

Obama charitable giving reported

by UPI

CHICAGO - Presidential candidate Barack Obama became more generous to charities after he was elected to the U.S. Senate from Illinois in 2004, records show.

Obama, a Democratic, and his wife, a hospital administrator, reported taxable income of \$983,626 and claimed charitable deductions of \$60,307 on their 2006 tax return filed this month. In 2005, together they earned \$1.65 million and donated about \$77,300 to charity, the Chicago Tribune reported Wednesday.

In 2002, the year before Obama began campaigning for U.S. Senate, the couple reported income of \$259,394 and claimed \$1,050 in charitable deductions, or about 0.4 percent of their income.

The national average for charitable donations is about 2.2 percent of household income, the newspaper reported. Obama's tax returns dating to 1997 show the couple fell well below the 2.2 percent mark until 2005, the year Obama went to Washington and signed several lucrative book deals.

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