

**Robin L. Kelly, PhD**  
**Chief of Staff, Illinois State Treasurer's Office**  
**Bio**

Robin L. Kelly was appointed chief of staff to Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias in January 2007, becoming the first African-American woman to hold such office in the state of Illinois. As chief of staff, Kelly serves as primary advisor to the treasurer on all policy, political and operational matters as well as directly supervises and oversees all Treasury departments.

Prior to joining the Treasurer's Office, Kelly was elected to serve a third term as Illinois state representative of the 38<sup>th</sup> district located in South Cook County. During her tenure in the Illinois General Assembly, Kelly sponsored and co-sponsored numerous bills to protect victims of consumer fraud, help build economic development, and improve public safety and mass transit in the Chicago area. Before she was elected to office, she served as director of community affairs in the Village of Matteson for more than 13 years.

In her current position, Kelly incorporates her vast experience and expertise in government and economic and community development in running the Treasurer's Office, which manages approximately \$17 billion in state and local funds and administers programs to promote the financial health of Illinois residents.

In recognition of her work in government, Kelly has received awards and recognition from numerous organizations, including the Delta Sigma Theta Echoes of Excellence award for Achievement in Politics and Law, Healing Racism, SEIU Local 880, Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization, the Illinois Environmental Council, the Matteson Area Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce as well as fair housing achievement awards from South Suburban Housing Center and Diversity, Inc. She also is a fellow of the Flemming Leadership Institute, a program for emerging leaders across the country.

Besides her work in state government, Kelly is a member of the Cook County Human Rights Commission and Place Matters, a national task force on healthcare disparities. She also serves on the boards of Rich Township Food Pantry and the Illinois Theatre Center and is an active member of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority.

A native of New York City, Kelly moved to Illinois to attend Bradley University, where she received her B.A. and M.A. degrees and now serves on the Board of Trustees. She received her Ph.D. from Northern Illinois University.

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