

## February



Emma J. Hull

Former Benton Harbor Mayor

City of Benton Harbor Board of Brownfield  
Authority

Benton Harbor Housing Authority

Q: What office/s do you currently hold? What office/s have you held in the past?

A: I was previously the mayor of the City of Benton Harbor, and I am currently serving as a board member on the City of Benton Harbor Board of Brownfield Authority and the Benton Harbor City Housing Authority.

Q: What inspired you to run for political office?

A: It was my love for my community. I saw a need and I had a desire to serve. I never thought I'd be mayor—never even wanted to be mayor. I only wanted to be a good wife and mother, and to raise children to love the Lord. But through my education, my travels, and my work, God had it in His plan for me to serve.

Q: What is your proudest accomplishment while serving in an elected office? and/or What is your current priority during this term of office?

A: Ironically, my proudest accomplishment is much different than I thought it would be. I am most proud of what I have been able to learn from the people I have met and worked with, as well as the experiences that I've had. Through the connections and relationships I have had, I was able to learn, grow, and develop and use those what I gained to help better my community. I asked community members what they wanted, and I addressed those issues. The city wanted better education, secure workforce, lower crime rates, better housing, and recreation—I was able to do that. I secured four (4) companies to work with and supply jobs in the community through a workforce program, as well as had two (2) housing buildings built. I also was able to build a community partnership with Whirlpool and Cornerstone.

Q: What advice would you give young women who are considering a career as a public servant?

A: Go with your talent and you will grow into your birthright. First, seek the Kingdom of God, and all things will be added unto you. What you want to do and what you are meant to do are not always the same. But if you put God first, everything else will come together—your talent will develop and grow, and you will walk into your birthright.