



About Lisa

Lisa's life has been about expanding opportunity for everyone.

She began her professional career as a problem-solver and an advocate. A caseworker for then-Congressman Tom Carper, Lisa helped people during challenging times with their Social Security benefits, disability insurance claims, IRS disputes and housing needs. She served in the cabinets of two Delaware governors as Delaware's first African-American woman Secretary of Labor, and as Delaware's first African-American Deputy Secretary of Health and Social Services and State Personnel Director. As Secretary of Labor, Lisa managed 500 employees and an \$87 million budget; she focused on connecting employers to resources and jobseekers – particularly those on welfare or leaving Delaware prisons. As State Personnel Director, Lisa was commissioned to investigate the Delaware State Police for racial and sexual discrimination. Working with local and national experts in policing and civil rights, the 2001 Blunt-Bradley Report served as a roadmap to improve the internal and external relations of the State Police.



She also served as the CEO of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League – an action-oriented, public policy research think-tank focused on the inclusion of people of color.

Lisa grew up in Wilmington, graduated from Padua Academy, and worked her first job at the McDonald's on Market Street. She majored in International Relations as an undergraduate at Fairleigh Dickinson University and later earned a Master's in Urban Affairs and Public Policy from the University of Delaware. Lisa believes our national security requires a strong understanding of the rest of the world. She has helped women enter the workforce in the Middle East, provided vaccines to children in Africa, and co-authored a book while living in China with her late husband Charles. Her book, *THRIVE: 34 Women, 19 Countries, One Goal*, profiles women who reinvented themselves while living in a foreign country.

Lisa is the proud mother of Alyssa, age 27, and Alex, age 29, both of whom graduated from Delaware's public schools. Education and college affordability are important to her. Like many parents, Lisa is still paying off the loans she took to help her kids go to college and graduate.

Lisa's election in 2016 would mark the first time *The First State* has sent a woman or person of color to Congress.

Lisa is running for Congress because she believes a lot of people in Delaware are doing their best...but there are still so many hurting and existing instead of thriving. She believes that with a fresh, common sense approach, we can find common ground and help people improve their lives and communities.

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