

Margaret Carter



A recipient of the 2008 Hands On Portland "Heart of the Community" Award, Senator Margaret Carter first entered public office in 1985. She is the first African American woman in Oregon history to be elected to the Legislative Assembly. Following service in the House of Representatives, Ms. Carter was elected to the Oregon Senate in 2000, and in January 2005 as Senate President Pro Tempore.

In 2007, her colleagues from across the United States elected her as National President of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL/Women).

For her work, Ms. Carter has received numerous awards including the Elliott Human Rights Award, and the "Legislator of the Year" award from the

National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL).

As a legislator, she helped to create the Oregon Convention Center, a permanent state Head Start Program, the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, was the chief sponsor of the landmark Oregon Anti-Apartheid Act (South Africa Divestiture) Act of 1987, the Oregon Human Rights & (Sudan) Anti-Genocide Act of 2005, the bill to establish an Oregon state holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., legislation to protect the waterfalls of Columbia Gorge (now a National Scenic Area), wetlands mitigation banking, an advocate for minority businesses, and funding for the public schools.

Most recently, Senator Carter has worked for parity in mental health, improved mental health services, assistance for home ownership for low and moderate income families, and tougher enforcement of laws to prohibit discrimination in housing.

In 2007, Senator Carter served as Vice Chair of Senate Ways & Means and Chair of the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Human Services and currently chairs the Legislative Emergency Board Subcommittee on Human Services.

A former Assistant Community Action Agency Director, past President & CEO of the Urban League of Portland, and faculty member and counselor of Portland Community College (PCC), Senator Carter holds a Bachelor of Science from Portland State University and a professional Masters degree in education from Oregon State University. Margaret is also the mother to nine children, grandmother to 26 and great grandmother to six.