

## *Purple separating into red, blue states*

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (UPI) -- The purple splashes brought to the U.S. electoral map by Barack Obama in 2008 appear to be separating into the familiar red and blue, political observers say.

Traditionally Republican territory where [President Obama](#) and Democrats chalked up hard-fought wins now are viewed as returning to their roots, creating the specter of Democratic losses during the 2010 election cycle, Politico reported.

Democrats in general and Obama in particular "had wind at their back," said former Rep. Tom Davis, a Virginia Republican and analyst of national politics. "People were hungry for change and the president was running against a 72-year-old guy who couldn't use a computer. ... One election doesn't make realignment."

Taking a different tack, Democratic National Committee Chairman Tim Kaine said Obama's success in traditionally Republican states means the states are competitive for both parties.

"They were red but they're competitive now," said Kaine, a former Virginia governor.

Democrats close to Obama said the historic 2008 election was neither a realignment of a political map nor a one-time win because of national circumstances, Politico said.

"These states are now competitive but will tilt one way or another depending on the climate," said Anita Dunn, a Democratic strategist and Obama's former communications director.