

Serving where your heart lives!

Women have found power in a variety of ways throughout history in their struggle towards justice and equality. In the 1800's a woman was supposed to have four things virtue, purity, submissiveness, and family life. These principles shaped the "Cult of True Womanhood" an idea that women were to be seen but not heard. Women had no say when it came to politics, they didn't get a right to vote until 1919. You can't be Mayor because you are too kind. You could never be Sheriff because you are not cold-blooded. You can't be in government because you are indecisive. Then women came along like Carrie P. Meek in 1979, who later wore a beautiful shirt that stated, "Women belong in the House and the Senate!" Don't forget Alma Lee Loy in 1964 or M. Athalie Range in 1970 who helped paved the way.

As I see it, true value of public service is the ability to bring people together to accomplish a common goal. To help move beyond political beliefs and cross the hard lines we too often draw. As Mother Teresa stated, "Love cannot remain by itself, it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service." Today's local government professionals are great at solving problems and they see many each day. From the complex long-term funding issues to the emergency crisis of the moment, these professionals are committed to doing what needs to be done to protect and serve their communities. You do not have to wonder as a citizen if you will have clean water to your home, or streetlights that operate, or an ambulance when you dial 911. These have become givens in our lives, and it is largely due to the stewards of our public dollars who balance the needs of the people they serve.

For those that work at the local level, they have an especially delicate connection to those they serve. Seeing the people who both benefit or take issue with your decisions at the grocery store or in the neighborhood park creates a closer and more vulnerable relationship.

I want to live in a place that's safe, welcoming, and where people genuinely care for one another. Public service reaches beyond a responsibility to our current community, they have a growing obligation to ensure that current plans, investments, and actions do not harm future generations. What I believe is when you take the time to get to know these leaders you will find they are a different breed of professional. I believe that people, at their core, care about their community. I've watched Councilwoman Watkins Brown, House of Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka, Commissioner Jennifer English, and Councilwoman Terolyn Watson, genuinely embrace a model of sustainability in which environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and social awareness are equally important. It's their job as public servants to contribute towards the quality of life, demonstrate transparency, pursue excellence, innovate, collaborate, and most importantly lead by example!