communities. It represents a consensus on priorities and issues. Please review the “*10 Points for America’s Future*” Petition by visiting:

(click on link) <http://www.usinnovation.org/petition/petition.asp>

Petition Signers are Located in These Participating States to Date



26 STATES & CLIMBING: To date, 89 individuals and organizations have signed-up with the initial Petition effort. The Petition will circulate until early next year. Please share the link above and/or this issue of *Tipping Points* with your colleagues and friends. Our intent is to demonstrate to **President-elect Obama** that federal support for science and engineering research matters. Help us demonstrate the breadth of our support and the importance of what we can do for growing our economy and ensuring its competitiveness...

CONGRESSIONAL EQUATION CHANGES: **House Democrats** added at least 20 seats to their margins on November 4, and it appears that they will enjoy at least a 38 seat majority with 6 seats undecided as of this writing. In the **Senate**, Dems picked up at least 6 seats. Three races were undergoing recounts, or were subject to a run-off election (Georgia). Thus, the possible “veto proof” 60 seats that Dems needed to overcome possible filibusters seems unlikely as of this writing, but not impossible. Another complicating factor is the position of a key McCain Supporter, **Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-CT)** who currently votes with the Democratic majority...

LAME DUCK SESSION: A “lame duck” session of Congress will begin during the week of November 17. Democratic leaders in Congress have said they will push for legislation to use the \$700 billion Wall Street rescue fund voted on in early October to assist Detroit auto makers. In addition, Dems are seeking at least another \$500 billion in economic stimulus spending as financial markets continue to languish following the Obama victory...

EMERGENCY SCIENCE FUNDING OFF THE TABLE IN STIMULUS? Spending amounts approved by Congress in the last emergency stimulus package — part of the supplemental Defense appropriations bill voted on last June — continue to be frozen. It’s unclear what Congress plans to do with emergency spending that was supposed to prevent layoffs at **Fermi Lab**, the **Stanford Linear Accelerator**, certain



National Science Foundation (NSF) grants, the **National Institutes of Health**, and emergency spending for nuclear waste clean-up at the **Department of Energy (DOE)**...

ASTRA URGES QUICK APPOINTMENT OF SCIENCE ADVISOR: ASTRA was among 180 organizations representing the business, education and scientific communities urging the next president to appoint a White House science adviser by January 20 — Inauguration Day — and give the adviser cabinet rank. In October 30 letters to U.S. Senators John McCain and Barack Obama, ASTRA joined with other organizations to note that addressing domestic and international challenges such as health care, energy costs, U.S. economic competitiveness, and global climate change will require scientific and technological ingenuity...

WILL OBAMA FUND AMERICA COMPETES ACT AND DOUBLE SCIENCE SPENDING ACROSS THE BOARD? As speculation swirls around President-elect Obama's plans for S&T funding and other issues, the *New York Times*, with research from the **Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF)**, estimated the annual cost of Obama's innovation plan (proposed during the campaign) at \$85.6 billion. Obama also pledged during the campaign to double the current level of funding for basic research over the next ten years at federal science agencies and to fully fund the *America Competes Act*, signed by President George Bush, at \$5.9 billion annually..

OTHER OBAMA INNOVATION PLAN DETAILS: Obama's Innovation plan would make the research and development tax credit permanent, double funding for the **Manufacturing Extension Partnership**, create an **Advanced Manufacturing Fund** to increase collaboration between university researchers and industry and invest in a nationwide network of public-private incubators. The plan would also increase research spending on defense and homeland security, including **DARPA** and Homeland Security **ARPA**...

OBAMA'S TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT FUND: Also included in the plan is a new \$500 million **Technology Investment Fund** that would build on existing federal education technology programs by offering matching grants to ensure that technology is integrated in public schools. The funds would be used to introduce new high-tech learning tools, build a new technology-based curriculum and help connect teachers through social networks to increase collaboration...

HELP FOR STEM ED TEACHERS: In order to improve the quality and number of science and technology educators, the plan called for **40,000 Teaching Service scholarships** of up to \$25,000 each to increase the number of teachers in high-need subjects and under served regions. Federal science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education policy would be coordinated by a new STEM Education Committee in OSTP...

NSF RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP INCREASE TO 3,000: At the university-level, the plan calls for tripling the number of **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships** from 1,000 to 3,000 and creating a new **Opportunity Tax Credit** for college students. A **Community College Partnership Program** would help enhance STEM education at two-year schools to encourage community college students to transition into STEM programs at four-year universities...

GREEN ISSUES A MAJOR FOCUS AS WELL: Clean energy and green-collar jobs programs took center stage in Obama's plan to strengthen the U.S. economy. His **New Energy for America** plan called for investing \$150 billion over the next ten years to catalyze private efforts to help commercialize clean energy advancements and to build the infrastructure for new fuel and electricity technology. An additional \$50 billion over the next five years would capitalize a federal **Clean Technologies Deployment Venture Capital Fund** to invest in promising energy technology projects. A new \$1 billion program would allocate funds to states to help convert manufacturing centers into producers of clean energy technology. The plan also supported job training programs for military veterans and disadvantaged youth to get the skills needed to find work in the green economy...

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