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Mary Sheffield Makes History as First Woman to Win Detroit Mayoral Primary

Sheffield becomes first woman to win a mayoral primary in Michigan's largest city; advances to Nov. 4 general election against runner-up Solomon Kinloch

DETROIT — Detroit City Council President Mary Sheffield has won Detroit's mayoral primary, making her the **first woman** to claim the top spot in a primary election for Michigan's largest city. According to unofficial results, she will face runner-up Solomon Kinloch in the Nov. 4 general election. As of 12:11 a.m. on election night, Sheffield had secured approximately **51.24%** of votes cast, while Kinloch received **17.55%**.

Sheffield's win showcases a shift in what leadership looks like across major Midwestern cities. Her campaign is focused on neighborhood empowerment, affordable housing and justice-centered policy, and the wide margin of her primary day victory demonstrates that her approach is resonating with voters citywide.

"I'm deeply honored by Detroit's vote of confidence, and I stand ready to advance to the general election in November," said Sheffield. "This victory belongs not only to me, but to every resident who showed up, rolled up their sleeves and believed in a united Detroit that works for all neighborhoods. Now, we pivot fully toward November — and I invite every Detroit voter to join us on this journey to ensure Detroit rises higher. The future of Detroit is ours to write."

Sheffield's victory tonight is the culmination of years of work rooted in justice, equity and neighborhood empowerment. Since first winning election as the youngest member of Detroit City Council in 2013 Sheffield has been a force for change in District 5 and across Detroit. Now serving as city council president, she has championed critical legislation that has directly impacted the lives of residents.

As the campaign moves into the general election, Sheffield plans to continue her grassroots approach — listening to residents, holding space for hope and fighting for a Detroit that leaves no one behind.

To learn more about Council President Mary Sheffield's campaign for mayor, visit marysheffield.com.

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About Detroit City Council President Mary Sheffield

Detroit City Council President Mary Sheffield made history in 2013 as the youngest council member ever elected. Representing District 5 for the past 11 years, Sheffield has served as chair of the Neighborhood and Community Services Standing Committee, and as a member of the Planning, Economic Development, Budget Finance, and Audit Standing Committees for the Council. Additionally, Council President Sheffield has been instrumental in passing 23 significant legislations during her tenure on the Detroit City Council some of which include: Inclusionary Housing, Property Tax Reform, Home Repair Grant Funding, Neighborhood Improvement Fund, Neighborhood Beautification Program, Homeowner Property Tax Exemption (HOPE) and Right to Counsel.

Sheffield's public awards and recognitions include being named to Crain's Detroit Business's 'Twenty in their 20s' honorees in 2014, and Crain's '40 Under 40' honorees in 2022; Michigan Chronicle's 2022 Class of 'Women of Excellence' and 'Power 50 Leaders' in 2024; Detroit Branch NAACP's Great Expectations Award in 2016; the Black United Fund's 2024 Black Excellence Award; the 2023 JoAnn Watson Soul Day Soul Sister Award, and the 2021 Maryann Mahaffey/Erma Henderson Elected Official of the Year Award.

Visit marysheffield.com for more information.