



THE WHITE HOUSE

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

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President's Statement on Afghan President Karzai's Election Victory

I congratulate President Karzai on his election victory. I commend the millions of Afghan men and women who voted in the first democratic election in their nation's history. Through this simple act of voting, the Afghan people declared to the world their determination to move beyond a brutal legacy of oppression, terror, and fear to a future of hope, democracy, and freedom. The large turnout by Afghan women, who made up 40 percent of all voters, confirms that there is a vital role for women in the politics of a nation proud of its Islamic heritage. The election also makes clear that a free Afghanistan is a partner in the war on terror, a beacon of hope in a troubled region of the world, and an example to other countries working to realize the promise of freedom.

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