



The Islamic Center of Southern California congratulates President-elect Obama and his vice president-elect, Joe Biden, on their remarkable campaign waged over 21 months.

President elect Barack Obama has been praised for his eloquence and intelligence; for being a transformative leader and bringing hope to the American people and the world. To watch thousands of people last night listening to Obama's acceptance speech was to get a small glimpse of the power of the people to effect change in their government.

Yesterday, the nation saw a record number of voters, both seasoned and newly-registered; participate in electing the first African American to the office of President. And for this reason, we extend our congratulations to the American Muslim community for their participation in this historic election.

If we, the American people, have finally realized that a government "of the people, for the people, and by the people" is what constitutes our government, then the election of Barack Obama is only a starting point. We must continue with the activism that it took to elect the first African American as president. As powerful as the Obama team's efforts were to get him elected, still more potent are the grassroots efforts of the American people.

Our nation is great because it offers the opportunity to change our lives for the better. But change is only possible when people are ready to work.

However, the work of our community has just begun. Let us commit ourselves to continue to build on the activism that brought us to this astounding moment in history.