

REMARKS OF SHARON STOUT
PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE OF MASSACHUSETTS
December 17, 2024

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. It is a great honor to be an elector and to serve as President of this body. Thank you to the Honorable Eileen Duff and the Honorable Tanya V. Neslusan for their kind words. Thank you also to the other members of the electoral college for your support and hard work for this important occasion in these challenging times.

Esteemed colleagues, today we gather to fulfill our constitutional duty as electors of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. While the outcome of the 2024 presidential election did not result in the historic election of the first Black female president, our commitment to progress and representation remains unwavering.

Massachusetts has once again demonstrated its dedication to Democratic values, as we cast our electoral votes in alignment with the will of our constituents. Though we fell short of shattering the highest glass ceiling this time, we must recognize the significant strides we've made and the barriers we continue to break.

We take pride in our state's legacy of firsts – from electing our first black governor Deval Patrick to our current first female & openly LGBTQ governor Maura Healey, our first Black Congresswoman Ayanna Presley & to our many “first” in their seats championing diverse representation across all levels of government. These achievements remind us that progress, while sometimes slow, is inevitable when we persist in our efforts. As we look ahead, let us not be discouraged. Instead, let us channel our energy into the upcoming municipal elections in 2025 and beyond. These local races shape our daily lives and are crucial steppingstones for future leaders. I urge you to approach these elections with the same passion and dedication you've shown in this presidential cycle. I've had the privilege of interviewing over 50 women for our EmergeMa leadership program this weekend, their willingness to serve inspires hope for our future. Their commitment to learning and preparing for public office is a testament to the enduring strength of our democracy.

As we conclude this electoral process, let us remember that our work continues. From January 20th onward, we must support those in office, nurture the next generation of leaders, and steadfastly uphold the values that define our Commonwealth.

Though we may not have achieved our ultimate goal this time, we have not lost sight of our values or our resolve. Massachusetts will continue to lead by example, pushing for progress and equal representation. Together, we will keep moving forward, breaking barriers, and building a more inclusive future for all Americans.

And one day this glass ceiling will be broken.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our democratic process and the betterment of our nation.