



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

Biography of Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson

Jocelyn Benson is Michigan's 43rd Secretary of State. In this role, she has become one of the nation's most prominent leaders in ensuring elections are secure and accessible. Benson's work overseeing Michigan's 2020 and 2022 general elections, both of which drew record-breaking turnout and were more secure than any prior election in state history, earned her national recognition, including the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award and the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Believing that a healthy democracy is one in which government works for everyone, Benson has also dramatically improved the customer experiences for all who interact with Secretary of State's office.

Benson is the author of *State Secretaries of State: Guardians of the Democratic Process*, the first major book on the role of the secretary of state in enforcing election and campaign finance laws. She is also a co-founder and former president of Military Spouses of Michigan, a network dedicated to providing support and services to military spouses and their children.

A graduate of Harvard Law School and expert on civil rights law, education law and election law, Benson served as dean of Wayne State University Law School in Detroit. When she was appointed dean at age 36, she became the youngest woman in U.S. history to lead a top-100, accredited law school. She continues to serve as vice chair of the advisory board for the Levin Center at Wayne Law, which she founded with former U.S. Sen. Carl Levin. Previously, Benson was an associate professor and associate director of Wayne Law's Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights.

In 2015, she became one of the youngest women in history to be inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame