

Petra Gaskins

New Brunswick Council Member



Petra Gaskins, a proud resident of the City of New Brunswick, made history when she was sworn into the City Council on January 02, 2023. She became the first Black woman and the youngest to serve in the City's history.

Petra's involvement in politics originated from her personal experience of homelessness due to child abuse and parental abandonment. From her pre-teen years to adulthood, she constantly had to confront unjust laws and bureaucracies that spurred within her a determination to get involved; she began organizing for the rights of homeless children after initially being denied the opportunity to attend high school.

Today, she is the Chief of Staff to New Jersey State Senator Joseph Cryan, Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee. She previously served as Director of Outreach for Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman and as an Aide to Governor Phil Murphy. Petra is most known for creating outside-the-box opportunities to elevate those whose voices have been systemically ignored. Petra holds a B.A degree in Political Science and Global Studies from Rider University.