

Illinois favors Obama over Clinton

by UPI

CHICAGO - Illinois voters Tuesday showed a preference for their U.S. senator rather than for a former first lady who grew up in the Chicago area. Thousands of voters braved chilly and damp weather for a chance to decide a historic showdown between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, the two Democratic presidential hopefuls with strong ties to the state. Obama was declared the winner early on by the Chicago Sun-Times and CBS News. With 8,523 of the state's 11,574 precincts reporting, Obama held a 65 percent to 33 percent lead over Sen. Clinton of New York. At Obama's polling place, Beulah Shoesmith Elementary School in Chicago, the candidate and his wife, Michelle, were met by applause and cheers from supporters, Fox News reported. Before entering the school to vote, the couple paused at a sign taped to a classroom window that read, "Shoesmith School and Room 100 (Heart) Barack Obama." In the suburban community of Park Ridge, Ill., voters came to Eugene Field School, where Clinton attended as an elementary student. Debbie Kelly, 41, who is self-employed, told Fox she planned to vote for Clinton. "Other countries have done it and I think it's time for the U.S.," she said.

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