



Eleanor Jordan

Eleanor Jordan was appointed in January 2008, as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on Women, by Governor Stephen L. Beshear. She is the first African American to hold the post which requires her to consult with and advise the Governor and his Cabinet on matters pertaining to and of interest to women and to recommend strategies for improvement.

Since her appointment, Eleanor has crisscrossed the state speaking about the status of women, particularly highlighting the grim health and well-being statistics. Under her leadership the Commission has hosted two women's health summits, formed the Kentucky Women's Health Coalition, and rolled out the Women's Wellness Guide Kiosk project. Her office advocated for the creation of a new State certification for women and minority owned businesses, created the Kentucky Women's History Project, the Kentucky Women's Leadership Council, hosted a celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Women Suffrage, developed the Kentucky Pay Equity Toolkit, and unveiled fifteen additional portraits to be added to the Kentucky Women Remembered Exhibit. Eleanor has also worked with the Justice Cabinet advocating for the implementation of National Prison Rape Elimination Standards and coordinated with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and First Lady Jane Beshear to open the first Lactation/Breastfeeding Room in the State Capitol building.

Her past executive branch experience also includes serving as Ombudsman for the Cabinet for Families and Children during the administration of Governor Paul Patton, and as Principal Assistant to Attorney General Greg Stumbo.

In 1996, Jordan was elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives from the 42nd Legislative District in Louisville making her the only African American female in the 138-member body.

During her service in the Kentucky General Assembly, she gained a reputation for being an outspoken advocate for women and children, and a strong opponent of the juvenile death penalty years before it was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. Eleanor also sponsored and supported legislation on pay equity for women, women's health, early childhood education reforms, civil rights and housing. She served on the Health and Welfare, Appropriations and Revenue, Labor and Industry, and Licensing and Occupations Committees.

In 2000, Eleanor won the Democratic primary nomination for Kentucky's Third District Congressional seat, making her the first African American in Kentucky to become the party's nominee for Congress in a general election. Her fundraising ability netted nearly 2 million dollars and many national politicians including President Clinton traveled to Louisville to stump for her. She was invited to address the Democratic National Convention at the Los Angeles Staples Center that same year.

Prior to legislative service, Eleanor was active in the Louisville community championing two major issues: the preservation of historic structures in the Parkland community and advocating for better quality and more affordable child care for the poor. Surrounding these two issues, she founded the Parkland Alliance Neighborhood Association which rallied successfully to get a portion of Parkland listed on the National Register of Historic Places. She also helped to organize African American child care directors to pursue the integration of all-white state child care associations and boards, and co founded the

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West Louisville Child Care Alliance. Still active in her community, she recently led the creation of the Parkland Neighborhood Improvement Association and serves as its charter President.

She currently sits on the Breast Cancer Advisory Council, the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, the West Louisville Community Ministries, California Area Child Development , and the Kentucky Institute of Medicine Boards.

She is a Henry Toll Fellow- Class of 1997.

Eleanor has been recognized with numerous honors. A few among the most notable are:

the *Stand Up for Children Award* from Jefferson County Public Schools, the *Brenan-Hayly Public Service Award* from the University of Louisville, the *Public Advocate of the Year* award by the Dept. of Public Advocacy, the *Women's Advocate of the Year* award by the University of Kentucky, the *Mae Street Kidd Award* from the Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition, and the *African American Studies and Research Program* award from the University of Kentucky.

She was named the *Public Policy Advocate* of 2009 by the National Association of Women Business Owners and honored as the 2009 *Most Admired Woman in Kentucky Politics* by Today's Woman Magazine, and the Center for Women and Families honored her as a 2011 *Women of Distinction*. In 2012 she received an Image Award from the National Association of Black Veterans and the *Trailblazer Award* from Toyota Manufacturing Corp.

Eleanor has appeared in *Black Journal*, *Essence* and *MS* magazines, as well as profiled in the following books: Kentucky Women by Eugenia Potter and Politics, Religion and Death by Carl Wedekind, the Journal of Black Studies: African American Women and Their Quest for Congress by Dr. Dewey Clayton, and Standing Up for Reproductive Rights by Fran Ellers.

Eleanor has also been profiled on the BBC, Oxygen, and MTV channels.

She attended Western Kentucky University, is a member of the Bates Memorial Baptist Church and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.