



Abbreviated Biography Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, Ph.D.

Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins is an educator, activist, advocate, author, historian and public speaker. She served as the 15th President of the League of Women Voters of the United States and Chair of the League of Women Voters Education Fund, 1998-2002. She served as a member of the national Board of Directors of the League from 1994-2002 and was Second Vice-President, 1996-1998. As a two-term president, Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins led the education and advocacy work of this grassroots organization on a wide range of public policy issues. A native of Ohio, Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins has been a League member since 1982 and is the only woman of African-American descent to head the organization, established in 1920.

During her years of service at the national level, Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins oversaw several comprehensive League initiatives. These included the 1996 *Get Out the Vote* campaign, which registered more than 50,000 voters nationally; the *Wired for Democracy* project, which increased voter education and participation via the Web; and the League's strategic plan, "The Future Plan" which emphasized keeping the League relevant through diversity, equity and inclusion.

Throughout her presidency, Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins placed a high priority on campaign finance reform, election reform, education reform and health care, particularly for underrepresented populations. Much of her tenure focused on the League's initiative "Vision for the 21st Century," which emphasized League impact, visibility, and organizational development. She encouraged enhanced communications, as reflected in the new League website established in 2000 and the redesigned quarterly magazine, *The National Voter*. Forward-thinking outreach under her leadership was exemplified by the *Take a Friend to Vote* campaign and *Democracy Net* (DNet), a nonpartisan voter information website. Through these efforts Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins worked to increase participation in the electoral process and encourage women and ethnic minorities to run for public office.

Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Urban Education from Cleveland State University, Ohio; an Education Specialist (EdS) from Kent State University, Ohio; a Master of Education (MEd) from John Carroll University, Ohio; and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Education/Political Science from Western College, Ohio.

A recipient of numerous awards for her volunteerism and civic involvement, on March 12, 2020, Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins received the Miami University *Freedom Summer of '64 Award* which recognizes the spirit of the 800 students who gathered on the campus of Western College for Women to change the country during Freedom Summer in Mississippi. Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins has been recognized in *Notable Black American Women, Volume III*; *Who's Who Among Successful African-Americans*; and *Who's Who in American Education*. She has been the recipient of the *Women of Distinction Award* from the Girl Scouts of Colorado, the *Distinguished Alumni Award in Civic Leadership* from Cleveland State University, the *Making a Difference Award* from John Carroll University, and the National Coalition of Black Civic Achievement *Civic Leadership Award*. She recently received the 2020 Trailblazer Award from the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

