

# Shalonn “Kiki” Curls



## ABOUT

Former Senator Shalonn “Kiki” Curls currently serves as Deputy Director of the Heavy Constructors Association of Greater Kansas City. She most recently served as Commissioner for Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations in Jefferson City, having been appointed by Governor Mike Parson in January of 2020. Prior to her appointment, she served 13 years in the Missouri Legislature; Nine (9) years as State Senator for the 9th District in Kansas City and four (4) years in the Missouri House of Representatives.

While serving in the Missouri Senate, Senator Curls held key leadership positions, including five (5) years as Assistant Democratic Floor Leader and four (4) years as Democratic Caucus Chair. Additionally, she served many years as the Ranking Member on major Legislative Committees, including Budget Appropriations, Transportation, Infrastructure & Public Safety, Gubernatorial Appointments and Small Business & Insurance. During her tenure, she worked tirelessly on issues regarding economic development, infrastructure, affordable housing, quality healthcare, criminal justice reform, children and families. Her ability to build consensus on both sides of the aisle, allowed her to be an effective negotiator for significant pieces of legislation throughout her career.

Her diligent efforts to garner funds for Kansas City and across the State, resulted in millions of dollars allocated for worthwhile programs and initiatives. Some of these initiatives included the creation of the Center for Neighborhoods at UMKC; Legislation to extend the Kansas City transportation sales tax indefinitely; Securing the initial \$2 million start-up funding to create Kansas City’s MLB Urban Youth Academy and an Annual Public Health & Safety Fair, which involved 140 vendors and served over 2,500 citizens.

Senator Curls served as President of two worthwhile political and educational organizations: Freedom, Incorporated and the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus Foundation (MLBCF). As President of Freedom, Incorporated, Senator Curls led the organization successfully in State, Federal and City campaigns for numerous candidates and ballot issues. The organization still serves as the only year-round, continually operating political organization in our state. While serving as President of the MLBCF, a statewide educational Foundation, Senator Curls successfully rebuilt the annual operating budget, allowing the reorganization of their statewide conference. This strategic action also enabled the organization to award \$50,000 in college scholarships every year to deserving students throughout the state.

Senator Curls worked in real estate development prior to her political career. She received her education from the University of Missouri-Columbia and St. Teresa’s Academy in Kansas City. In her free time, she enjoys spending time and traveling with her children and grandson.