

SHERRY HARRIS

b. February 27, 1965

“All real and lasting change starts first on the inside and works its way through to the outside.”

Believing it impossible to win an election as an out lesbian, many people warned Sherry Harris against running for Seattle City Council. In 1991, Harris proved her skeptics wrong. She defeated a 24-year-incumbent councilman to become the nation's first openly lesbian African-American city councilwoman.

Prior to politics, Harris pursued a professional career in engineering. In 1980, she received a B.S. in Human Factors Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. She worked as a project engineer for PNW Bell Telephone Company.

As Seattle city councilwoman (1992-1995), Harris championed downtown interests. She promoted the expansion of the Washington State Convention and Trade Center and supported a downtown symphony hall. A native of Newark, New Jersey, Harris said, “I was raised in a city where the downtown died, and so did the rest of the city.”

Harris works with Humanity's Team, an organization that emphasizes interpersonal connections. One volunteer who worked closely with Harris said, “She is truly a fine leader demonstrating great passion for humanity's well-being [who] displays uncompromising strength of character.”

**SHERRY
HARRIS**
FOR CITY COUNCIL

**Sherry Harris is the
first openly lesbian
African-American city
councilwoman in the U.S.**



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