

The Honorable Elaine F. Marshall  
Secretary of State  
NC Department of Secretary of State

In 1996, Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall became the first woman elected to a statewide, executive branch office in North Carolina and has served as President of the National Association of Secretaries of State. Voters re-elected her to a seventh term in 2020, and Governor Cooper presented her with the NC Order of the Long Leaf Pine award in 2022, the Governor's highest award for service to the State.

A former teacher, small business owner, and private practice attorney, Secretary Marshall was elected to the NC State Senate before rising to statewide office. Under Secretary Marshall's administration, more than 2 million businesses have been formed; she has pioneered e-commerce in government, protected investors and intellectual property owners, and promoted financial capital formation in North Carolina.

She has received numerous state and national awards, including the First Annual Achievement Award from the national Notary Public Administrators Section of the National Association of Secretaries of State in 2023, also named in her honor as the Jaeger-Marshall NPA Achievement Award; the 2023 creation of the Elaine F. Marshall Academic Scholarship from the North Carolina Notary Association (NCNA); the 2022 Champion for Children Award from the North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children; the 2020 N.C. Bar Association's Public Service Award; and the 2020 Ray of Light award from Boundless Impact for her decades of work advancing North Carolina's Global Competitiveness. In addition, she was honored with the 2019 Brand Protection Hero Award from the Center for Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection (A-CAPP), the Charlotte Business Journal's 2017 International Trade Lifetime Achievement Award, and Meredith College's 2017 Woman of Achievement Award. Secretary Marshall has been honored with Triangle Business Journal's Lifetime Achievement Award for Women in Business and was a 2018 Inductee for the NC Women Business Owners Hall of Fame.

She has also received Lifetime Achievement Awards from North Carolina 4-H and the National 4-H Hall of Fame. She has received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Campbell University, Lees-McRae College, Meredith College and the Republic of Moldova State University of Medicine.

Earlier this year, she was bestowed with the Order of the Republic, the government of Moldova's highest honor, by Moldovan President Maia Sandu.