

## **Kathleen N. Straus**

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Kathleen N. Straus is president of the State Board of Education. First elected in November 1992, she is currently serving her third term as president.

Until her retirement in 1991, Straus was president of the Center for Creative Studies, a nationally recognized arts education institution in Detroit. Prior to that, she was director of government relations for the Michigan Association of School Boards and served as staff director of the Education Committee of the Michigan Senate. She was the executive director of PRO Detroit (People and Responsible Organizations for Detroit), a communitywide coalition of business, labor, civic groups, and schools established to assure that court-ordered desegregation would be implemented smoothly and peacefully. She also worked in the administration of Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanaugh and for the Southeast Council of Governments.

An active community leader, Straus serves on several boards. She is a longtime member of the board of trustees of the Detroit Science Center. She is also on the board of directors of Art Serve Michigan and the National Conference of Community and Justice and is a past president of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit.

Straus formerly served as a board member of the Michigan Women's Studies Association. She is a former president of the League of Women Voters of Detroit and a member of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters in Michigan.

Straus began her career as an economic analyst for the U.S. Treasury Department in Washington, D.C., and also worked as an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

She earned her BA in economics from Hunter College, New York, and was a member of Alpha Chi Alpha Social Science Honor Society. She has pursued graduate studies at several universities.