

Councilmember Jihan Ain Young is a proud native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and University of Michigan alumna. In 2023, she made history as the first Black woman elected to the 30th Portage City Council and was re-elected to a four-year term in 2025.

She champions community engagement and civic service. She serves on the Portage Small Business Committee, represents the City on the Kalamazoo County Environmental Health Advisory Council, and is the City liaison to Portage Public Schools, where she founded and leads a Girls' Leadership Mentorship Group for 6th–8th grade students at Portage West.

Passionate about education and family engagement, Councilmember Young represents parents for Early-On Services on both the Kalamazoo County Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) and the Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC) as a parent alternate. She is also a proud University of Michigan alumni recruiter, helping guide the next generation of students.

Councilmember Young comes from a family legacy of civic service—her mother served as a councilwoman, her father as an academic leader, and her grandparents instilled resilience and dedication to community. She co-leads initiatives with her husband, Larry Young II; together they have a son and daughter, 10 and 6. She strives to “shed a ray of sunshine” in every community she serves.