

# THE CHRONICLE

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## Biden named president, Harris makes history

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

After days of waiting for ballots to be counted in several key states, on Saturday, Nov. 8, Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. was named the 46th president-elect of the United States. The announcement came four days after Election Day when election officials in Pennsylvania announced that Biden had won the state's 20 electoral votes, giving him a total of 273, three more than the 270 needed to secure the presidency.

A native of Scranton, Pa., by way of Delaware, Biden studied at the University of Delaware before earning his law degree from Syracuse University in 1968. In 1970 he became one of the youngest senators in American history when he was elected to represent Delaware. He was re-elected to the Senate six times before resigning in 2008 to serve as Barack Obama's vice president.

The president-elect delivered his acceptance speech from a drive-in event in Wilmington, Del. Biden's address called for the country to come together and for the end of the hate rhetoric that became a trademark for the Trump administration. He said under his leadership, there won't be "red states or blue states," only Americans working together to "restore the soul of the country."

"I am humbled by the confidence you placed in me. I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide but unify; who doesn't see red states and blue states, only the United States, and work with all my heart," Biden continued. "I sought this office to restore the soul of America, to rebuild the backbone of this nation, the middle class, and make America respected around the world again ... and to unite us here at home. It's the honor of my lifetime that so many millions of Americans have voted for that vision."

When addressing the more than 70 million Americans who voted for Donald Trump, Biden said now is the time to put aside differences and give each other a chance.

"It's time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature. See each other again, listen to each other again," he continued. "And to make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies. They are not our enemies; they are Americans."

While much of the focus was on the president-elect, it was the Vice President-elect Kamala Harris who made history as the first woman, first African American, and person of South Asian descent to be elected vice president. As a graduate of Howard University, Harris is also the first HBCU graduate in office.

Harris' journey to the



Submitted photo

Four days after Election Day President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris gave their acceptance speeches last weekend.

White House began in Alameda County where she worked in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. In 2003 she was elected district attorney of San Francisco and in 2010 she was elected attorney general of California. Six years later Harris defeated Loretta Sanchez to become the second African American woman and the first South Asian American to serve in the Senate.

As she stood before the

world for the first time as vice president-elect, Harris said, "While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last." She said every little girl across the country can see that this is a country of possibilities.

"To the children of our country ... our country has sent you a clear message: Dream with ambition, lead with conviction and see yourselves in a way that others may not simply be-

cause they've never seen it before ... Know we will applaud you every step of the way," Harris said.

As many expected, Donald Trump has yet to accept the results of the election. Instead, the 45th president has filed several lawsuits in states across the country and spread baseless claims of election fraud. Meanwhile, the Biden-Harris ticket has already begun looking toward the future. The

president-elect is expected to announce members of a COVID-19 task force sometime this week.

Biden for President has also launched a transition website that outlines several issues the administration plans to address. The site, [www.buildbackbetter.com](http://www.buildbackbetter.com), lists COVID-19, racial equality, economic recovery, and climate change as the top challenges currently facing the country.

## Baker pledges to increase transparency, support education in Raleigh

BY TEVIN STINSON  
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Dr. Amber Baker is known throughout Winston-Salem and Forsyth County for her work in education. As the principal at Kimberly Park Elementary, Baker made a name for herself as a passionate educator who was willing to go above and beyond to ensure her students had what they needed to succeed. Now Baker is looking to take that same passion and energy to the N.C. General Assembly.

Baker defeated Republican challenger John

Dough with 71% of the vote for the vacant seat left by Rep. Derwin Montgomery, co-owner of The Chronicle. Baker said the afternoon of Election Day, she fell asleep before the race was called, but when she woke up and saw the dozens of text messages and other notifications, she knew she had won.

Heading into Election Day, she was the heavy favorite to win the Democratic leaning 72nd District. But Baker, who is a native of Louisville, KY and a graduate of Winston-Salem State University, said she campaigned as if she was the underdog.

"Everybody kept wanting to reassure me that I didn't have to do a lot, but one of the things I learned right out of high school as a political science major is that you have to look at everything from all angles," Baker said. "So when I drilled down ... Yes it's not a lot of registered Republicans, but you have a



Submitted photo

Dr. Amber Baker

huge contingency of Independent voters ... and then you had your Republicans who were energized, so the race could've been lost. So I ran the race as if I was the underdog; I didn't take anything for granted."

In Raleigh, Baker says some of her main objectives will be making much needed improvements to the education system, raising the minimum wage, and creating more programs to help individuals

and families living below the poverty threshold. She also mentioned the need to expand Medicaid.

"In order to build any kind of strong economy or community, you have to have that trifecta," she said. "You have to have a good educational system, you have to have a good workforce development plan, and you have to be able to provide a variety of housing that people have access to."

When asked how she plans to leave her mark on District 72, Baker said, "It will organically establish itself as I make myself available to the constituents in the district." She said she is already known throughout the community as someone who champions the right causes and now is her time to build on that and increase transparency.

"My biggest stamp that I want is that I increase transparency in terms people understand what's

happening," Baker continued. "I have aspirations of having a local office where people can come in and get some assistance. Maybe that's too lofty, I don't know, but I feel like we should have somewhere locally where people can come in and get information."

"Beyond policy and legislative issues, I really want our people to understand how our government works."

Baker said she plans to spend the first few months in office getting acclimated to the process and understanding her role. She said, "... just trying to understand the micro-political piece of it all."

"But trust me, once I get a hold of it, once I figure out how it all works, you better hold on."

To find out more about Dr. Amber Baker and her plans for District 72, visit [www.vote4amberbaker.com](http://www.vote4amberbaker.com).

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