



SECRETARY OF STATE JOCELYN BENSON

Jocelyn Benson was sworn in as Michigan's 43rd secretary of state January 1, 2019, after being elected November 6, 2018, to a 4-year term.

A national leader in election law, Ms. Benson is the author of *State Secretaries of State: Guardians of the Democratic Process*. It is the first major book on the role of the secretary of state in enforcing election and campaign finance laws.

An expert on civil rights law, education law and election law, Ms. Benson served as dean of Wayne State University Law School in Detroit. When she was appointed dean at age 36, she became the youngest woman in U.S. history to lead a top-100, accredited law school. She continues to serve as vice chair of the advisory board for the Levin Center at Wayne Law, which she founded with former U.S. Senator Carl Levin. She served as director of the center from fall 2016 until August 2017. Previously, Ms. Benson was an associate professor and associate director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University Law School.

Prior to her election, she served as CEO of the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality (RISE), a national nonprofit organization using the unifying power of sports to improve race relations. She continues to serve on the RISE Board of Directors and as cochair of the RISE to Vote initiative, a nonpartisan effort to register professional and college athletes to vote and encourage them to lead their fans in becoming informed and engaged citizens.

Ms. Benson is the founder of the nonpartisan Michigan Center for Election Law, which hosts projects that support transparency and integrity in elections, and cofounder and former president of Military Spouses of Michigan, a network dedicated to providing support and services to military spouses and their children.

In 2015, Ms. Benson became one of the youngest women in history to be inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

She earned a bachelor of arts from Wellesley College, master of philosophy from Oxford University and a law degree from Harvard Law School. Ms. Benson and her husband Ryan reside in Detroit.