

# Safiya Khalid

Former Councilwoman

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Safiya Khalid is a leader who is making her community in Maine a better place. She was born in Somalia. When Safiya was seven years old, her family had to leave their country because it didn't feel safe. They moved to the United States to start a new life. A friend told

them about Lewiston, Maine, where many people from Somalia lived. They moved to Lewiston and Safiya started school.

At the age of 14, Safiya became an American citizen. She tried hard in school and also worked at LL Bean, making boots. She is the first person in her family to graduate from high school and college, and she is also the

**1**

How did you think Safiya felt when she first moved to the United States?

**2**

What values did Safiya's mom find important?

first in her family to own a car! Safiya's mom taught her to always help others and that made Safiya want to make a difference in her community.

When Safiya was 23, she decided to run for a spot on the Lewiston City Council. She was determined; she went door to door to talk to people, and she won the election with almost 70% of the vote! Safiya became the youngest and the first Somali-American to be on the Lewiston City Council.

While on the City Council, Safiya wanted to help her community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she delivered food, masks, and supplies to help her neighbors. She was always thinking about ways to help others and make things better.

Safiya is now studying public policy as a graduate student at Northeastern University. She is working to learn more about how to create

**3**

Why do you think Safiya wanted to run for City Council?

**4**

positive change in her community and beyond. She continues to be a voice for the people of Lewiston and fights for fairness, equality, and opportunity for everyone.

**5**

How does Safiyah enrich the community?

Sources:

<https://www.themainemag.com/the-changemaker/>

<https://www.urbanexodus.com/post/a-young-politician-advocating-for-her-community-lewiston-councilwoman-safiya-khalid>