

Rep. Kristine Reeves Steps Down From State House Seat

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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“Elected in 2016, I went to Olympia as the working mom of a 2 and 4 year old, the only woman with children under the age of 5. I’m proud to have helped create an unparalleled record of progressive accomplishment unmatched by any other state - a record that has made daily lives better for working families like mine and hard-working Washingtonians at every stage of life.”

Reeves played an important role in multiple legislative achievements that have provided a national model for progressive action: from supporting the biggest raise in K-12 teacher salaries in the nation, a Career Connect program that’s linking 100,000 Washington students with apprenticeships and on-the-job training, to 12 weeks of paid family leave to care for loved ones or newborns, a long term health care benefit for aging Washingtonians, pushing for the state’s first environmental justice directive, and providing leadership in building a path to accessible and affordable childcare for all working families in the state.

A Moses Lake native, Kristine grew up the daughter of a single mother who struggled with substance abuse, relied heavily on social services including Headstart and Food Stamps. In and out of foster care for the early years of her life, Kristine strongly believes in the value of the public education system and the investment of public-school educators in transforming her life and helping her break the cycle of poverty.

Reeves remarked, “As your state representative. I am proud of the work I have done to help children be kindergarten-ready, put Washington on a path to close the opportunity gap, to provide more accessible and affordable child care and a more universal, affordable and lifelong health care system. I’ve seen too many families struggle, just to get by, when the deck is stacked against them. But I’ve also seen what can happen when our communities come together, to give people a fair shot to get ahead. I know, because I’ve lived it firsthand. While we have accomplished much in Washington state, critical progressive priorities and investments in our future too often fall victim to special interests in Washington, DC. That’s got to change.”

[About Kristine Reeves](#)

The first in her family to graduate from college, Kristine received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Washington State University (Go Cougs!) and went on to pursue a master's degree in Organizational Leadership at Gonzaga University in Spokane.

After receiving her degrees, Kristine went on to serve a variety of roles, including serving as an immigration advisor at several higher education institutions, helping hundreds of international students pursue educational opportunities in the United States, serving as the Chair of the Spokane County Democratic Party during the Obama/Clinton primary, and working as the Statewide Veterans Representative for U.S. Senator Patty Murray. Based in Murray's South Puget Sound office, Reeves' role included increasing and developing relationships to help improve military transition, workforce development, and veterans' healthcare initiatives.

Currently, Kristine is the Director of Economic Development for the Military and Defense sector for the state of Washington. Her role focuses on promoting public and private economic development that supports military bases; defense industry suppliers, contractors and small businesses, as well as working with civilian organizations in their engagement with the U.S. Military in Washington State. In this role, Kristine has secured millions of dollars in federal grants to improve private sector job growth, support military personnel transitioning to private sector jobs, and support the 1900+ small businesses in the defense sector supply chain during Department of Defense downsizing.

Kristine was elected in a tight primary race in 2016 where she won by just 68 votes. After winning her general election that year, Reeves became the first black woman elected to the state house in 18 years and would serve as the only black woman through her first term until the election of Melanie Morgan and Debra Entenman.

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