

Karen Freeman-Wilson has led the Chicago Urban League since January 2020, bringing a steadfast commitment to equity and social justice to one of the largest affiliates of the nation's oldest civil rights organizations. Under her leadership, the League continues to be a champion for Black and other underserved groups through direct service, research, and advocacy.

A nationally recognized public servant, Freeman-Wilson has spent her career addressing challenges facing urban communities. From 2012 to 2019, she served as mayor of her hometown, Gary, Indiana—becoming the city's first female mayor and the first Black woman elected mayor in the state's history. She previously served as Indiana Attorney General, Director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, presiding judge of the Gary City Court, and CEO of All Rise (previously the National Association of Drug Court Professionals).

Freeman-Wilson is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. She chairs the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund and serves on the boards of CADCA, the Center for Community Progress, Sandy Hook Promise, and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., The Links, Incorporated, and Israel C.M.E. Church.

She and her husband, Carmen Wilson II, share a blended family of four children.