

In Wisconsin Black Woman Elected Secretary Of State



BEING CONGRATULATED - Atty. Vel R. Williams became the top elected Democrat in Wisconsin last week, and the first black to be elected to a statewide office.

MILWAUKEE. Wisconsin - A black woman became the top elected Democrat in the state of Wisconsin last week, when she easily defeated her Republican opponent for Secretary of State.

Atty. Vel R. Phillips made history in Wisconsin, as she became the first black to be elected to a statewide office.

Unofficial election returns showed Phillips outpolling Fredric Seefeldt by a 562,089 to 514,729 margin with 2,735 of the state's 3,414 wards reporting.

A former Milwaukee council member and judge, Phillips indicated she will be an active secretary and will waste no time in learning her new duties.

"I'm going to spend the next few

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Black Woman

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weeks acquainting myself fully with the responsibilities of the office so after Jan. 1, I won't waste any of the taxpayers money, and can get right to my new task," Phillips said, following her election victory.

"I expect to be an extremely active secretary and you'll be hearing from me from time to time."

Some of the spice was taken out of Democrat Phillips' victory, however, as Democratic Acting Gov. Martin Schreiber lost in his gubernatorial bid to Lee S. Dreyfus, a political newcomer - on leave as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.

Nevertheless, Phillips said she intends to work closely with the governor elect.