

# MCOM 105: SPECIAL DIVERSITY FOCUS



## Clinton launches 2008 White House bid

By BETH FOUHY and MARC HUMBERT, Associated Press Writers

Saturday, January 20, 2007

Democratic Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton embarked on a widely anticipated campaign for the White House on Saturday, a former first lady intent on becoming the **first female** president. "I'm in and I'm in to win," she said on her Web site.

Clinton's announcement, days after Sen. Barack Obama (news, bio, voting record) shook up the contest race with his bid to become the **first black** president, establishes the most diverse political field ever.



Obama



Edwards



Richardson

Clinton is considered the front-runner, with Obama and 2004 vice presidential nominee John Edwards top contenders. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who would be the **first Hispanic** president, intends to announce his plans on Sunday.

"You know after six years of George Bush, it is time to renew the promise of America," Clinton says in a videotaped message in which she invites voters to begin a dialogue with her on the major issues — health care, Social Security and Medicare, and the war in Iraq.

"I'm not just starting a campaign, though, I'm beginning a conversation with you, with America," she said. "Let's talk. Let's chat. The conversation in Washington has been just a little one-sided lately, don't you think?"

Clinton, who was re-elected to a second term last November, said she will spend the next two years "doing everything in my power to limit the damage George W. Bush can do. But only a new president will be able to undo Bush's mistakes and restore our hope and optimism."

In a defiant statement — and a nod to questions about her electability — Clinton said: "I have never been afraid to stand up for what I believe in or to face down the Republican machine. After nearly \$70 million spent against my campaigns in New York and two landslide wins, I can say I know how Washington Republicans think, how they operate, and how to beat them."

With millions in the bank, a vast network of supporters and top status in nearly every poll of Democratic contenders, Clinton is undertaking the most viable effort by a female candidate to capture the White House. Her creation of a presidential exploratory committee allows her to raise money for the campaign; she already has lined up campaign staff.

She is the first presidential spouse to pursue the office; her husband, Bill, served two terms in the White House from 1993-2001.

Obama said in a statement soon after Clinton's entry, "I welcome her and all the candidates, not as competitors, but as allies in the work of getting our country back on track."

Clinton's announcement was the latest step in a remarkable political and personal journey for the 59-year-old Clinton — from Arkansas lawyer to first lady to New York senator to front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

A polarizing figure since she burst onto the national scene during her husband's first presidential campaign, Clinton engenders strong opinions among voters, who either revere or revile her but rarely are ambivalent.

She often is compared to her husband and found lacking in his natural charisma. Others have criticized her for being overly cautious and calculating when so many voters say they crave authenticity.

Many Democrats, eager to reclaim the White House after eight years of President Bush, fret that she carries too much baggage from her husband's scandal-plagued presidency to win a general election. Among many voters, she is best known for her disastrous attempt in 1993 to overhaul the nation's health care system and for standing by her husband after his marital infidelity.

Clinton's allies counter by citing her strengths — intelligence, depth of experience, work ethic and immense command of policy detail. Advisers argue those skills, plus her popularity among women and younger voters, position her strongly as both a primary and general election candidate.

In her first run for the Senate from New York in 2000 — a state where she had never lived and where she was branded a carpetbagger by many — Clinton won a landslide victory. Through dogged campaigning — including a "listening tour" of the state's 62 counties — Clinton was able to convince voters even in the conservative upstate region that she would represent them effectively in Washington.

Clinton's 2002 vote authorizing military force in Iraq has become a significant political challenge. It angered activists who want her to repudiate her vote and aggressively seek to block Bush's proposed troop increase.

She has toughened her criticism of the conduct of the war and Bush's handling of the conflict, and she recently called for capping troop levels in Iraq at around 140,000. She has rejected calls from liberal groups and Edwards to cut off funds for Bush's planned increase in U.S. troops.

Clinton grew up in the Chicago suburbs in a conservative Republican household and was a "Goldwater girl" in 1964, supporting conservative icon Barry Goldwater in the presidential race won by Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson.

By 1968, she was a Democrat. After graduating from Wellesley College, she attended law school at Yale where she met her husband, Bill Clinton. In 1974, she worked on the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment investigation of President Nixon before moving to Arkansas where she and Clinton were married in 1975.

An influential player in her husband's political career in Arkansas, she leapt to the national scene during the 1992 presidential campaign when the two fought to survive the scandal over Gennifer Flowers' allegations of a lengthy affair with Clinton when he was the state's governor. The Clintons appeared together on CBS' "60 Minutes" to talk about their marriage — her first famous "Stand by Your Man" moment.

As first lady, Clinton headed up a disastrous first-term effort to overhaul the health care insurance system. There was more controversy as the couple battled allegations of impropriety over land deals and fundraising, missing records from her former Arkansas law firm and even her quick and hefty profits from an investment in cattle futures.

There was no letup in the second term. The president found himself denying — then admitting — having a sexual relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. As he battled impeachment and possible removal from office, his wife's poll numbers rose.

Her own political career began to take shape in late 1998 when New York Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan announced he would not seek re-election to the Senate seat he had held since 1976. Within a few weeks, the first lady was being talked up by fellow Democrats as a possible successor for the veteran senator.

On Feb. 12, 1999, the very day the Senate was voting not to remove her husband from office, Clinton met in the White House's family quarters with New York Democrat Harold Ickes, a former Clinton administration deputy chief of staff, to talk about a Senate run.

The campaign trail was not always friendly. For almost every cheer, there was a shouted "Go home, Hillary!" and the emerging Republican theme that carpetbagger Clinton simply wanted to use New York

as a launching pad for a later presidential run. She pledged to serve her full six-year Senate term if elected.

In the Senate, Clinton quickly moved to establish herself as someone who could work with Republicans or Democrats, often sponsoring high-profile legislation with GOP colleagues.

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# The New York Times

January 20, 2007

## Clinton Says 'I'm In to Win' 2008 Race

Six years after making history by winning a United States Senate seat as first lady, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton announced this morning that she was taking the first formal step to seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008, a journey that would break yet more political barriers in her extraordinary and controversial career.



Mrs. Clinton



Her Web site, HillaryClinton.com, this morning. (January 20, 2007)

"I'm in," she says in a statement on her new campaign Web site. "And I'm in to win."

Mrs. Clinton, 59, called for "bold but practical changes" in foreign, domestic, and national security policy and said that she would focus on finding "a right end" to the Iraq war, expanding health insurance, pursuing greater energy independence and strengthening Social Security and Medicare.

In her statement, Mrs. Clinton also squarely confronted an issue that concerns many Democrats: Whether she can, in fact, win the presidency. Some voters still associate her most with the controversies of the Clinton administration, and Republicans have long attacked and caricatured her, and plan to brand her as indecisive on Iraq.

"I have never been afraid to stand up for what I believe in or to face down the Republican machine," Mrs. Clinton said on the Web site. "After nearly \$70 million spent against my campaigns in New York and two landslide wins, I can say I know how Washington Republicans think, how they operate, and how to beat them."

If successful, Mrs. Clinton would be the first female presidential nominee of a major American political party, and she would become the first spouse of a former president to seek a return to the White House. President Bill Clinton left office in January 2001 after two terms marked by robust economic expansion and a series of investigations into his personal life and the Clintons' business dealings.

The successes and shadows of those years will likely loom over Mrs. Clinton, who was both a hands-on adviser and a divisive presence in his administration.

Yet Mrs. Clinton has become a major political figure in her own right: She is broadly popular with women, African-Americans, and other core groups in the Democratic Party, and she is one of the party's best fund-raisers and most sought-after speakers. She is admired by many independents and Republicans in New York, winning re-election last year by a 30 percentage-point margin. While she is not associated with any major piece of legislation, she is widely regarded as an effective, thoughtful lawmaker who has built bipartisan ties.

Her early support for the Iraq war, however, and her unpopularity in the 1990s have stirred doubts among Democrats about whether she can win the presidency. And she remains an enigma and a caricature to many people: Radically liberal, coldly ambitious, or ethically compromised. Her friends say that she is none of these, but acknowledge that part of her challenge is letting voters see the full her and not simply a controlled, rehearsed politician — no easy task for such a private and protective person.

Mrs. Clinton announced that she was forming a committee to raise money for a presidential campaign in an e-mail message sent this morning to thousands of supporters, as well in a video and the statement on her Web site.

Beginning Monday at 7 p.m., she plans to hold three nights of live video discussions online in which she will answer voters' questions. She pledged in her statement to continue "a national conversation about how we can work to get our country back on track."

Her old Senate campaign Web site was also transformed this morning, with a new banner — "Hillary for President" — as well as a page for fund-raisers ("Hillraisers"), and a series of essays and campaign memos that promote her presidential candidacy.

"This is a big election with some very big questions," she said on her Web site. "How do we bring the war in Iraq to the right end? How can we make sure every American has access to adequate health care? How will we ensure our children inherit a clean environment and energy independence? How can we reduce the deficits that threaten Social Security and Medicare?"

Senator Clinton is the seventh Democrat to join the likely field of candidates who will officially start vying for the nomination next January in the Iowa presidential caucuses.

She joins Senator Barack Obama of Illinois, who announced plans to run on Tuesday; former Senator John Edwards of North Carolina, the 2004 vice presidential nominee; Senators Joseph R. Biden Jr. of Delaware and Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut; former Governor Tom Vilsack of Iowa; and Representative Dennis J. Kucinich of Ohio. An eighth, Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico, is expected to declare on Sunday that he is forming an exploratory committee as well.

Mrs. Clinton appears at the head of the Democratic pack in many national polls, yet she is in a tighter spot in some voter surveys in Iowa and New Hampshire, which kick off the presidential nominating process. Recent polls show Mr. Obama and Mr. Edwards doing well in those states.

Her entry into the race was long anticipated; even before she won her Senate seat in 2000, people joked about the restoration of the Clinton White House someday, with her in the Oval Office.



Online: January 20, 2007



(CBS/AP) "I'm in. And I'm in to win."

So says Democratic Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton in a statement on her Web site today, announcing the formation of a presidential exploratory committee as she embarks on a widely anticipated campaign for the White House.

The Democratic Senator from New York and former First Lady will be campaigning to become the nation's first female president.

She announced that beginning January 22 she will host a series of online chats on her Web site, inviting voters to join a discussion about the issues to be addressed in the upcoming campaign.

"I have spent a lifetime opening opportunities for tens of millions who are working hard to raise a family: new immigrants, families living in poverty, people who have no health care or face an uncertain retirement," Clinton said.

"The promise of America is that all of us will have access to opportunity, and I want to run a 2008 campaign that renews that promise, a campaign built on a lifetime record of results."

Clinton's announcement, coming days after Sen. Barack Obama shook up the 2008 race with his bid to become the first black to occupy the White House, establishes the most diverse political field. Clinton is considered the front-runner, with Obama and 2004 vice presidential nominee John Edwards top contenders. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who would be the first Hispanic, intends to announce his plans on Sunday.

"All things considered, she is a little bit more a front-runner than Senator Obama," said Geoff Garin, a Democratic pollster not aligned with any candidate. He put the odds at "better than 50-50 that the nominee will come from that pair."

Obama said in a statement soon after Clinton's entry, "I welcome and all the candidates, not as competitors, but as allies in the work of getting our country back on track."



Last week – after Obama's announcement but before her own – Sen. Clinton told CBS News' Harry Smith that **she was glad to have Obama in the race.**

*"It's terrific that we're going to have a very vigorous primary, on both sides," Clinton said. "I'm looking forward to a spirited and substantive debate about issues, about goals, about aspirations, about experience, about the kinds of things voters would be interested in."*

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## **BLOG ON CBS NEWS: Public Comments about Hilliary Clinton**

Now, getting back to the Clinton Attack Machine. They are good, If Obamma decides to stay and fight, they will take Obamma out and make it look like the republicans did it. Its already started. There is not, I repeat not going to be a Republican President in this country until we do the Carter thing again. Possibly in 2012.

**Posted by hillaryin08 at 01:47 PM : Jan 20, 2007**

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I wish Hillary had stayed out of the Prez race. I really do not want to vote for her. It is going to be very interesting. I see Obama dropping out and supporting Hillary.

I also see all the other Dem candidates put their wagons in Hillary's parade.  
Still, depends who the Repubs put up as there are a lot of people who dislike Hillary, including me.  
It will be one of the most interesting Prez races in my lifetime.  
We'll see.

**Posted by tibu987 at 01:46 PM : Jan 20, 2007**

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hungry1968

Didnt we have this discussion before. If Bush is such a dumbass, what does it make the guys and gals that fell for the plan?

In the real world however, those liberals took a political gamble and they lost. This was the only excuse they could come up with. The real winners in the Democratic party are the ones who have stuck to their beleifs the whole time.

**Posted by hillaryin08 at 01:42 PM : Jan 20, 2007**

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Hey, didn't she attend a radical Islamic school as a child? Why isn't the media looking into this?

**Posted by memekiller at 01:42 PM : Jan 20, 2007**

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It is time, some body do something for the millions and millions of american workers that go to work every day and don't have health insurance.

It is a shame that this country that claims to be the richest and the most powerful on earth, is the one that cares less for the health of its people. I know Hillary has concerns about it and am sure she will fix it when she becomes president

**Posted by candelario3 at 01:41 PM : Jan 20, 2007**

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Watch and learn, the Clintons will make the Bush machine look like Sesame Street

Posted by hillaryin08 at 01:24 PM : Jan 20, 2007

No comment needed...

**Posted by hungry1968 at 01:39 PM : Jan 20, 2007**

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hillaryin08:

If you want to put a truthful spin on all these quotes you keep posting, you should say it like this:

John Kerry January 23, 2003 - with the falsified evidence in hand that George Bush ordered the CIA to fabricate said...

OR

Hillary Clinton January 22, 2003 - with the falsified information that George Bush ordered the NSA to fabricate said...

**Posted by hungry1968 at 01:38 PM : Jan 20, 2007**

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Dont get me wrong here, I'm no liberal but he doesent have any blood on his hands for the Iraq war like the rest of the Dem candidates. He's the only one thats not acting like a Hypocrite (so far) But to stop the Clinton attack machine?

**Posted by hillaryin08 at 01:33 PM : Jan 20, 2007**

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Time will tell, but I will not vote for her.

Gotta go pick up my clown suit from the drycleaner. Loserman18, I am coming for you! Ahhhhhhhh....

Later...

**Posted by jimfinster at 01:33 PM : Jan 20, 2007**

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wayfedup

Now come on, The clintons have the Money, The Power and most of all Bill. You really think Obamma can stop that? They have already started on the guy.

**Posted by hillaryin08 at 01:30 PM : Jan 20, 2007**

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