

Biography of Helen Butler



Helen serves as Executive Director of the Georgia Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda, a non-profit, non-partisan organization comprised of representatives from the human rights, civil rights, environmental, labor, women, young professionals, youth, elected officials, peace and justice groups throughout the State of Georgia and other southeastern states, founded by the late Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, that advocates for voting rights and justice issues. She was recruited to join the Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda in 2003 as the State Director by Rev. James Orange (Leader) and was able to increase the membership of the organization to over sixty statewide and local organizations as well as, promote collaborative issue campaign organizing activities throughout Georgia, nationally and in the southeastern region. In keeping with the People's Agenda commitment to quality education, criminal and juvenile justice reform, protecting the right to vote, economic justice and development, and other social justice issues, she has formed strategic alliances to improve quality of life for communities of color.

She serves as the Convener of the Black Women's Roundtable of Georgia as an affiliate of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation to promote health and wellness, economic security, education and global empowerment of Black women.

Prior to joining the non-profit world, she served as Vice President of Human Resources for retail and wholesale grocery businesses for over 20 years, as well as, an Accountant for General Motors Corporation in Doraville and the Central Office in Warren, Michigan. While in the Graduate Public Administration studies at the University of Georgia, she served as Administrative Assistant for Athens-Clarke County Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) where she developed and implemented a functional budgeting system.

She served on the Morgan County Board of Elections from 2010 until June 2021 and served as a past member of the State of Georgia Help America Vote Act Advisory Committee (HAVA). In 2013, she was appointed to serve on the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights as a member of the Georgia Advisory Committee. She serves on the Board of Directors for ProGeorgia, the State Voices Civic Engagement Table. She has served on the Board of Directors for Women's Actions for New Directions (WAND), Board of Directors for Colonial Stores' Employees' Credit Union, Board of Directors for YES! Atlanta (Youth Program), Charter member of the Zeta Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at the University of Georgia, Advisory Board of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Center Manager for Junior Achievement, Life

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Member of the NAACP, Vice President of Metro Atlanta Personnel Society, Society for Human Resources Management, and Industrial Relations Research Association.

She served on the Fulton County Complete Count Committee and the Georgia Complete Count Committee for the 2010 Census that targeted the African, African American, Afro-Latino and Caribbean communities. The “I Matter I Count – Count Me Black” theme for the 2010 Census highlighted the need to get immigrant communities to check the box “Black” on the questionnaire so that counts for their neighborhoods would be accurate and would impact funding and representation. She served on the City of Atlanta’s 2020 Complete Count Committee and the State Civic Engagement Table’s Complete Count Committee.

Her most recent recognition has been from the State of Georgia’s Martin Luther King Jr Advisory Council where she received the Joseph E. Lowery Civil Rights Award and the AFL-CIO’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Defender of the Dream Award, January 2021; the Love Award from the Voter Empowerment Collaborative; She has received recognition by the Atlanta Business League as one of Atlanta’s Top 100 Black Women of Influence 2018, 2019, 2020; for the 2019 Community Engagement Award from National Action Network, 2019 Dr. C.T. Vivian Courage Award by Let Us Make Man; Georgia Gem of the Year 2018 by Women of Distinction; 2016 Frank R. Parker Client Award by Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Activism from the Apex Museum (2016); Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Southern Region 2016 Public Policy Change Agent; the 2015 Chairman’s Award of the Democratic Party of Georgia; 2015 Terrell County Branch NAACP Social Justice Award; the highest recognition for community member of the City of Atlanta -- 2014 Phoenix Award; 2013 Community Service Champion for Civic Engagement by the Urban League of Greater Atlanta, 2013 Epic Women Leadership in Government, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation’s Black Women’s Roundtable Voting Rights and Social Justice Leadership Award (2013), recognition by the City Council of the City of Atlanta, The President of Atlanta City Council’s Community Service Award (2012), Gospel Hip Hop Woman Warrior Award (2012), 2009 Outstanding Georgia Citizen by Secretary of State, 2009 Unsung Shero Award by Concerned Black Clergy of Atlanta, 2010 Rainbow/PUSH Fannie Lou Hammer Award, Delta Sigma Theta’s Atlanta Alumnae Chapter (2008), 2008 Douglass-Debs Award, Georgia Stand Up 2006 Policy Institute for Civic Leadership, Georgia Human Rights Union, Who’s Who Among African Americans, 1976; Outstanding Young Women of America, 1983; and 2002 National Association of Secretaries of State Award for Voter Education.

Helen is a native of Morgan County, Georgia. Graduated with honors from Pearl High School in Madison, GA in 1966 as Salutatorian and National Merit Scholar. As one of the first 50 African American students to attend the University of Georgia after the integration of the school by Charlene Hunter - Gault and Hamilton Holmes, she received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Georgia with a major in Accounting. She also studied and served as a Recruiter for the Masters of Public Administration program at the University of Georgia. She was certified as an Issue Campaign Organizer by the Midwest Training Academy in 2000. She is a member of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.