Wanda Mitchell-Smith

BIO



Wanda Mitchell-Smith is the Metro Council Liaison, Intergovernmental Affairs for the Office of the Mayor Greg Fischer.

Wanda Mitchell-Smith has served as Legislative Aide to Councilwoman Barbara Sexton Smith of Metro Council District 4. She is a results-oriented community development specialist with an extensive background of working with diverse communities throughout the state of KY and she has proven leadership abilities with successful project outcomes including strong relationships among local-area churches as an added benefit. In her role to District 4, she brings a wealth of knowledge as a professional community development liaison, expanding upon over 25 years of knowledge and experience in developing community partnerships within the public and private sectors, including federal, state, county, city and civic organizations.

Wanda has served as Political Action Representative for AFSCME Council 62, starting as an Organizer with AFSCME in 2001. There her Primary job responsibilities included Promotion of legislative equality for better work conditions, pay equity, healthcare and job safety. She conducted research on current and past legislation/issues relevant to working families, assess both the positive and negative impacts, strategize with international leadership team and made recommendations to regional management to help determine appropriate courses of action and by implementing targeted programs where she organized as well as mobilized 7,000+ public employees throughout the state of KY. As a registered lobbyist of Congress (Washington, DC), Commonwealth of KY General Assembly, and local government officials on all legislative

issues related to the goals and interests of AFSCME. Her budget creation for campaign contributions to candidates who support union & community issues gained her the distinction to organize numerous Political Action Committees and to secure monies to support campaign re-elections through independent expenditures in excess of \$1M. Training of staff members on every political platform related to issues and lobbying techniques. In this role some of her significant accomplishments included the Development of new AFSCME Political Endorsement Process that allows for more inclusion & involvement of local unions; includes Candidate Accountability Measures to ensure their alignment with AFSCME objectives; formed Quick Call Response Teams to proactively exchange information and address problems. From that implementation 87% AFSCME endorsed candidates won election campaigns as result of the new Endorsement Process. Federal: Presidential Primary; (2) Congressmen. State: Governor; (62) Legislators in both Senate & House. Local: (1) Mayor; (8) Commissioners; (17) School Board Members.

As Deputy Chief of Staff for Lt Governor Stephen L. Henry, Wanda represented the Lt. Governor in policy decisions and negotiations related to education & health services within all levels of state government. She managed all scheduling & public appearances for the Lt. Governor and worked with Long-Term Development & Research Boards to help in the planning process for future economic development projects within the state. She developed partnerships between government, community leaders and local churches that focused on: Neighborhood Revitalization (worked with Waterfront Development Board); Health & Family Services (worked with KCHIP Program & KY Housing Commission); Veteran Initiatives (Veteran Retiree Project) and worked with Transportation Cabinet to help Southeast Christian Church in their building efforts. One of her many responsibilities were to oversee political & community projects as well as ensuring timely completion and successful outcomes of assigned projects. She served as trouble-shooter for the Lt. Governor to help resolve conflicts between the Governor's office, community organizations and the local/national press.

In Congress Wanda was a Special Assistant & Community Liaison to Congressman Mike Ward. In that capacity she represented the Congressman in policy decisions and negotiations at all levels of government and advised the team on prevailing governmental and community-based issues. A researcher on issues important to the minority community with a special emphasis on education, housing and family services, Wanda developed and maintained a communication process between city, county, state and federal government where she assisted in the implementation of educational programs & civic projects that fostered partnerships within the community.

Wanda has served and was elected as Recording Secretary for the Kentucky State AFL/CIO and was twice elected as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in both 1996 and 2004 and was also a delegate to the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council. She served on the Blue Ribbon Healthcare Panel and the Wellness Sub-Committee. Wanda is currently a member of the Central District Baptist Association Women's Auxiliary; she is a board member for the First Gethsemane Center and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and over the years has received numerous community awards and honors.

On Sunday, December 23rd, 2007 Wanda acknowledged her call into the ministry at First Gethsemane Baptist Church and preached her initial Sermon on Wednesday, March 12th, 2008 and her topic was "Choose Jesus He's the R.E.A.L. Candidate and her text was John 1:1-14 verse. Her favorite passage of scripture is Psalms 118:24 "This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it." At First Gethsemane give leadership to the "Committed Achievers" Senior Ministry.

Wanda is married to Daryl A. Smith (who by the way, completed two deployments to Iraq with the Kentucky Air National Guard, retired) for 38 years, and they have a 31 year old daughter Erin Elisabeth, University of Louisville Graduate, with a Masters Degree from the School of Arts and Sciences.