

# Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

## Greenville Native Makes History



Insight Consulting Groups alongside the DeKalb County CEO Inaugural Steering Committee announced Friday the Oath of Office ceremony of Lorraine Cochran-Johnson as the first female Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DeKalb County Georgia on Jan. 10, 2025. She is the first African American woman elected CEO of DeKalb County Georgia.

The Greenville native is the daughter of the late Minnie Louise Maye Nix and Earnest Nix of Greenville. She is the wife of U.S.A.F. Ret. Pilot Lt. Colonel William H. Johnson, III and the niece to her beloved aunt Annie Page. She is the proud mother of Agnes Scott College graduate Zion Cochran, a Chihuahua named Chico and Jasper, a Piebald Tuxedo cat.

The CEO-Elect said she values God, family, and community above all else and is committed to doing her part to materialize a better community and world through selfless service and care for all people.

Cochran-Johnson is the former Super District 7 Commissioner of DeKalb County. She was first elected in 2018 when she defeated an incumbent in a runoff with 67.4% of the vote and was successfully elected to a second term in 2022, after facing two challengers and receiving 77.5% of the vote in the Primary Election.

She became CEO-Elect on July 18, after carrying 174 out of 191 precincts and receiving 60% of the popular vote in a runoff. A democrat, Cochran-Johnson faced no republican opposition and received 320,050 votes in the General Election.

As a DeKalb County Commissioner, Cochran-Johnson authored groundbreaking legislation and raised the bar in service delivery. She is the author of the Video Surveillance System Ordinance that requires mandatory video cameras at all gas and service stations to keep DeKalb residents safe. She wrote the Small Box Store Ordinance that stopped the proliferation of dollar stores across DeKalb that now serves as model legislation in nine states, garnering national features in the New York Times and on CBS Sunday Morning.

As Chair of Public Works and Infrastructure, Cochran-Johnson has saved taxpayers \$92 million using mandatory contract audits and oversaw the allocation of more than \$1.4 billion in infrastructure investments – representing the highest dollar amount dispersed by a sitting Commissioner in the history of DeKalb County. She is the 2023 Elected Official of the Year by the American Public Works Association and the 2023 Georgia ACT Housing Champion for her workshop series to promote affordable housing. She received the Lifetime Achievement Award from President Joseph R. Biden in August 2024. DeKalb County is home to 763,000 residents. It is the fourth largest county in Georgia with a \$4.8 billion operational budget. DeKalb is home to the most diverse square mile in America in Clarkston and Stonecrest Georgia has the highest concentration of African American wealth in the U.S., second only to Prince Georges County, Maryland. DeKalb has some of the most progressive cities in Georgia, with Brookhaven recently being named the best city in Georgia.

To attend transition activities pre-registration is required at [www.lcjohnsoninauguration.com](http://www.lcjohnsoninauguration.com).

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8TH  
Kick-Off of CEO's Lecture Series  
Topic: "A Conversation on DeKalb: Past, Present, and Future"  
Porter Sandford III Performing Arts Center

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9TH  
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Cabinet Meet Greet  
Callanwolde Fine Arts Center

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10TH  
Oath of Office  
Emory University  
Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH  
Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast  
Emory University  
Silverbell Ballroom  
Inaugural Gala  
Fernbank Museum

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH  
Prayer and Worship  
County Employees, Municipalities, and Administration  
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church