



Donna Brazile was born in New Orleans in 1959 and became interested in politics at a young age after meeting a local candidate who promised to build a neighborhood playground. As a student Brazile worked on Jimmy Carter's 1976 and 1980 Presidential Campaigns. Following her graduation from LSU, she worked in Washington D.C. where she was instrumental in getting Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a federal holiday. Brazile went on to work on several presidential campaigns including the campaigns of Jesse Jackson in 1984, Walter Mondale–Geraldine Ferraro in 1984, and Dick Gephardt in 1988. In Vice President Al Gore's 2000 presidential campaign, Brazile was appointed campaign manager, making her the first African American woman to manage a major party's presidential campaign. She went on to serve as chair and vice chair of the Democratic National Committee.