

 **OBAMA FOR AMERICA** THANK YOU LETTER

Thank you for hosting a Change is Coming house meeting!

For nearly two years amazing supporters like you have organized, made phone calls, knocked on doors, and talked with friends and neighbors about the challenges facing our country. This year the pundits and people pushing politics as usual didn't decide the outcome of the election. It was ordinary Americans who took power into their own hands by getting involved and leading this movement.

On November 4th the American people spoke loud and clear that we are ready for change.

This was a monumental journey and historic victory, but it was only the first step. On Election Night, President-Elect Barack Obama reminded the nation, "This victory alone is not the change we seek; it is only the chance for us to make that change."

By hosting a Change is Coming house meeting you will help take the next step to build upon this opportunity. Invite friends and neighbors, who were involved during the campaign or are interested in becoming active for the first time, to discuss how you can collectively make an impact on the future of your neighborhood and nation.

As President, Barack Obama will need everyone to play a role in bringing change to Washington and communities across the country. We've included some resources to help guide you through planning and taking action to make a difference.

With your guests, reflect on the campaign and the issues that are most important to your group. Then brainstorm how you can ensure your voices are heard by influencing local political figures and the media. Finally, find ways to begin bringing change to your community right away and commit to participating in a service event before Barack Obama becomes President on January 20th.

It is up to each one of us to take the fate of our country into our hands. Let's get to work.

Thank you for all you do,

Nikki Sutton
Obama for America

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On Election Night, President-Elect Barack Obama reminded the nation, “This victory alone is not the change we seek; it is only the chance for us to make that change.”

Host a Change is Coming house meeting on Saturday, December 13th to take the next step and begin bringing change to your community and country.

As President, Barack Obama is counting on you to organize in your neighborhood and continue this movement. This guide will provide you with all the tools and resources you need to host a successful Change is Coming house meeting. At your event you will:

- ▶ Get to know others in your area who are ready to work for change.
- ▶ Determine the issues most important to your group.
- ▶ Plan how you can reach out to your local representatives and media to ensure your voices are heard.
- ▶ Get started bringing change right away by planning a service event before the Inauguration.

It is up to each one of us to take the fate of our country into our hands. Use this guide to start planning your own Change is Coming event.

BEFORE THE MEETING

I. Register your Event

Take a moment to register your event online. Registering your event online means you'll get your own page for your event, be able to send an invite to your friends, track who is planning on attending, and send details and reminders to your attendees.

Here are some things to keep in mind while creating your event:

- ▶ Select Change is Coming as your event type.
- ▶ Make your event searchable if you'd like to allow supporters on My.BarackObama to RSVP. Make your event unsearchable if you wish only to invite friends and family.

2. Invite Friends, Neighbors and Colleagues

Start with people you know. Think about friends and neighbors who were involved during the campaign. Next think about people who may not have been involved in the past to grow your group and this movement. Aim to invite at least 50 people, to ensure you have 15-20 people in attendance.

You may also want to reach out to your larger community. You can find your local My.BarackObama group and invite members to attend by emailing the group's listserv. You can create your own event flyers and post them at your local coffee shop, grocery store, or library.

Encourage all of your attendees to RSVP for your event so you know how many people to expect. Send an email to all of your attendees using the Email Attendees link on the Manage Your Events page a day or two before the event to remind everyone of the event's details.

3. Get your Materials in Order

There are some things you should have ready before your Change Is Coming event:

- ▶ Sign-in Sheets

This is the form that you will want to have all your attendees use to sign in.

- ▶ Plan for Change Form

This will help you brainstorm with your group and plan the next step.

- ▶ Change is Coming DVD

If you register your event before December 3rd and you live within the United States, we'll mail you an exclusive Change is Coming DVD and other host resources.

- ▶ Issue Flyers

Think about printing out flyers detailing Barack's positions to help brainstorm which issues your group would like to focus on.

You can download issue flyers at barackobama.com/downloads

- ▶ Camera

Don't forget to take pictures and share them with us after the event.

DURING THE MEETING

This agenda is meant only to be a suggestion to guide you in your activities. Feel free to organize your Change is Coming event according to your preferences.

Sample Schedule:

► Welcome from Host (5 minutes)

- Introduce yourself and ask your guests to sign-in.
- Share what inspired you to be involved in this monumental journey, the goals for the meeting, and why you think it important to continue working for change.

► Show Change is Coming Video (10 minutes)

► Plan for Change (30 minutes)

The most important part of your Change is Coming house meeting is to lay the groundwork for your group's activity in the coming weeks. Get to know one another. Find out what issues are top priorities for your group, and what relationships you already have with political or social organizations in your community.

- Reflect on the election and which issues are most important to your group.
- Brainstorm ways to build relationships with your local and federal representatives.
- Think about ways to amplify your groups actions, such as reaching out to local media outlets.
- Consider what actions you can take in your area to start bringing the change you'd like to see right away.
- Ask your guests to help lead your future efforts to plan events and reach out to local political figures, the media, and your community.

► The Next Step (10 minutes)

You can take action in your community right away to make a difference. Decide on and commit to hosting a service event before the Inauguration on January 20th. Then invite your local representatives to join you at your service event. Here are some ideas:

- Hold a book, toys, winter gear, or food drive to prepare for the holiday season. Work with local organizations such as Toys for Tots, The Salvation Army, or a local school or church.
- Host or participate in a blood drive in your neighborhood. Work with organizations like the Red Cross to plan a blood drive with your group.

- Excited about the much anticipated First Dog? Support your local animal shelter to give animals in your area a chance. The Humane Society of the United States provides lots of great ways you can help.
- Fight for a cause that is important to you, such as finding a cure for Breast Cancer. Participate in a walk-a-thon like Relay For Life.

► **Closing (5 minutes)**

Collect all sign-in sheets. Thank your guests for their involvement and participation.

AFTER THE MEETING

► **Capture Information**

Enter your plan for change survey and your sign-in sheets online at my.barackobama.com/plan-change and my.barackobama.com/changesignin.

If you'd prefer, you can mail copies of your sign-in sheets and planning forms to:

Obama for America Attn: New Media 233 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 1100 Chicago, IL 60601

► **Thank your guests**

Send individual thank you emails to all of your guests. Follow up with those who committed to participate in a service event to begin bringing change to your community. Make sure to let all of your guests know about your next event.

► **Share Your Feedback**

How did your Change is Coming house meeting go? What worked best? Share your feedback.

Write a blog and send your photos to photos@barackobama.com.

CONGRATULATIONS

President Elect Barack Obama said, "This victory alone is not the change we seek; it is only the chance for us to make that change." Congratulations, you have taken the first steps to bring change to your community and our country. Now begin planning your next event. It's people like you who can change this country, one step at a time.

Change never comes easy, but by identifying how to apply pressure in the right places, your group can have a great impact both locally and nationally.

The most important part of your Change is Coming house meeting today is to lay the groundwork for your group’s activity in the coming weeks. Get to know one another. Find out what issues are top priorities for your group, and what relationships you already have with political or social organizations in your community.

Fill out the following questionnaire to help your group plan for what you can do next to work for change.

1. What issues are most important to our group? For each issues consider if it is local, national, or both.

ISSUE	LOCAL	NATIONAL	NOTES

2. Who are our local representatives? Do we have any connections to them? How can we build relationships with our representatives and keep in touch with them about the issues that are important to us?

US Representative: _____

US Senator: _____

State Representative: _____

State Senator: _____

Governor: _____

3. What are our local media outlets? What is their contact information? Do we have any relationships within the local media? How can we publicize our actions and amplify our voices?

Local Television: _____

Local Newspaper(s): _____

Local Radio Stations: _____

4. What are local social and civic organizations we can work with? How can we reach out to these organizations to work together? Are there schools or local churches we'd like to become partners with?

Social and Civic Organizations: _____

Schools: _____

Churches: _____

5. What can we do even before Barack Obama is President? What service event will we commit to as a group before Inauguration? What local representatives will we invite to our service event?

Date of Service Event: _____

Representatives to Invite: _____

Description of Service Event: _____

When you have completed the survey make copies so multiple group members can keep track of this information. Then please send a copy to Obama for America, Att: New Media, 233 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 1100, Chicago, IL 60601. You can also enter it online at <http://my.barackobama.com/planchange>