



The Women of the Louisiana Legislature  
2016-2020 Term  
*(updated 05-14-2019)*





## History

Eighty-two (82) women have served in the Louisiana Legislature to date. In 1986, the women of the legislature formed an organized group to address issues concerning women. The five women of the Louisiana Legislature at that time formed the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus.

The founding members were then:

1. Rep. Mary Landrieu (former United States Senator of Louisiana)
2. Rep. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco (former Governor of Louisiana)
3. Rep. Irma Muse Dixon
4. Rep. Diana Bajoie (later became a state senator and President Pro Tempore of the Louisiana Senate)
5. Rep. Naomi White Warren



## History—Firsts for Women in the Louisiana Legislature

### **1936 --Senator Doris Lindsey Holland**

- First woman elected to the Louisiana Senate
- Selected by the La. Democratic Executive Committee
- 21st Senatorial District
- Upon husband's death was selected

### **1940--Representative Doris Lindsey Holland**

- First woman elected to the Louisiana House simultaneously with Rep. Beatrice Hawthorne Moore
- Elected to the House
- Because of small district and less travel
- St. Helena Parish

### **1940-- Representative Beatrice Hawthorne Moore**

- First woman elected to the Louisiana House simultaneously with Rep. Doris Lindsey Holland
- Caddo Parish



## History—Firsts for Women in the Louisiana Legislature

### **1971 – Representative Dorothy Mae Taylor**

- **First African American woman elected to the House of Representatives**
- **First woman to serve as chairperson of a committee in the Louisiana Legislature**
- **Rep. Taylor served as chairperson of the House Health and Welfare Committee from 1972 to 1975.**
- **Orleans Parish**

### **1976 – Senator Diana Bajoie**

- **First woman elected as President Pro Tempore of the Louisiana Senate**
- **Woman legislator who served the longest in the Louisiana Legislature from 1976 to 2008**
- **Orleans Parish**



## History—Firsts for Women in the Louisiana Legislature

### **1992 – Senator Sharon Weston Broome**

- First woman elected as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Louisiana House
- First woman to serve in both positions of Speaker Pro Tempore of the Louisiana House and President Pro Tempore of the Louisiana Senate
- East Baton Rouge Parish

### **1992 – Representative Shirley Bowler**

- First Republican woman elected to the Louisiana Legislature
- Jefferson Parish

### **2000 – Representative Nita Rusich Hutter**

- First Republican woman to serve as a chairperson of a committee in the Louisiana Legislature along with Rep. Kay Kellogg Katz
- Rep. Hutter served on the Transportation, Highways and Public Works Committee from 2008 to 2012.
- St. Bernard Parish



## History—Firsts for Women in the Louisiana Legislature

### **2000 – Representative Kay Kellogg Katz**

- **First Republican woman to serve as a chairperson of a committee in the Louisiana Legislature along with Rep. Nita Rusich Hutter**
- **Rep. Katz served on the Health and Welfare Committee from 2008 to 2012.**
- **Ouachita Parish**

### **2010 – Representative Helena Moreno**

- **First Hispanic woman elected to the Louisiana Legislature**
- **Orleans Parish**

*Source: House Legislative Services. David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library and Louisiana Senate website.*



## Who We Are:

To date, there are 23 members of the [Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus](#) with 18 being state representatives and five (5) being state senators. The Women's Caucus is a cross-section of dynamic women of multi-tiered interests from across the state who are bound together by their commitment to serve the citizens of Louisiana through the legislative process.

## Mission:

Our mission is to: (1) prepare the next generation of women leaders and (2) serve as the premiere voice and leading monitor of issues, legislation and policies, which impact women.



## Women's Caucus Officers 2018-2020



**Chair**  
Sen. Beth Mizell  
Franklinton, District 12



**Senate Vice Chair**  
Sen. Sharon Hewitt  
Slidell, District 1



**House Vice Chair**  
Rep. Beryl Amedée  
Gray, District 51



**Immediate Past Chair**  
Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow  
Baton Rouge, District 15



**Secretary**  
Rep. Katrina Jackson  
Monroe, District 16



**Treasurer**  
Rep. Barbara Carpenter  
Baton Rouge, District 63



**Parliamentarian**  
Rep. Polly Thomas  
Metairie, District 80



**Member at Large**  
Rep. Barbara Norton  
Shreveport, District 3





## Women's Caucus Members



Sen. Yvonne Colomb  
Baton Rouge, District 14



Sen. Karen Carter Peterson  
New Orleans, District 5



Rep. Paula Davis  
Baton Rouge, District 69



Rep. Mary DuBuisson  
Slidell, District 90



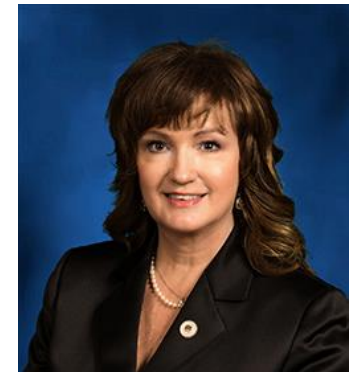
Rep. Julie Emerson  
CarenCro, District 39



Rep. Stephanie Hilferty  
New Orleans, District 94



Rep. Dorothy Sue Hill  
Dry Creek, District 32



Rep. Valarie Hodges  
Denham Springs, District 64



## Women's Caucus Members (Continued)



Rep. Dodie Horton  
Haughton, District 9



Rep. Nancy Landry  
Lafayette, District 31



Rep. Denise Marcelle  
Baton Rouge, District 61



Rep. Pat Moore  
Monroe, District 17



Rep. Patricia Haynes Smith  
Baton Rouge, District 67



Rep. Julie Stokes  
Kenner, District 79



Rep. Malinda White  
Bogalusa, District 75

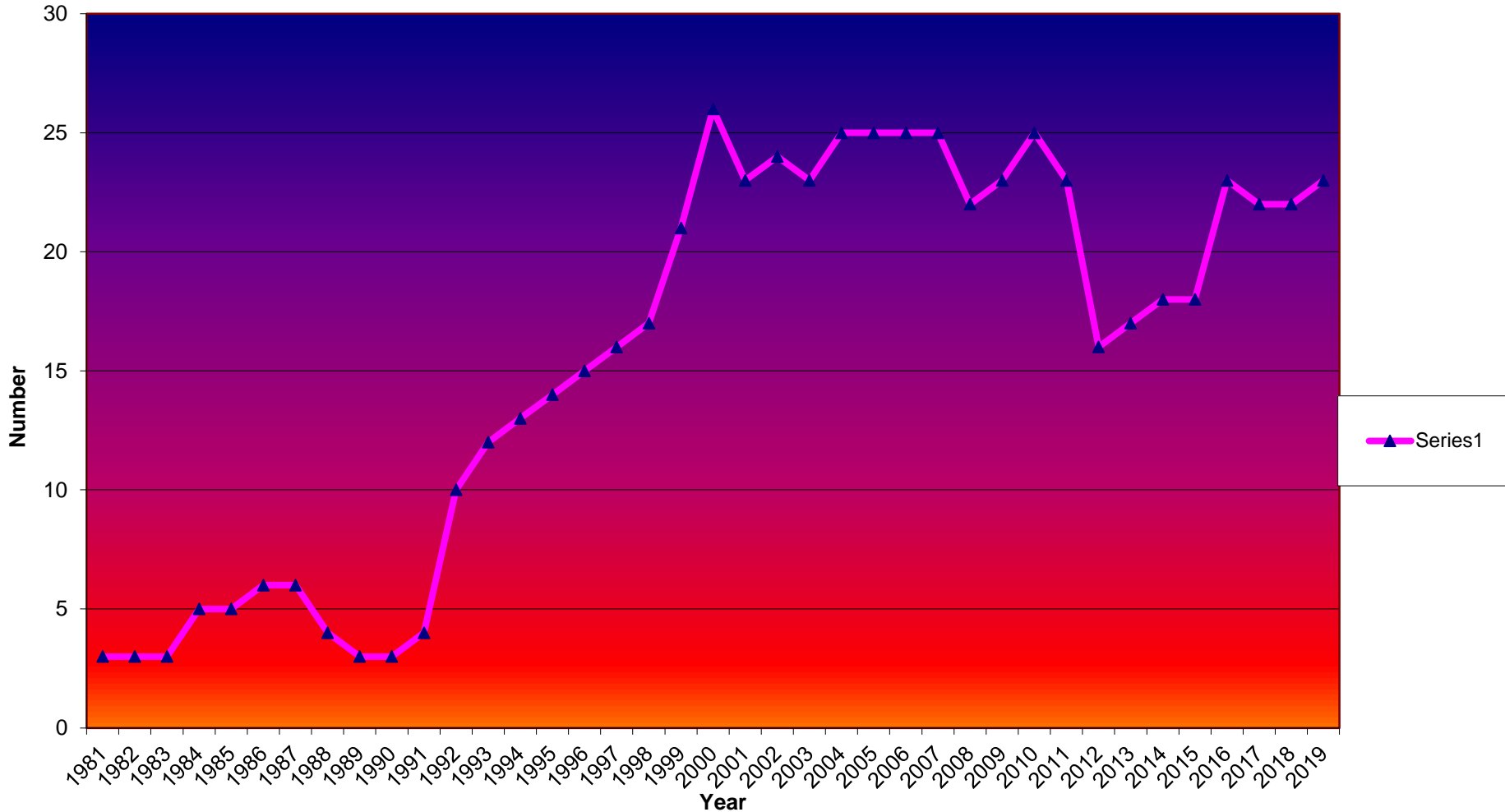


## Demographic Profile of Current Women's Caucus Members

Democrats: 11	48%
Republicans: 12	52%
Independents: 0	0%
African Americans: 9	39%
Caucasians: 14	61%
Hispanics: 0	0%
Percentage of Women in the Legislature: 23 out of 144	15.97%
Percentage in House: 18 out of 105	17.4%
Percentage in Senate: 5 out of 39	12.8%



## Women Serving in the Louisiana Legislature 1981 to Present





## Term-Limited Members 2016-2020



Sen. Yvonne Dorsey Colomb  
Baton Rouge, District 14



Rep. Dorothy Sue Hill  
Dry Creek, District 32



Rep. Nancy Landry  
Lafayette, District 31



Rep. Barbara Norton  
Shreveport, District 3



Rep. Patricia Haynes Smith  
Baton Rouge, District 67



## Term Limit Data within the Women's Caucus

Democrats: 4
Republicans: 1
African Americans: 3
Caucasians: 2
Women in the Legislature Term Limited: 5 out of 144 (House-4 and Senate-1)



## **Initiatives through the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation:**

- Educational Advancement Opportunity (EAO) Scholarship
- Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship
- Ready to Run™ Louisiana
- Women's Caucus Foundation Public Policy Leadership Retreat
- Women of Excellence Awards & Scholarships Ceremony and Reception

## **LLWC Foundation Website:**

[www.llwcf.org](http://www.llwcf.org)



## Top Issues of the Women's Caucus

- Healthcare
- Education
- Economic Development
- Childcare
- Domestic Violence
- Small Business
- Insurance







## Women in Elective Office – Historical Summary

US Congress		
Mary L. Landrieu	US Senator	1997- 2015
Elaine S. Edwards <i>**Appointed by governor (husband) to fill a vacancy.</i>	US Senator	1972
Rose McConnell Long <i>**Long was appointed an then elected to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband.</i>	US Senator	1936-1937

Source: Center for American Women in Politics (Rutgers University)



## Women in Elective Office – Historical Summary

US Congress		
Corinne “Lindy” Claiborne Boggs <i>**Boggs won a special election to replace her husband and was then re-elected.</i>	US Representative	1973-1991
Catherine S. Long <i>**Long won a special election to fill a vacancy.</i>	US Representative	1985-1987

Source: Center for American Women in Politics (Rutgers University)



## Women in Elective Office – Historical Summary

Statewide Elective Offices		
Kathleen Blanco	Governor	2004-2008
Suzanne Haik Terrell	Commissioner of Elections	2000-2004
Kathleen Blanco	Lieutenant Governor	1996-2004
Melinda Schwegmann	Lieutenant Governor	1992-1995

Source: Center for American Women in Politics (Rutgers University)



## Women in Elective Office – Historical Summary

Statewide Elective Offices		
Mary L. Landrieu <i>**Simultaneously won a special election to complete an unexpired term and a regular election.</i>	State Treasurer	1987-1995
Mary Evelyn Parker <i>**Retired in January 1987.</i>	State Treasurer	1968-1987

Source: Center for American Women in Politics (Rutgers University)



## Women in Elective Office – Historical Summary

Statewide Elective Offices		
Ellen Bryan Moore	Register of State Lands	1952-1955; 1960-1975
Lucille May Grace <i>**Was initially appointed to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband. Mrs. Grace died while serving in office in 1957.</i>	Register of State Lands	1931-1951; 1956-1957
Alice Lee Grosjean <i>**Appointed to fill a vacancy</i>	Secretary of State	1930

Source: Center for American Women in Politics (Rutgers University)



## Contact Us Regarding:

- Constituent Assistance
- Legislation
- Local/State Government Agency Issues
- The Women's Caucus Speaker's Bureau
- State Capitol Tours

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