

## Representative Margo Davidson (D-PA)



Margo was born to a tenacious teenage, single mother in the middle of the 1960s revolution in America. She learned from an early age that anything is possible, you can defy the odds, and never let anyone put you in a box. While growing up very poor Margo's mother had a generous spirit which Margo also inherited. With this background, Margo was fearless in pursuing her goals which focused on serving people and helping them to live their best life.

With the tenacity and generosity that she inherited from her mother, Margo pushed through many barriers to become the first in her family to finish college and earn a Master's degree. Her first career was as a broadcast journalist at a time when there was widespread discrimination and a stunning lack of black journalists in newsrooms across America. Undeterred, Margo decided she would work in urban broadcasting with a commitment to deliver the truth to communities of color that not only reflected the realities they faced but provided information that empowered.

As the crack cocaine epidemic hit Philadelphia she was no longer content with reporting the news and providing information. She recognized that people needed direct service. She then founded the first of two non-profits - one to help children whose parents were addicted to drugs and another in subsequent years to help women, particularly women and girls of color, start and grow their businesses.

Her work in the non-profit sector and as a business consultant, specializing in Communications and Strategic Planning, was recognized as outstanding by the US Small Business Association, The City of Philadelphia, and the City of Harrisburg.

In 2008, naturally she was intrigued by the rise of then-Sen Barack Obama as he was breaking new barriers and uplifting people, Margo's hallmarks. She had to get involved. Margo worked with the Obama campaign in four states including Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Oregon, and Montana. In 2009 back in Delaware County, she found a Democratic party that had trouble winning races including in places where they had a clear registration advantage. The Republican Machine in Delaware County was notorious across the country.

Never one to run from a fight or a challenge, Margo Davidson had no choice but to again break barriers and be the first. She ran a successful race during the red wave of 2010 to become the first in a trifecta of firsts - the first Democrat, the first African American, and the first woman to represent the 164th legislative district entirely in the red stronghold of Delaware County. At the time she was the only elected Democrat on any level in her hometown of Upper Darby - no Democratic school board member, council member, mayor, state senator, US congressman, or senator. She is the first Democratic woman to represent

Delaware County as a state or federal legislator. She opened the door and shattered that glass ceiling, but she would not be the last.

Davidson shattered that barrier in spectacular fashion, later learning that she was only one of 11 legislators in the United States of America that flipped a seat from republican to democratic that year in state or congressional races. She did not stop there. She was determined to turn Upper Darby and therefore Delaware County blue as Upper Darby is the largest municipality in Delaware County. Each and every year after year she assisted and fought for and alongside Democratic candidates to turn Upper Darby blue, picking up new seats each year and helping to create firsts for other candidates. Just 7 years later, 3 local election cycles and in the 4th even-year cycle was a part of flipping the majority of Delco seats to Democrats. She never wavered in her commitment or gritty tenacity to break through what she saw as a stronghold whose purpose was to perpetuate itself not serve or empower the people. She wanted to support the team that shared her values of tenacious hard work and service to others.

Davidson's leadership in the state House has been recognized by her peers as she was elected as the Women's Caucus Chair. Later she was elected as the first African American to Chair the Democratic Southeast Delegation of 35 members across eight counties outside of Philadelphia. It is the largest Democratic regional Delegation in the House, larger than the Philadelphia delegation. In that role as Southeast Delegation Chair, she was part of the team that helped elect the first African American and female Democratic Leader to the Pennsylvania House in history. Today, Margo is the first African American woman to lead the powerful and influential State Government Committee. Today Margo is one of the longest serving native Delaware County legislators who is best known for breaking barriers, shattering glass ceilings, and empowering others, which is exactly what she was born and raised to do. She does it well.