



A trailblazer in every sense of the word, **Sheila Oliver** has served New Jersey at the local, county, and state level, becoming the first woman of color to hold statewide office when elected as Lieutenant Governor in 2018.

Born and raised in Newark, Lieutenant Governor Oliver graduated from Weequahic High School before earning a degree in sociology at Lincoln University, the nation's first degree-granting Historically Black University. She served at the local level first on the East Orange Board of Education, followed by the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders. In 2003, she was elected to serve the 34th Legislative District in the New Jersey General Assembly, and in 2010 she became the first African-American woman in state history to serve as Assembly Speaker, and just the second in the nation's history to lead a state legislative house.

In addition to her role as Lieutenant Governor, Sheila Oliver serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Under her leadership, the DCA has strengthened and expanded initiatives for fair and affordable housing, community revitalization, homelessness prevention, and local government services that support New Jersey's 565 municipalities.