

## **MAYA ROCKEYMOORE CUMMINGS**

Maya Rockeymoore was born on January 31st, 1971 in Texas. Her father who was in the Air Force made the family moved around several states. Her parents, Thomas Charles Rockeymoore and Hazel Brown Rockeymoore, were childhood sweethearts. Hazel passed away in September of 2015. According to her obituary, Hazel was the youngest of nine siblings.

Rockeymoore Cummings has two siblings, Mark and Meredith. She also has seven nieces and nephews.

### **Maya Rockeymoore Cummings Education & Early Political Career**

Maya Rockeymoore Cummings earned her bachelor's degree in 1993 from Praire View A&M University in Texas, a historically black college. She studied political science and was a member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Rockeymoore earned her master's and Ph.D. from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, both in political science. She obtained her doctorate in 2000.

Rockeymoore began her political career while still a student serving for nine months as a legislative fellow in the office of Rep. Melvin Watt of North Carolina. She followed that up with a job at the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee. From January 1999 until August 2000, she worked for Rep. Charles Rangel of New York and became the Chief of Staff.

After earning her doctorate, Rockeymoore worked for the National Urban League in Washington, D.C. before moving on to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. She left there in 2005 when she launched her own consulting firm.

### **Maya Rockeymoore Cummings Chair of the Maryland Democratic Party**

Maya Rockeymoore Cummings is the Chair of the Democratic party in her adopted home state of Maryland. She was elected to be the chair of the state party in December of 2018 for a four years term.

The vote was 438-319 against the assumed favorite, Kathleen Matthews. Matthews had served as chairwoman for the two previous years.

But as reported by Maryland Matters, a nonprofit, nonpartisan website covering politics in the state, party leaders were apparently drawn to Rockeymoore's promise to be more inclusive and to reach out to both progressive and more centrist members of the party. She also vowed to increase services to rural areas.

Before the vote on December 1, Rockeymoore addressed the fact that Democrats had won down-ballot races in Maryland in 2018 but had lost the governor's race to Republican Larry Hogan. The Washington Post quoted part of her speech, "We have a structural problem when it comes to the top of the ticket. And that structural problem will create a downward spiral for our party if we don't fix it now."

## **Maya Rockeymoore Cummings Maryland Gubernatorial Ambitions**

Maya Rockeymoore Cummings had planned to challenge Larry Hogan for the governor's office in 2018 but ended up withdrawing from the race. Lawrence Joseph "Larry" Hogan Jr. is an American politician serving as the 62nd and current Governor of Maryland, serving since 2015.

Rockeymoore launched a campaign in October of 2017 to be the Democratic nominee for governor. At that point, she had never held an elected position before. One of her key agendas was health care.

Rockeymoore's campaign did not get a chance to really take off. She was the last candidate to declare and the first to drop out. She suspended her gubernatorial campaign in January of 2018 after her husband was hospitalized for a bacterial infection. Rep. Cummings had also undergone heart surgery the previous year.

Rockeymoore issued a statement at the time that read, "Making a positive and direct contribution to the state of Maryland and to our nation was my greatest motivating factor for stepping into the public arena. Unfortunately, due to personal considerations, I am suspending my bid for governor of Maryland. I thank all of the people across the country who have supported my campaign and those whom I have met on the campaign trail who also fervently believe that we can and must do better for the people of Maryland."

## **Maya Rockeymoore Cummings Global Policy Solutions**

Maya Rockeymoore Cummings formed a political think tank and consulting firm, Global Policy Solutions in Washington, D.C. in 2005.

Rockeymoore explains on her LinkedIn profile that she leads a "consulting team of 'solutionists' dedicated to creating and implementing social change strategies for corporate, philanthropic, non-profit, academic, and governmental organizations."

## **Maya Rockeymoore Cummings Husband (Elijah Cummings) & Children**

Maya Rockeymoore Cummings, 48, is married to Democratic Congressman Elijah Cummings, 68. He is the current chairman of the House Oversight Committee, which is scheduled to question Michael Cohen during public testimony on Wednesday, February 27th, 2019.

Rockeymoore Cummings did not have children of her own. But after marrying Elijah Cummings in 2008, she became a stepmother. Rep. Cummings has three children from previous relationships. Adia, who graduated from Howard University in 2016, also made headlines that year for using her father's car, which he had let her borrow, to drive for Lyft