

Speaker Bios



Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland

Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland proudly represents Washington's 10th Congressional District, which covers parts of Pierce and Thurston Counties. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Strickland is the first African American to represent Washington State at the federal level, and one of the first Korean-American women elected to Congress in its 230-year history.

Raised in the South Sound, Strickland graduated from Tacoma Public Schools and earned her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Washington. She went on to earn an MBA from Clark-Atlanta University, a Historically Black College and University. Strickland's father, who fought in World War II and Korea, met her mother while he was stationed in Korea after the war. Strickland's parents endured discrimination and hardships that she could never imagine. They wanted her to have opportunities they were denied and taught her to work hard, fight for what's right, serve the community, and to stand up for the underdog. Those values continue to inspire Congresswoman Strickland every day as she advocates for Washington's 10th Congressional District in Congress.

Prior to Strickland's election to Congress, she served as Mayor of Tacoma, where she helped transform a city and economy crippled by a deep recession into a destination for families, workers, artists, tourists and entrepreneurs. In addition to attracting over \$1 billion in investment for housing and businesses, she was instrumental in investing over \$500 million in infrastructure for roads, bridges, transportation, and the Port, creating over 40,000 new jobs in the Tacoma region.

A firm believer that there is dignity in all work, Strickland led successful efforts to raise the minimum wage and pass paid sick leave, paving the way for statewide action. Her city-wide Environmental Action Plan set goals to improve our air, water, and health. She launched an award-winning summer jobs program for high school students that led to the Tacoma Tidelands Certification Program, creating a pipeline for students to fill high-demand jobs in the maritime and construction trades. She and her team raised the high school graduation rate in Tacoma from 55% to 89% by making education a civic priority. Strickland was proud to stand with the LGBTQ community in support of Marriage Equality and transgender rights, and pass background checks for gun sales in Tacoma before statewide action.

As a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Strickland carries with her the experience of rebuilding an economy after an economic recession. She will always be a strong voice for change so that our most vulnerable community members are served as we re-build an economy that works for all of us.

Strickland serves as a Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in addition to the House Armed Services Committee. She is also a Member of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the Bipartisan Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Caucus, Democratic Women's Caucus, and the New Democrat Coalition. Congresswoman Strickland resides in the district with her husband.



Ahndrea L. Blue, Esquire

Ahndrea is the Founder, President, and CEO of The Making A Difference Foundation. Prior to establishing her own business, Ahndrea was the Washington States Governor’s Executive Policy Advisor and Legal Counsel. Additionally, she worked for the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle as their Chief Operating Officer, and was an attorney at law for Lee, Smart, Cook, Martin & Patterson, in Seattle.

MADF moved into direct service to address local needs in the Puget Sound region with the opening of Eloise’s Cooking Pot Food Bank in 2009. The food bank is named after the founder’s grandmother, a woman of humble means who would give generously and share whatever food she had by providing a hot meal to anyone who was lacking. ECP Food Bank specifically services East Tacoma residents by providing them with fresh produce and foodstuffs, household cleaning products, baby food, and pet food. As well as office a home delivery option for seniors and disabled individuals. Over that past 7 years, the food bank regularly serve 10,000 and distribute 150,000 pounds of food a month.

Ms. Blue has a Bachelor of Arts degrees in African American Studies and Society and Justice, from the University of Washington, receiving quarterly and yearly honors. She also obtained her Juris Doctorate, from the University of Washington, School of Law.



Tracie Squire, MSN, RN

Ms. Squire is a Registered Nurse and is currently serving as the Nurse Program Coordinator for the Veterans Health Administration Food Security Office. She has 15 years of experience in VHA and over 25 years’ experience as a nurse. She began her nursing career with the VHA at the VANortheast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOLS) in Cleveland, Ohio. Her most recent role serving as the Nurse Manager, Homeless Outreach Coordinator for the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program since 2017 where she was responsible for the overall program supervision and day to day

operations of the Homeless Programs. Her clinical experience includes mental health, inpatient psychiatry, and PACT. Ms. Squire earned her Master of Science Degree in Nursing Leadership and Management from Western Governor’s University and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Indiana Wesleyan University.

State Representative Clyde Shavers



Representing the 10th Legislative District, which includes all of Island County and portions of Skagit and Snohomish County. He is Vice Chair of the House Education Committee. Rep. Shavers also serves on the Capital Budget Committee and the Innovation, Community and Economic Development, and Veterans Committee.

Before becoming a legislator, Clyde served our nation as a member of the United States Navy for 8 years with tours including U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet in the Middle East and Destroyer Squadron 7 in Southeast Asia. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Following his service, Rep. Shavers graduated from Yale Law School, where he established the student group Yale



Coalition to End Homelessness and studied environmental law with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

His local public service activities include volunteering and serving on the boards of Skagit Friendship House, a faith-based organization that serves Mount Vernon's homeless and working poor, and South Whidbey's Goosefoot which works to build affordable housing.

Olivia Burley



Olivia is the Military Spouse Liaison with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Burley comes to WDVA with two decades of experience supporting military families and military spouses, most recently as the Regional Director for the national non-profit Operation Homefront, where she worked with military families across Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado. As a fierce military spouse advocate, Olivia has worked with elected officials, government and community leaders, installation leadership, and business executives to meet the needs of spouses across the Pacific Northwest.

As a military spouse of nineteen years herself, Olivia brings a unique awareness of the needs, interests, and challenges faced by military spouses and the military and veteran community. In addition to several posts across the country, Olivia's family has been stationed at Naval Base Kitsap, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, and most recently Naval Station Everett. As a military child, Olivia also grew up on McChord AFB. Olivia and her recently retired Navy spouse and children now live in Snohomish County, but her duties will have her traveling to military communities across the entire State of Washington.

Linda Nageotte



As President & CEO of Food Lifeline, I lead our efforts to end hunger in Western Washington. We believe the problem can only be solved when, together, we decide that hunger is unacceptable.

Not only will ending hunger serve those who are hungry - it can truly change us as a community. With sufficient food for all, we can lower health care and social service costs, assure productivity, and create an environment where our children feel secure in their

basic needs.

The climb for a family to move from instability to stability is steep, and it makes a tremendous difference when we as a community step forward to ensure that all our neighbors have enough good food to eat, a stable roof overhead, and resources to stay healthy. These necessities are the basic foundation we all need to succeed in life, and every one of us deserves them.