

# Linda Dorcena Forry to resign Senate seat, join Suffolk executive team

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In a surprise decision Thursday, State Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry announced she would resign her political seat effective Jan. 26 to join Boston-based Suffolk Construction, the state's largest general contractor and one of the largest private companies in Massachusetts.

Forry, who is of Haitian descent, is the only black member of the state Senate. Following a special election in 2013, Forry took office in the First Suffolk District, which spans Dorchester, Mattapan, South Boston, Hyde Park and Milton. She was the first woman and first person of color to represent the district.

"The foundation of my public service career has revolved around creating opportunity and access and giving a voice to those who have none and this work will continue for the rest for my life," Forry said in a statement. "I am excited to begin the next chapter in my family's story by joining Suffolk, an organization at the forefront of economic growth and social activism in Boston and nationally."

Forry will be Suffolk's vice president of diversity, inclusion and community relations for the contractor's Northeast region. She will be tasked with strengthening Suffolk's diversity and inclusion platform and developing long-term talent acquisition strategies, Suffolk said in a statement.

Suffolk is the seventh-largest private company in Massachusetts, with \$2.9 billion in 2016 revenue and 1,715 employees across 10 U.S. offices. Some of Suffolk's prominent local projects include the future General Electric Co. (NYSE: GE) headquarters campus, Millennium Partners' future tower at Winthrop Square and the 60-story Millennium Tower in Boston's Downtown Crossing, and the \$2.4 billion Wynn Boston Harbor gaming resort in Everett.

"Our people are our greatest asset, so creating and reinforcing a diverse, inclusive working environment in our offices and on our project sites has always been one of the most important priorities for our organization," said John Fish, Suffolk's chairman and CEO, in a statement. "We are thrilled Linda has joined our team and will share her strong leadership and passion for workplace diversity and help make our vision of

inclusion a reality and permanent, sustainable practice throughout our entire organization.”

Forry, 44, is married to Bill Forry, the editor/publisher of community newspaper the Dorchester Reporter.

“During this time of reflection, it has reaffirmed what I have always known, that there is nothing more precious or important than family,” Forry said in a statement. “For me this is my four young children and my husband Bill. It is also my parents, who filled our home with love and laughter and now I watch in awe as my 80 year old mother cares for my father who is living with Alzheimer’s. Also it is sitting quietly with my 103-year-old grandmother in my childhood home in Dorchester. They have all sacrificed so much to make me who I am; it is now my turn to truly put them first.”