

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Clinton wins Pennsylvania primary

Battle for Democratic nomination slogs on

By [Ken Herman](#), Scott Shepard
WASHINGTON BUREAU
Wednesday, April 23, 2008

PHILADELPHIA — New York Sen. Hillary Clinton took a solid and crucial win over Illinois Sen. Barack Obama in Tuesday's Pennsylvania Democratic presidential primary, extending the race at least two more weeks and keeping alive her uphill battle to capture the nomination.

"Some people counted me out and said to drop out," Clinton told cheering supporters in Philadelphia. "Well, the American people don't quit, and they deserve a president who doesn't quit either."

"Because of you," she said, "the tide is turning."

Clinton's win left her still trailing Obama in the delegate count and advanced the focus of the race to May 6 contests in Indiana and North Carolina.

Obama, already campaigning in Indiana, told supporters in Evansville on Tuesday night that he was pleased that he had closed the gap in Pennsylvania, where early polls gave Clinton a double-digit lead.

"There were a lot of folks who didn't think we could make this a race when it started, thought we were going to be blown out," Obama said in remarks that made little reference to Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania balloting, which showed Clinton up by 10 percentage points with 98 percent of precincts reporting, prolonged an unprecedented and increasingly nasty battle between two senators who want to go head-to-head with Arizona Sen. John McCain, the presumptive GOP nominee, in November.

Gov. Ed Rendell, a Clinton backer, said at her celebration that voters in his state "not only changed the dynamic, (but) it's the equivalent of a political earthquake."

But Muhlenburg College political scientist Chris Borick of Allentown said that analysis of her victory was overstated.

"She won a state she should have won. He did OK. If people were seeking clarity out of this, they are not going to get any," Borick said.

"I think it's put us further into a state of purgatory" in terms of deciding the race, Borick said.

For Clinton, the immediate challenge is cash.

"We can only keep winning if we can keep competing with an opponent who outspends us so massively," she said in urging supporters to come up with contributions.

Clinton's win was fueled in part by her success in attracting blue-collar voters, a crucial demographic in a state where 89 percent of the voters said the nation is in a recession.

Exit polling showed Clinton prevailing among voters without a college education, union households, gun owners and those who had not attended college.

With the win, Clinton claimed another big state — Obama's biggest-state win has been in Illinois, his home — but Obama remained ahead in the delegate count and total states won (30-15).

The Pennsylvania contest was the first since Obama trounced Clinton by 24 percentage points in Mississippi on March 11.

Before Tuesday's voting, Obama led 1,648.5 to 1,509.5 in the race to the 2,025 delegates it takes to clinch the race.

There were 158 delegates available in Pennsylvania, awarded proportionately based on statewide and congressional district results. Another 157 will be awarded in Indiana and North Carolina.

Obama is a heavy favorite in North Carolina. Indiana could be close and crucial.

"Pennsylvania was supposed to be the next Ohio," University of Pennsylvania political scientist Donald Kettl said of Ohio's March 4 contest — once viewed as the one that would determine the race. "Now, Indiana looks like the next Pennsylvania."

McCain easily won Tuesday's Pennsylvania GOP primary, cruising by Texas Rep. Ron Paul and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Huckabee remained on the ballot even though he has withdrawn from the race and endorsed McCain.

McCain adviser Mark McKinnon said his candidate also was a winner in Tuesday's Democratic race.

"The longer the Democratic primary drags on with Obama and Clinton fighting each other, the longer John McCain can run a general election campaign talking about his positive vision for America," McKinnon said.

Exit polls in Pennsylvania showed the continuation of some well-established trends on the Democratic side, with Obama carrying 92 percent of black voters, 53 percent of males and 60 percent of recently registered voters, and Clinton carrying 59 percent of voters age 60 or older and 55 percent of females.

Kettl said the Pennsylvania results highlighted vulnerabilities on both sides, with Obama unable to attract working-class voters and Clinton weak on attracting upper-income and young voters.

The primary was the first since Obama had to deal with controversial comments by the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, the candidate's longtime Chicago pastor. In videos widely viewed on YouTube and elsewhere,

Wright said in a post-Sept. 11 sermon that the nation had brought the 2001 attacks on itself.

Exit polls indicated a negative reaction to Obama among religious voters, possibly a reaction to Obama's recent comment about some Americans clinging to religion because of economic woes.

Thirty-nine percent of the state's voters said they attend church weekly. Clinton carried 59 percent of those voters.

Clinton's chance of winning the nomination rests mainly on convincing Democratic superdelegates that she has the best chance of beating McCain in the general election, even if she winds up with fewer pledged delegates than Obama.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Joe Sestak, a Clinton backer and superdelegate who represents a suburban Philadelphia area in which Obama ran well Tuesday, said he is not changing his allegiance.

"I need to listen to my district, but I still believe she is best for our nation," Sestak said.

Sestak said he thinks Clinton, in the remaining primaries, can pull close to even with Obama in the overall popular vote, an outcome he said would make a compelling case for her to take the race all the way to the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

Despite giving Clinton Tuesday's win, 54 percent of Pennsylvania voters said they expect Obama to win the nomination.

For the Democrats, another primary meant another round of spinning the results, something both sides did before the polls closed.

"One thing is clear," the Obama campaign said in a memo distributed to reporters and others, "Pennsylvania is considered a state tailor-made for Hillary Clinton, and by rights, she should win big."

Obama's handlers noted Clinton's family roots in the state — her grandfather lived in Scranton — and her support by Gov. Ed Rendell and the fact that polls once showed her up by 25 points in the state.

Clinton, said the Obama camp, needed "a blowout victory in Pennsylvania to get any closer to winning the nomination."

Clinton sought to put herself above spin, concentrating instead on the daily math.

"I think a win is a win. Maybe I'm old-fashioned about that," she told reporters during the day.

But she couldn't resist a quick spin.

"I think maybe the question ought to be: Why can't he close a deal with his extraordinary financial advantage?" Clinton said.

DELEGATE COUNTS

DEMOCRATS

Candidate Delegates

Hillary Clinton 1,547

Barack Obama 1,682

Needed to nominate: 2,025

Total delegate votes: 4,048

Source: Associated Press

Note: Delegate counts include pledged delegates and superdelegates allotted by the Democratic National Committee who may support any candidate. Counts are unofficial estimates and are subject to change.

PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Candidate Votes Percentage

Hillary Clinton 1,222,269 55%

Barack Obama 1,007,923 45%

98% of precincts reporting

PENNSYLVANIA REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

Candidate Votes Percentage

John McCain 563,252 73%

Ron Paul 123,982 16%

Mike Huckabee 88,648 11%

98% of precincts reporting

What's next for Democrats

May 3: Guam

May 6: Indiana, North Carolina

May 13: West Virginia

May 20: Kentucky, Oregon

June 1: Puerto Rico

June 3: Montana, South Dakota

INSIDE:

Vote totals and delegate counts, **A6**.

Vote for this story!

[Buzz up!](#)

Find this article at:

<http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/nation/04/23/0423campaign.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.