

Obama: „We battled fiercely“

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Teaser: Abendblatt.de covered the US election live all night. Ohio sealed the deal.

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(Note: Mrs. Kresse is listed as co-author as she was in charge of gathering additional material such as background pieces, galleries, videos and other multimedia elements.)

Caption: The new and old president of the United States of America, Barack Obama, takes the stage with his wife, Michelle, and daughters Malia (l.) and Sasha at the election party in Chicago.

Welcome to live coverage on abendblatt.de

+++ All the news about the US election +++

(bold numbers indicate German time of entry (all a.m.))

9.11: A long, thrilling election night is winding down. Abendblatt.de would like to thank you for your interest and potential sacrifice of sleep. “Four more years!”

8.48: It was a night of juggling data, with a beaming winner Barack Obama who a scarce majority of American voters granted another four years to implement his “change.”

8.42: 29 electoral votes are yet to be distributed: In Florida they are still counting. But Obama’s victory is a fact. The president (currently 303) could still accumulate as many as 332 electoral votes, and right now he marginally leads the polls in the Sunshine State.

8.39: The electorate was safely split in this election. President Obama didn’t stand a chance in rural areas. Only 39 percent of the rural population re-elected the president who on the other hand was able to score strongly in urban areas.

8.34: *Wire service material*

8.32: The tone of a thankful but very combative and pragmatic president at the end of this election night: “The best is yet to come for the United States of America.”

8.10: Obama closed his unusually long speech with an emphatic plea: “It doesn't matter whether you're black or white, or Hispanic or Asian, or Native American or young, or old or rich or poor, abled, disabled, gay or straight. You can make it here in America if you're willing to try.” Party lines were subordinate too, the president said: “We have never been just a collection of individuals or a collection of red states and blue states: We are, and always will be, the United States of America. Thank you, God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America. “

8.06: Turning toward his wife, the president said: “Michelle, I have never loved you more. I have never been prouder to watch the rest of America fall in love with you too as our nation's first lady.”

8.05: Obama mentioned “a military spouse who's working the phones late at night to make sure that no one who fights for this country ever has to fight for a job or a roof over their head when they come home.” But everyday political life is a struggle too, he reminded his audience. “Democracy in a nation of 300 million can be noisy and messy and complicated,” Obama said. He pointed out that people in many countries risked their lives when they practiced the freedom of speech. The president said in his country, children should have access to the best schools and the best teachers and every child should have the chance to choose whatever profession it likes – “even president.”

8.04: Obama: “Whether I earned your vote or not, I have listened to you. I have learned from you. And you've made me a better president.”

7.58: The president thanked his campaign team too: “No matter what you do or where you go from here, you will carry the memory of the history we made together.” Obama demanded: “We want a country that moves with confidence beyond this time of war.”

7.56: “We may have battled fiercely, but it's only because we love this country deeply and we care so strongly about its future,” Obama said about the past months of excessive campaigning and thanked “the best vice president anybody could ever hope for, Joe Biden.”

7.38: “Four more years” is everything the re-elected president hears from the ecstatic crowd.

7.36: U.S. President Barack Obama takes the stage to the sounds of Stevie Wonders “Signed, Sealed, Delivered – I’m yours” and enjoys the cheers of his supporters in Chicago for several minutes.

7.25: *Wire service material*

7.19: In popular votes, Obama’s lead amounts to about 400,000 by now. It was a close race even though the numbers of electoral votes indicate something else.

7.08: “Fired up, ready to go”: The battle cries the Obama campaign was accompanied by during the course of recent months are filling the air again in Chicago. The re-elected president’s victory speech is about to begin.

6.57: “I just called President Obama to congratulate him on his victory. His supporters and his campaign also deserve congratulations. I wish all of them well, but particularly the president, the first lady and their daughters. This is a time of great challenges for America, and I pray that the president will be successful in guiding our nation,” Mitt Romney said in his concession speech in front of his supporters in Boston.

6.44: “AdMitt it,” Twitter users mock while the defeated Mitt Romney remains silent. CBS meanwhile reports that the contender already congratulated Obama via telephone and will speak to his supporters soon to thank them.

6.37: Virginia too! While it looked like contender Mitt Romney would celebrate an existential victory in the highly-contested state for most of the time, Virginia has now fallen to Obama, too. His share of electoral votes hence rises to 303, while the Republican stays at 203. By the end of the night, the outcome is a lot less close than expected. Romney was able to win only one swing state (North Carolina). All that's left are the results from Florida.

6.35: When does the president speak? Ever since the election was called, the follow-up procedure has been dragging on. Obama is still waiting for Romney to call and won't face the cameras before that happened, CBS reports.

6.21: The Romney campaign still won't admit their defeat. But its supporters are giving up hope.

6.18: 57 percent of the population think that Mr. Obama is better able to handle the current crisis, and the same amount of Americans believes the re-elected president will more likely succeed than his opponent when it comes to health care. Romney was able to score solely with his approach to rehabilitate the faltering economy. 49 percent think the Republican is the more capable man in this field, 48 percent say the same thing about Obama.

6.06: In front of the White House and in the streets of Washington, cheers erupted after the election was called. Hundreds gathered in front of the president's residence, cab drivers joined in a chorus of horns and queued in motorcades.

6.00: Even Germany sighed. Several polls indicated up to 92 percent of federal citizens would have re-elected the American president. Even Chancellor Angela Merkel can only dream of approval ratings such as these.

5.56: 290 to 203 – that's the current ratio of electoral votes. We are still waiting for results from Virginia and Florida.

5.55: CNN reports the defeated Mitt Romney is not yet willing to make a concession, quoting a spokesperson.

5.53: Now results from Colorado are in, where Barack Obama was able to win yet another battleground state.

5.50: 55 percent of women, 69 percent of Latinos and 60 percent of young voters voted for Obama and largely influenced the president's success. Obama's campaign targeted exactly these groups.

5.41: In popular votes, Obama is slowly closing the gap, too. One reason for that is the constantly growing number of counted votes from the West Coast, where Obama holds a huge lead – especially in California, Oregon and Washington.

5.39: Embattled Nevada also falls to Obama, who by now gathered 280 electoral votes. There are no results yet from Colorado (leaning toward Obama), Virginia (leaning toward Romney) and Florida (too close to call).

5.37: Another result of this election night: Congress remains divided. While Democrats won a majority in the Senate, Republicans will send more delegates to the House of Representatives.

5.36: Contender Mitt Romney wants to congratulate the re-elected president in a phone call, CBS reports. Afterward, Obama will address his thousands upon thousands of supporters in Chicago with his victory speech.

5.34: Obama combined a total of 274 electoral votes with his victory in Ohio – 270 are necessary.

5.30: Obama's campaign strategy to focus on swing states other than Florida turned out to be right. The Sunshine State's vote became irrelevant the moment Obama had won Ohio.

5.28: The new and old president already thanked his supporters via Twitter. "This happened because of you. Thank you," he wrote late Tuesday night (local time). Shortly afterward, he simply added: "Four more years." While a lot of his tweets are written and published by his staff, one of them was signed with Obama's initials, bo: "We're all in this together. That's how we campaigned and that's who we are. Thank you – bo."

5.27: "Four more years" – Obama supporters got what they wanted.

5.24: Thanks to the structure of the American electoral system, the defeated candidate in 2012 seems to have won more public votes, but lost the election – just as in 2000, when George W. Bush became president.

5.22: A whole different set of emotions in the Romney camp. Although the likely Republican defeat became more evident as the night went on, there is still immeasurable disappointment now that Romney's fate is sealed.

5.20: Several TV stations report the president's re-election now. Cheers start to fill the air at Democratic election parties all over the country.

5.16: According to CBS projections, Obama wins Ohio. That would mean the current president is re-elected.

5.15: Mitt Romney has won about one million more public votes than the incumbent so far.

5.12: According to latest projections, Iowa is yet another swing state Obama wins, which enormously diminishes his Republican contestant's chances to become president. Oregon's seven electors are supposed to vote for Obama too by the way.

5.11: CNN reports island state Hawaii and Washington have voted for Barack Obama, while Romney was able to score in Idaho.

5.08: Mitt Romney just won his first battleground state. North Carolina's electors will vote for the contender.

5.06: The Senate – as we just learned – will continue to be ruled by Democrats.

5.05: For now, contender Mitt Romney is still in for taking the win, but: He really needs a trend reversal. It all comes down to Ohio and Florida – just like all pollsters projected.

5.00: Rejoicing at the grand Democratic election party: As anticipated, a majority of California's residents voted for officeholder Barack Obama. For the first time this night, he took a notable lead, thanks to 55 additional electoral votes. Obama now unites 228 of them – Romney stays at 184. Wisconsin – that's official now – also voted for the president.

4.52: A short side note from the World Wide Web. On Twitter, the U.S. election is the most-discussed political event of all times, with more than 20 million tweets.

4.47: The next decisions are overdue. There are still several states that have not been fully counted yet. Those include Florida (11 percent of ballots are yet to be counted, Obama's lead is only 16,000 votes), Virginia (Romney up front), Nevada, Colorado and Ohio (Obama currently holds the lead in all three of them).

4.37: Conservative Arizona predominantly voted for Mitt Romney – a victory the Republican counted on and helps raise his number of electoral votes to 184.

4.32: With votes from Minnesota, where Obama won according to CBS, his total of electoral votes now adds up to 167, Romney's to 173.

4.23: TV station CBS calls an Obama-win in the embattled state Nevada "likely." More and more polling indicates the sitting president will go ahead and win a second term.

4.20: 60 percent of early votes in Ohio were cast for Obama. 55 percent of popular votes have been counted so far, the President is currently up, 51 to 48 percent. In Florida, where 87 percent of all ballots have been counted now, the incumbent has a lead of 40,000 votes as well. Meanwhile, Democrat Tim Kaine wins Virginia's seat in the Senate.

4.15: After the election is over, another member of the Kennedy clan will be sent to Congress. Joseph Kennedy III., great-nephew of former President John F. Kennedy, won a seat in the House of Representatives in his district in Massachusetts, according to reports on "politico.com."

4.12: Gary E. Johnson could be Mitt Romney's killjoy. Johnson is a barely noticed third-party presidential candidate who was able to win a few thousand votes in Florida – votes that Romney desperately needed in a swing state where the margin between him and President Obama is still miniscule and where the outcome therefore is still utterly uncertain.

4.09: Missouri falls to the share of Mitt Romney. It's a traditionally Republican state as well.

4.07: We can't help but notice a looming Democratic majority in the Senate as Claire McCaskell from Missouri and Joe Donnelly from Iowa have won their states against two radical Tea Party opponents, according to latest numbers.

4.02: Little surprisingly, Mitt Romney wins Republican states Montana and Utah and regains the lead with 162 to 157 electoral votes.

4.00: Voting stations are closed in all nine particularly embattled states.

3.58: Winning Minnesota, the president apparently got another victory that wasn't 100 percent certain before the election.

3.52: Even though incumbent Barack Obama currently holds more electoral votes, Mitt Romney's share of popular votes is higher. Part of that is due to the fact that numbers are projected from east to west time-wise – densely populated, traditional Democratic states like California therefore haven't been counted yet.

3.47: Sherrod Brown wins a Senate seat for Democrats in Ohio – which could very well give Obama a push. He is also leading in the embattled state of Colorado after roughly 50 percent of votes have been counted. Republicans apparently didn't gain much more than a momentum from the first TV debate that took place in the state's capital, Denver.

3.42: A new Senate is getting elected tonight as well. With the victory of a Democratic candidate in Massachusetts, Obama's party already gained one additional seat compared to their overall result in the last Senate elections in 2010.

3.40: With his predicted win in Wisconsin, Obama takes the lead for the first time in what is still a young night. Intermediate result: president 157, contender 153 electoral votes.

3.37: Massachusetts, Michigan and Wisconsin: Apparently, the Romney-Ryan ticket loses all three home states.

3.34: Not only Wisconsin, but New Hampshire as well will probably be counted for the President. That would be two important victories for his campaign as both states were designated battleground states, which means especially contested.

3.32: Apparently, Obama is winning Wisconsin and is making sure that 10 more electoral votes will be added to his account. 82 percent of votes have been counted in Florida so far, and it seems like the race is as close as in 2000. The margin between the two candidates ranges below the 10,000 mark, according to CBS projections.

3.28: If Obama gets re-elected, and if Republicans keep their majority in the House of Representatives, things would stay the same as during the past two years. Obama would need a Republican majority for any legislative initiative to pass.

3.26: After polling stations closed in most conservative Midwestern states, Mitt Romney was indeed able to grow his lead. But the ultimate decisions will be made elsewhere.

3.23: New Hampshire seems to have voted for Obama too, CBS reports. If these latest trends become reality, the number of possible scenarios for a Romney victory keeps shrinking.

3.17: According to latest polls, Obama wins Pennsylvania, a first battleground state. At the same time, several media reports indicate that Republicans will keep their majority in the House of Representatives.

3.11: Why do Americans have to queue up in long lines in front of polling stations? Probably partly because of a six-page (!) ballot.

3.07: Although Mitt Romney's vice presidential candidate is from Wisconsin, voters there apparently favor the Democratic campaign. The state is traditionally "blue."

3.03: As expected, New York and Michigan voted for the sitting president. Despite all subtle optimism, thanks to latest numbers from Ohio and Florida, the Obama campaign still needs to fear Virginia – a state it counts on.

2.57: Florida is a must-win for contender Mitt Romney. But after 60 percent of votes have been counted, Obama has the lead, 50 to 49 percent. After Ohio, Romney threatens to lose the second, probably decisive state. But there is no reason to cheer yet for the Obama campaign – it's just too early, and the race is just too close.

2.44: Polling stations in Virginia close late too to give everyone in line the chance to vote, even though the official deadline was two hours ago. According to latest intermediate results, Romney's advantage with 55 percent of votes is pretty notable – only one third of votes have been counted yet though.

2.41: Approximately half of all polling stations are closed now. Meanwhile – as anticipated -, Mitt Romney was able to win southern states Tennessee and Georgia.

2.40: Exit polls conducted by news agency Reuters and the opinion research center Ipsos indicate Obama is in fact favored among minorities. In contrast, white males and females majorly voted for Romney.

2.38: Current intermediate result: Romney still leads Obama, 88 to 78 electoral votes.

2.35: Polling stations in Florida have closed, but voting is still possible. Whoever queued up in time may still cast his or her vote.

2.31: 20 percent of votes have been counted in Ohio, and the tendency is rather clear: Obama was able to convince 58 percent of voters of a second-term necessity, while only 40 percent voted for his contestant, Mitt Romney. In case of a loss in Ohio, Romney would have to convince the majority of swing

voters in all remaining battleground states to keep up his chances to move to the White House. So far, only one-fifth of votes in Ohio have been counted though. Apparently, among other things, Obama profits from his rescue of the auto industry, a move that Romney repeatedly criticized.

2.23: According to CBS information, the possibly decisive state Ohio leans toward officeholder Obama.

2.16: Right now, preliminary indicators support the chance that Barack Obama wins the important swing state Florida. So far, there are no reliable numbers available though. In North Carolina, the race is close as well, although analysts actually continuously predicted a rather secure Romney win. But now, candidates go head to head with 30 percent of votes counted so far. There were pre-election voices from the Obama campaign who said they almost gave up on North Carolina in advance, even though the party's national convention was held there. Now a first surprise of this election night is looming in North Carolina. Meanwhile, Romney has the lead, 82 to 64 electoral votes.

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