

## KCDW Newsletter Q's

- 1. Political awakening: What event in your life led to your decision to run for office?**
  - a. In 2017, I launched my campaign for Congress for a simple reason: my then-Congressman ignored his constituents and cast a vote to make health care unaffordable for people with pre-existing conditions — people like me and so many others around our country. And, as someone who spent years implementing the Affordable Care Act, I couldn't sit on the sidelines while people's right to health care was being threatened—so I decided to do something about it and run for office. I was elected to Congress in 2018, and at 32, I became the youngest Black woman to ever serve as a member of Congress.
  
- 2. What is the biggest hurdle you faced?**
  - a. Our Congress does not look like our America, and that matters when it comes to policy-making. There is a perception that Congress works on issues that are important to the people, but in reality, we work on issues that are raised by the members. This means that we must elect public servants who are more reflective of the people they represent so we can solve the issues that are impacting Americans.
  
- 3. As a woman in the male-dominated legislative chambers, what have you learned along the way that contributes to your success?**
  - a. I've learned a lot over the past few years — much of which isn't necessarily political. This work is about persistence. Government isn't always the most well-oiled machine, so you have to be willing to fight hard, time and time again, for what you know is right.
  
- 4. What advice would you give to women planning to run for office?**
  - a. I want women of all ages to know that it is possible. That they can and should step up when a challenge presents itself — even if it seems insurmountable. Because it's not. I am proof of that. It is absolutely worth it to put everything on the line to fight for what we know is right. Our families, friends, and neighbors deserve a representative who shows up for them every day in a transparent and accountable way, which means we need to keep working until our Congress looks like our America.
  
- 5. What do you consider to be the biggest challenges facing the Democratic Party in the next election?**
  - a. One of the biggest challenges I foresee in the 2022 election is the threat of misinformation. As we've seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, spreading misinformation can be harmful and sometimes even deadly. Friends, we must be rigorous about identifying and defending the truth, and listening to the science and data as well.