



# HUMAN EVENTS

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## Quote of the Week

“The theme of the Democratic Convention is unity. Unfortunately they can’t agree on how that works.”

—David Letterman

# The Obama Decline: From of ‘Change’ to Normal Po

BY NEWT GINGRICH

The choice of Sen. Joseph Biden (D.-Del.) for his vice presidential running mate is one more step in the decline of Barack Obama.

Obama’s decline has taken him from an Oprah Winfrey-endorsed, “change we can count on” trendy leader to a normal politician.

Sen. Obama’s first step on his long, downward slide may have been repudiating Reverend Jeremiah Wright, his pastor of twenty years.

Then, Sen. Obama waffled on drilling offshore to ease the energy crisis, first supporting a blanket prohibition even to the extent of actively seeking to withhold from the public the results of government surveys of America’s offshore oil and gas reserves. This was followed by his expression of “openness” to some undefined “limited” drilling. Why? Because the voters were increasingly unhappy with Obama’s leadership on anti-energy extremism. His lead had collapsed.



THE CHOICE of Joe Biden as his running mate is one more step in the decline of Ba

Next, Sen. Obama handled the Russian assault on Georgia with an uncertainty eerily reminiscent of President Carter. He sent three different messages to the Ameri-

can people (and the world) in the same number of days (while getting tougher and clearer as he went along, he reminded everyone that while he was the campaigner

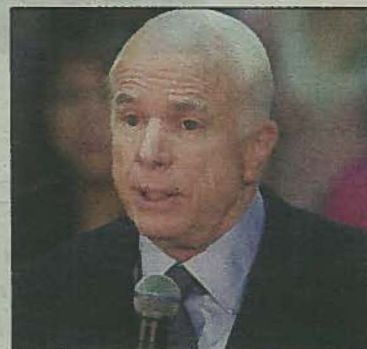
## Conservative Resurgence at RNC May Change Party

BY SHAWN STEEL

Movement conservatives are dominating Republican National Committee elections throughout the country, and this conservative resurgence might portend a much-needed philosophical realignment of the Republican Party’s largest campaign and fundraising organization. In the past six months alone, roughly 25% of the RNC members have been replaced. Six states—Alaska, California, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma and Utah—saw complete turnovers of their delegations.

The RNC’s re-organizational meeting on September 5 in Minneapolis will feature a new class of emerging conservative leaders who challenge both established Republican cultural stereotypes and the moderate Republican establishment. Three new committeewomen, all presidents of their states’ chapters of Phyllis Schlafly’s Eagle Forum, were elected from Alaska, Iowa and Texas. Alaska’s Debbie Joslin had a tough race but prevailed with the help of Ron Paul delegates. Kim

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Zuma photo

JOHN MCCAIN allowed party activists to develop the GOP platform based on conservative principles.

## Republican Platform Vast Improv

BY DONALD DEVINE

Conservatives are thrilled with the platform just adopted in Minneapolis by the Republican National Convention Committee on Resolutions—as the platform committee is formally known—that is to be submitted for formal adoption to the full convention this week in St. Paul.

The 2008 platform truly reflects the beliefs of the party and its ac-

tivist base and is significantly more conservative than the one four years before. The working copy of the 2008 platform was drafted by party staff without the heavy-handedness often imposed by presidential nominees. In 2004, many activist conservatives were upset at the high-handed tactics of the campaign organization and the many platform deviations from basic party principles, especially on domestic issues.



## Conservative Resurgence at RNC May Change Party?

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Lehman of Iowa, a leader in National Right to Life, will fight to maintain the Republican pro-life platform. Out of Texas, Cathie Adams replaced her term-limited predecessor in a tough fight with a candidate from the more moderate Women's Federation.

For the first time, the RNC will have three elected African-American national representatives, all of whom are equally if not more conservative than their predecessors.

Michigan's Republican Party, under the leadership of State Chairman Saul Anuzis, tapped minister and former Detroit City Councilman Keith Butler, an active Republican leader since the 1960s.

Glen McCall, a successful and popular South Carolina county chairman, handily won election despite lacking the support from any statewide Republican officials. McCall estranged himself from the South Carolina establishment by denouncing GOP Sen. Lindsay Graham's support of amnesty for illegal immigrants. Running against a 20-year veteran, the South Carolina rebel visited each county to make his case directly to the grassroots party activists.

In another conservative rebellion, North Carolina's incoming National committeewoman Dr. Ada Fisher won her election

with over 60% of the vote, even though she did not start her campaign until the day of the election. An expert on occupational medicine, Dr. Fisher simply read the rules and nominated herself. Her victory over the old guard is largely credited to a rousing, conservative speech before the delegates.

When Steve Scheffler was interviewed in Iowa this summer, after his contentious national committeeman race, he offered the following assessment that represents the frustrated views of conservatives everywhere: "I think the message that it was sending was that Republicans in the grassroots are frustrated and they want leadership that is going to take it to the Democrats and to announce the differences between the two parties."

The Republican Party's electoral chances have always been inextricably linked to the passion and fervor of the conservative movement. After the striking GOP losses of 2006, inability to control congressional earmarks, and the failure of conservatives to nominate one of their own, angst reigns throughout the grassroots activists. However, the dramatic idealistic resurgence seen first in the Republican National Committee is the important fundamental step necessary for a widespread recovery. ■

Mr. Steel is California Republican National Committeeman-Elect.