



SENATOR L. LOUISE LUCAS

Virginia Senate, 18th District

BIOGRAPHY

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas is a Portsmouth native and a product of the Portsmouth Public School System. She is President / Chief Executive Officer for Lucas Lodge, Lucas Transportation and Southside Direct Care Provider organizations operating in The Lucas Professional Center located in the city of Portsmouth, Virginia.

Senator Lucas began her federal career as an Apprentice Shipfitter at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard (July 1967) and became the first Woman Shipfitter (July 1971), Engineering Draftsman (1975), Naval Architect Technician (1976), Command Federal Women's Program Manager (1979) and finalizing her federal career as Equal Employment Manager from 1981 to 1985. Senator Lucas began a different career path as Interim Executive Director of The Southeastern Tidewater Opportunity Project (STOP) (1985 – 1986). She was appointed by the STOP Board of Directors as Executive Director in 1986 where she was the first woman to hold the position until 1992.

Senator Lucas obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational-Industrial Education (1971) from Norfolk State University and her Master of Arts Degree in Urban Affairs with a concentration in Human Resources Planning and Administration (1982) also from Norfolk State University. Senator Lucas held the position of Congressional Liaison for Sponsored Programs with Old Dominion University from July 1992 – June 1994 and Assistant Professor with Norfolk State University, Department of Academic Affairs from July 1994 – April 1998 and Special Assistant to the Vice President for University Advancement with Norfolk State University April 1998 to December 1998.

Senator Lucas was elected to the Virginia General Assembly in November 1991 and has served on a majority of the Senate's Standing Committees. Currently, she serves on the following Senate Committees: Finance and Appropriations (Chair) Commerce and Labor, Education and Health and various subcommittees. Following the 2019 election, Senator Lucas has been elected as Senate Pro-Tempore Designate. This makes her the first woman and the first African American to be elected to this position. Senator Lucas also served on the Commission on State Funding for Public School Construction and the Governor's Commission on Information Technology. She remains an active member of the Senate Democratic Caucus, Virginia Legislative Black Caucus and Democratic Party of Virginia, Vice Chair for Community Outreach. Senator Lucas was previously elected in June 1984 to serve the citizens

of Portsmouth on the City Council where she was the top vote getter for that election, and the first African American woman to be elected to serve as Councilwoman. She has been involved in social, civic, and political activities most of her adult life and has served in elective office for more than 35 years.

Senator Lucas has served on various community boards, commissions, civic and service organizations such as: President and Life Member, NAACP; Charter Member, Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Steering Committee; Member Norfolk State University Alumni Association; Golden Life Member, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; and Member, Brighton Light Chapter Number 118 Order of Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation of Virginia. Senator Lucas has received countless awards and honors within her community, the state and nationally.

Senator Lucas is the mother of one son, Jeffery Lee Lucas (deceased 04-05-05) and two daughters, Lisa L. Lucas-Burke, and Theresa L. Lucas, who partner with her in various business entities operating in the Lucas Professional Center. She is blessed to have 6 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren and 1 great, great grandchild.