



**CRAIG BROWN**  
**COLUMBIANA COUNTY RECORDER**

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### County Recorder Will Attend Obama Inauguration

Local residents County Recorder Craig Brown and his wife, optometrist, Dr. Rebecca Brown will be attending the inauguration of President-Elect Barack Obama on Tuesday.

Last month Brown was one of the five hundred and thirty-eight electors that cast ballots in order to formally elect the President. As a result, Brown was invited to attend the Inaugural ceremony and swearing-in of President-Elect Obama by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

“As an elector, I was sworn in at around noon and a couple of hours later my duties were completed,” continued Brown, “this certainly puts the icing on the cake.”

Brown received notification of his invitation by Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner. As chief elections officer of the state, Secretary Brunner was asked to inform Presidential electors that each elector and a guest were extended an invitation from the Congressional committee.

“Think about it for a minute. From the historical perspective this is a monumental moment in American history,” he continued, “This is one of the moments that help define a generation and will be known as a milestone in American history.”

Brown said that he was honored to have been invited and is looking forward to the ceremony, but admitted that both his wife and him have one big concern.

“I’m worried about how exactly my wife and I are going to travel from the outskirts of D.C. to the front of the Capitol,” stated Brown.

This year’s Presidential Inauguration is predicted to be the largest Presidential Inauguration in American history. Planners have warned travelers to anticipate “crush-level crowds” and officials have warned local residents to expect millions of visitors.

Brown and his wife will be staying with a relative in Baltimore. His wife secured a ride from Baltimore to D.C., but from that point the Browns are left to their own devices.

“My plan is to review some maps before arriving and to keep reassuring both of us that it’ll be just fine,” state Brown.

He continued, "From what I understand the crowd is going to be overwhelming and traveling in town is going to be difficult considering road and bridge closures, not to mention security."

"I'm glad I'm going, and I'm in awe of the historic nature of the event, but my wife (Rebecca) is certainly not looking forward to the trip in to D.C. and the long walk from wherever to the Capitol," said Brown

Brown said that his plan was to look at some maps and keep reassuring his wife and himself that, "It is all going to be ok."

Brown admitted that if he didn't have tickets he probably would not have planned to attend the event. People will be able to view the ceremony from the Mall by watching large screens televising the event.

He added, "This is a fine moment for our nation and I'm proud to be a part of it."

Tickets for the ceremony were available to the general public by contacting their member of the U.S. House of Representatives or their U.S. Senators. Individuals can also obtain a four pack of tickets with other perks for a donation of \$50,000 to the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies traditionally invites Presidential Electors to Presidential inaugurations. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) is committee chairwoman.