

Vel Phillips

Vel Phillips was born in Milwaukee in 1924. She graduated from North Division High School and went on to Howard University to get her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1946. In 1951, she completed her L.L.B. at UW-Madison.

From 1956-1971, Phillips served on the Milwaukee Common Council. In 1971 she was appointed Juvenile Court Judge of Branch 13 in Milwaukee. Phillips served as a lecturer at UW-Milwaukee and visiting professor at Carroll College and UW-Law School.

In 1978, Phillips was elected as the Wisconsin Secretary of State, making her the first African-American constitutional officer in Wisconsin.

(From Wisconsin Blue Book, 1979)