
















Lincoln Resource Center

United States Embassy • Kuala Lumpur



U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2008

What's Unique About the 2008 Election?

-  **First time in U.S. history that two sitting senators will run against each other for president**
-  **First time an African American is a presidential nominee for a major party**
-  **First time both major candidates were born outside the continental United States—Honolulu/Hawaii for Obama and the Coco Solo/Panama Canal Zone for McCain**
-  **Since the Republican nominee for vice-president is a woman, the eventual winning ticket is very likely to be historic, as neither an African American nor a female has achieved either office**
-  **Republican presidential candidate, John McCain, would be the oldest first-term president and the Democratic nominee for vice-president, Joe Biden, would be the first Roman Catholic vice president**
-  **First time since the 1928 election in which neither an incumbent President nor an incumbent Vice President ran for their party's nomination in the presidential election**
-  **First time since the 1952 election that neither the incumbent President nor incumbent Vice President is a candidate in the general election**
-  **First in which the Vice President is not a candidate for either the presidency or the vice presidency since Nelson Rockefeller in 1976**
-  **If Obama wins, he would be the first black president**
-  **If Mc Cain wins, he would be the first president from Arizona**
-  **If inaugurated on January 20, 2009, Mc Cain would be the oldest U.S. President upon ascension to the presidency at age 72 years and 144 days, and the second-oldest president to be inaugurated (Ronald Reagan was 73 years and 350 days old at his second inauguration)**
-  **In the 2008 elections we observe that Barack Obama and John Mc Cain are 24 years and 340 days apart in age. This is the largest age disparity between the two major party presidential candidates, surpassing Bill Clinton and Bob Dole (23 years and 28 days apart in age) who ran against each other in 1996**
-  **The 2008 presidential election is the longest and most costly presidential election in history**

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