

Hon. Carolyn McLaughlin

Honorable Carolyn McLaughlin has over 30 years of experience in public service, preceded by 10 years as a research chemist in the areas of cosmetics development and nuclear weapons research. After serving three terms as Second Ward Council Member, McLaughlin was elected President of the Common Council in 2009. In January 2010 Ms. McLaughlin began her first four-year term as the first African American President of the Albany Common Council. She was re-elected to this position in 2014. In addition, McLaughlin served as Chairwoman of the Albany County Democratic Committee in September 2014. - September 2016. Under her leadership as Chairwoman, the first African American was elected as Judge to the New York State Supreme Court for the Third Judicial District in November 2015 and the first African-America was elected Judge to the Albany County Court in November 2016. After a run for mayor of Albany, New York in 2017, Carolyn retired from political service. However, she resumed public service after being elected to the Albany County Legislature in 2019. She is also currently a Doctoral student at St. John Fisher University.

Elected to the Albany Common Council in 1997, Ms. McLaughlin proudly represented the Second Ward in the historic South End for 12 years while also serving as Majority Leader and with membership on the Finance, Taxation and Assessment and Planning, Economic Development and Land Use committees. As Chair of the Housing and Community Development Committee, she was responsible for oversight of the Community Development Block Grant process. She has been one of the strongest advocates for quality affordable housing in the city. She is co-sponsor of the legislation that established a vacant building registry and the lead sponsor for legislation which established the Citizens Police Review Board in the city of Albany. From affordable housing to rehabilitation of abandoned property, from childcare to senior services, from health care to the prevention of HIV/Aids, from education reform to job creation, from the war on crime and drugs to the war on economic and environmental justice, Ms. McLaughlin consistently offers her opinion on issues and challenges faced by her community. She advocated for equitable distribution of resources to improve the quality of life across all neighborhoods in the city of Albany.

One of the accomplishments she is most proud of is the time she served on the South End Task Force, also known as the South End Action Committee, which led the discussion that resulted in the Capital South Campus Center (CSCC) which opened in 2014. The CSCC quickly became the center of community and educational development of residents across the city. Among other activities supporting and advocating for women and girls, Ms. McLaughlin has been a member of the Woman's Club of Albany, Zonta International, and served as past President of the Board of Directors of Girls Incorporated of the Capital Region. She is a member of the Alpha Chi Omega Chi Women's Club, an affiliate of the

National Association of Black Women's Clubs which advocates for the professional and social development of women and girls.

As a member of the Black Women's Association of Albany (BWAA), she was integral to establishing activities designed to promote the educational development of girls, including serving as Vice-President and as a member of the Scholarship Committee.

The BWAA annually awarded scholarships to female high school graduates of the Capital Region. In 2010 Ms. McLaughlin established the *Vidie L. McLaughlin Memorial Scholarship* in memory of her mother. This scholarship is awarded annually, through the BWAA, to a female student graduating from high school who resides in Albany. In addition to this she annually financially supported up to three community-based organizations advocating for area youth through the United Way.

Ms. McLaughlin retired in 2016 after serving the people of New York State for twenty-nine years, most recently as an Assistant Manager in the Human Resources Department of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) where she was responsible for staff training and development, and special projects. One of her greatest achievements at NYSTRS was coordinating the first NYSTRS MWBE Investments conference which attracted over 200 minority and women emerging investment managers and brokers. Prior to this assignment she served as Assistant Manager for Budget and Planning for seven years. This was preceded by 11 years with the New York State Division of Budget and 2 years with the Department of Civil Service.

A native of Albany, Ms. McLaughlin earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Keuka College in Keuka Park, NY and received a National Urban Fellowship which led to her earning a Master's in Public Administration from Baruch College of New York City.

Ms. McLaughlin's personal mission statement is "To live each day demonstrating gratitude for what I have been given and for what I have experienced. I will do this by sharing my gifts with others and performing actions that will serve to enhance the quality of life of individuals, children, and families."