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Election Night

Max S. Baucus

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Senator * or Department*: **BAUCUS**

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* "required information"
U.S. Sen. Max Baucus

Election Night 2008

Jon Tester:

Thanks, Jon. You know, I have a great friend in the U.S. Senate don't I? I can't tell you how much I like Jon. I get compliments all the time. That Jon is a good man, they say. People are learning what we've known for a long time: the Big Man from Big Sandy has got the right stuff.

Thanks, Jon.

On the stage:

Isn't it a great night?!

I have some very special people up here with me.

• My son, Zeno.
I always wanted a daughter. And I got one this summer. Zeno's wife Stephanie.

- Jim Fleischmann, my campaign manager.
- Jon Selib, my Senate chief of staff
- Melodee Hanes, my state director.
- Barrett Kaiser, my communications director
- Holly Luck, my scheduler.
- John Lewis, my field director.

Mother:

There's also someone very special who couldn't make it tonight. But she's at home watching on television. My mother -- Jean Baucus. Hi mom!

Thank you:
Fellow Montanans, dear friends. From the bottom of my heart, thank you...

You voted for me. Now I'll keep voting for you...

Standing for more than 30 years on the Senate floor, I've answered to the title "The Senator from Montana."

And I can't put into words how proud I am to serve you for six more years. I have 900,000 of the world's best bosses.

We've done so much by working together. But we still have mountains to climb.

Among them: We have a health care system in shambles. We've seen the worst economic downturn since the Depression. And we are hopelessly addicted to foreign oil. This is a critical time in our nation's history.

We must establish a sane foreign policy.
And there's one person I'm proud to climb these mountains with. His name is Barack Obama.

**Presidential:**

Hasn't this presidential race been something?


I don't know Sarah Palin.

And I know Barack Obama and Joe Biden will bring the change America needs right now.

You've heard about this "Joe the Plumber"? Well, in Montana, we ARE Joe the Plumber. And look, we have Jon Tester. "He's Jon the Farmer."
This election comes down to a profound choice for all Americans. It is the choice between embracing change, embracing the future, trusting ourselves. Or, it is a choice to take a step backwards -- continuing the same failed policies that got us into this mess.

We have the choice to embrace the best that is in all of us. We have the choice once again to make America the beacon of hope across the globe. We have the choice to bring real change to America.
This isn't the first time that Montana has taken center stage during a Presidential election.

Roosevelt Visit

On September 19, 1932, a young Democratic governor running for President, facing a nation mired in Depression, stood in Butte, Montana.

He offered two stark contrasts for the country's future. He said, quote:

"This is, my friends, the issue of the campaign:

— on one side, cynical and unsympathetic acceptance of things as they are

— on the other, determination and faith in the possibility of change, of progress, and of a new deal."
That year, America overwhelmingly elected Franklin D. Roosevelt as its new President. And with him, America began a new age of progressive government.

Now tonight — more than 75 years later — we again have a Presidential candidate who will change America. And we are again at the dawn of a new era in Montana, and in America. This election tonight is transformational. Just as much as it was on the night we elected FDR to lead us to the “New Deal”.

Tonight we continue to move forward, to do what’s right for our state and for our country.
We’re not done yet

The eyes of the nation are on Montana once again. Two years ago, America took note when we elected Jon Tester and his flattop, giving Democrats a majority in the U.S. Senate.

This year, Barack Obama visited our state 5 times. Why? Because he knows we are a people of grit, courage, and can-do attitude.

We’re cut from the same cloth as the farmers and ranchers who braved an unforgiving wilderness to homestead here. We’re not afraid of change. — We sent the first woman to Congress.

— We’ve got the courage of Evel Knievel.

And we’re not done yet.
Challenges ahead:

I'm honored and humbled by your support. But this election is about the future of Montana and America.

The challenges we face are real. Change won't come easy. But we're going to grab hold with both hands and tug and pull and push as hard as we can to take our country back.

As in life, we have two choices: try or do nothing. We choose to try.

As Roosevelt said, it's about "determination and faith in the possibility of change, of progress."

These are certainly words of hope and of change. Tonight we open a new chapter of hope and prosperity and a better future for our children.
Once again, we stand at a crossroad in history.

Once again, we have the choice to elect a transformational leader.

Once again, we have the opportunity to bring on a time of real change.

From the jagged peaks of the Beartooth Mountains to the rolling waves of grain in the Golden Triangle, Montana is the greatest state -- in the greatest nation -- on the planet.

Closing:

It's the dawn of a new day in America. Like an eagle gliding effortlessly on air above the Yellowstone River, with his eyes fixed on the horizon, let the sun's rays warm our faces and lift us up to a brighter future.
Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

More staff on stage:

There are some other folks on my staff I want to bring up here:

- Russ Sullivan, my Finance Committee director.

- Paul Wilkins, my legislative director

- Sara Kuban, my press secretary

- Melanie Brock, my state finance director.

Everyone else. Let’s get everybody up here.

Hands up. Done.