

Mary Cruz serves as the Acting Chair and CEO of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

With more than 20 years of experience in New Jersey government, public policy, and politics, Mary is widely respected for her strategic leadership, thoughtful execution, and collaborative approach.

Before joining the New Jersey Civil Service Commission, Mary served as Chief of Staff to Congressman Donald Norcross, where she worked closely with local and national stakeholders to advance policies and projects supporting seniors, working families, and veterans. She prioritized cutting through burdensome red tape to deliver results for New Jersey communities.

Prior to her work in Congress, Mary served as the Political Director for 1199 SEIU New Jersey, where she led the organization's legislative and public advocacy efforts. During her tenure there, she focused on advocating for working families, access to healthcare, and equal opportunity. She also served as Director of the Nursing Home Alliance, a labor-management partnership that brought together workers and employers to advocate for Medicaid funding and improved care for vulnerable residents.

Earlier in her career, Mary served as Senior Advisor and District Director to Congressman John Adler and worked on numerous successful local campaigns and initiatives across South Jersey.

Mary believes that government plays an important role in supporting our families, seniors, and veterans. She knows firsthand how our state, county, and local employees, and first responders are critical to delivering the services our communities need and deserve.

Mary is proud to call New Jersey home and is grateful to have the opportunity to serve the state she loves. Mary graduated from Washington College with a major in International Relations. Mary lives in Burlington County and is a proud mother of two children.