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Book Sales Lifted Obamas' Income in 2007 to a Total of \$4.2 Million

By **JEFF ZELENY**

WASHINGTON — Senator [Barack Obama](#) released his 2007 tax return on Wednesday evening, reporting a household income of \$4.2 million due to a sharp increase in the sales of his books during the first year of his presidential campaign.

That was a substantial jump from the roughly \$1 million in income the Obamas reported in 2006, much of that also from book deals.

Earlier this month, the Clintons released their tax returns over eight years, showing they earned \$109 million over that period, with a substantial portion likewise coming from book sales.

In the return released Wednesday, Mr. Obama and his wife, Michelle, reported a \$3.9 million net profit from books, a sum that dwarfed their combined salaries of \$260,735. They paid nearly \$1.4 million in federal taxes last year and contributed \$240,370 to various charities.

The campaign released 34 pages of tax information two hours before Mr. Obama and Senator [Hillary Rodham Clinton](#) appeared at a Democratic [presidential debate](#) in Philadelphia. Public disclosure has emerged as a key point between the two rivals, so the release of the tax returns was timed to precede the debate.

Last month, the Obamas' tax returns from 2000 to 2006 were posted on the campaign Web site. Mrs. Clinton followed suit a few weeks later. The Clinton campaign has called on Mr. Obama to release his returns before 2000, which he has declined to do.

For the third year in a row, royalties from the sale of Mr. Obama's books sharply elevated the Obamas' wealth. His annual Senate salary was \$157,102, and her salary at the [University of Chicago](#) hospitals was \$103,633 — less than the previous year because she dropped to part-time status to spend more time on the presidential campaign.

Their contributions to charity have increased exponentially since Mr. Obama started his run for president. Among their largest gifts were donations of \$26,270 to Trinity United Church of Christ, \$50,000 to the United Negro College Fund and \$35,000 to the global poverty charity CARE.

In terms of investments, the Obamas reported just \$1,442 in taxable interest income in 2007.

The Obamas paid only a fraction of their 2007 tax burden in the form of estimated taxes, which is perhaps a reflection of the unpredictable nature of their income last year.

In 2004, before Mr. Obama was elected to the Senate, the Obamas reported \$207,647 in taxable income. That compared with an overall taxable income of \$1.6 million in 2005 and \$983,826 in 2006, with the increase due to an advance and royalties from his books, "Dreams From My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope."

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