

WOMEN IN THE U.S. SENATE 1922 - 2006

Fourteen women (9D, 5R) serve in the United States Senate in the 109th Congress. Five incumbents who ran in 2004 won re-election: Barbara Boxer (D-CA), first elected in 1992; Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), first elected in 1998; Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), first elected in 1986; Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), appointed in December 2002; and Patty Murray (D-WA), first elected in 1992.

To date, a total of 33 women have served in the Senate, including twenty Democrats and thirteen Republicans.

Two states (LA, ME) have sent three women to the Senate; seven states (AL, AR, CA, KS, NE, SD, WA) have been represented twice by women in the Senate; thirteen other states (AK, FL, GA, IL, MD, MI, MN, MO, NC, ND, NY, OR, TX) have sent one woman to the Senate each. California was the first state to send two women (Boxer (D) and Feinstein (D)) to the Senate simultaneously; Kansas was the second (Nancy Landon Kassebaum(R) and Sheila Frahm(R)), Maine was the third (Collins (R) and Snowe (R)); and Washington was the fourth (Cantwell (D) and Murray (D)).

The first woman to serve in the Senate was Rebecca Latimer Felton (D-GA); appointed in 1922, she served for one day. The first woman elected to the Senate was Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-AR). She was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, and was subsequently elected to complete his term; Caraway went on to be elected for two more terms. Margaret Chase Smith (R-ME) was the first woman elected to the Senate without having first been appointed to serve. Smith had first come to Congress when she was elected to fill her deceased husband's House seat; she then went on to be elected to the Senate in her own right. Kassebaum was the first woman to have been elected to the Senate without having previously filled an unexpired Congressional term; Mikulski is the first Democratic woman to do so. Smith was the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress; Boxer, Cantwell, Lincoln, Mikulski, Snowe, and Stabenow did so subsequently. Carol Moseley Braun (D-IL), an African American, was the first woman of color to serve in the Senate.

Kassebaum chaired the Senate's Labor and Human Resources Committee in the 104th Congress; she was the first woman ever to chair a major Senate committee. Caraway chaired the Senate Committee on Enrolled Bills during the 73rd-78th Congresses.

How Women First Entered the Senate

First entered through Regular Elections (15)	First entered through succession to unexpired terms	
	Appointments (13)	Special Elections (5)
2003 Dole (open seat)	2002 Murkowski	1993 Hutchison
2001 Clinton (open seat); Cantwell (challenger); Stabenow (challenger)	2001 Carnahan	1992 Feinstein
	1996 Frahm	1960 Neuberger
1999 Lincoln (open seat)	1992 Burdick	1954 Abel
1997 Collins (open seat); Landrieu (open seat)	1978 Allen; Humphrey	1938 Pyle
	1972 Edwards	
1995 Snowe (open seat)	1954 Bowring	
	1949 Bushfield	
1993 Boxer (open seat); Moseley Braun (defeated incumbent in primary); Murray (open seat)	1937 Graves	
	1936 Long	
1987 Mikulski (open seat)	1931 Caraway	
1981 Hawkins (open seat)	1922 Felton	
1978 Kassebaum (open seat)		
1949 Smith (open seat)		

WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE
(listed in order of date first entered)

Women Senators	Routes to Office	Dates Served
Rebecca Latimer Felton (D-GA)	Educator, writer, lecturer, and reformer. Appointed to fill vacancy caused by death. Resigned when successor was elected.	11/21/22—11/22/22
Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-AR)	Appointed to fill vacancy caused by death of her husband; later elected to complete his term and subsequently to two full terms before losing bid for re-election. Chairwoman, committee on Enrolled Bills (73rd-78th Congresses).	12/8/31—1/2/45
Rose McConnell Long (D-LA)	Appointed and subsequently elected to fill vacancy caused by death of husband.	2/10/36—1/2/37
Dixie Bibb Graves (D-AL)	Civic leader and activist. Appointed by husband (who was governor) to fill vacancy caused by resignation. Resigned when a successor was appointed.	8/20/37—1/10/38
Gladys Pyle (R-SD)	State legislator and secretary of state; ran for governor in 1930. Elected to fill vacancy caused by death. Never sworn in because Congress was not in session.	11/9/38—1/3/39
Vera Cahalan Bushfield (R-SD)	Appointed to fill vacancy caused by death of her husband, but did not take seat because Congress was not in session; resigned when successor was elected.	10/6/48—12/27/48
Margaret Chase Smith (R-ME)	Businesswoman and congressional aide. Elected to House of Representatives to fill vacancy caused by death of husband; served 4 full House terms, then elected to 4 full terms in Senate; lost bid for re-election.	1/3/49—1/3/73
Eva Kelly Bowring (R-NE)	Rancher and party activist. Appointed to fill vacancy caused by death of Dwight Griswold; served until Hazel Hempel Abel was elected to complete term.	4/26/54—11/7/54
Hazel Hempel Abel (R-NE)	Educator, businesswoman, and party activist. Elected to fill vacancy caused by death of Dwight Griswold; resigned when successor was elected.	11/8/54—12/31/54
Maurine Brown Neuberger (D-OR)	Educator, state legislator, writer, and lecturer. Elected to fill vacancy caused by death of husband; simultaneously elected for ensuing full term.	11/8/60—1/3/67
Elaine Schwartzenburg Edwards (D-LA)	Appointed by husband (who was governor) to fill vacancy caused by death; resigned when successor was appointed.	8/7/72—11/13/72
Muriel Buck Humphrey (D-MN)	Appointed to fill vacancy caused by death of her husband; resigned when successor was elected.	2/6/78—11/7/78
Maryon Pittman Allen (D-AL)	Journalist, educator, writer, and lecturer. Appointed to fill vacancy caused by death of her husband; lost bid for re-nomination and resigned when her successor was elected.	6/12/78—11/7/78
Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R-KS)	Maize School Board member, congressional aide, and radio station executive. Won general election, then appointed to fill vacancy caused by resignation of predecessor; won two subsequent terms in 1984 and 1990. Chaired Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources in 104th Congress. Retired.	12/23/78—1/7/97
Paula Hawkins (R-FL)	Businesswoman and public service commissioner. Won general election, then appointed to fill vacancy caused by resignation of predecessor; lost bid for re-election.	1/1/81—1/3/87
Barbara Ann Mikulski (D-MD)	U.S. representative; social worker; Baltimore city council member. Won general election after serving five terms in U.S. House of Representatives.	1/3/87—present
Jocelyn Birch Burdick (D-ND)	Civic activist. Appointed to fill vacancy caused by death of her husband. Resigned when successor was chosen in special election.	9/16/92—12/14/92
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	San Francisco mayor and San Francisco Board of Supervisors member and president. Ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1990. Won special election to fill vacancy caused by resignation; seat had been filled temporarily by appointee. Won full term in 1994.	11/10/92—present

Women in the United States Senate (continued)
(listed in order by date first entered)

<u>Women Senators</u>	<u>Routes to Office</u>	<u>Dates Served</u>
Barbara Boxer (D-CA)	U.S. representative, Marin County Board of Supervisors member and president, stock-broker, and journalist. Won open seat in general election after serving five terms in U.S. House of Representatives.	1/5/93—present
Carol Moseley Braun (D-IL)	Attorney, Cook County Recorder of Deeds, and state representative. Defeated incumbent in primary and went on to win open seat in general election.	1/5/93—1/6/99
Patty Murray (D-WA)	State senator, citizen lobbyist. Won open seat in general election.	1/5/93—present
Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)	State treasurer, businesswoman, state representative, TV newscaster, attorney. Won special election to fill vacancy caused by resignation; seat had been filled temporarily by appointee. Won full term in 1994.	6/14/93—present
Olympia Snowe (R-ME)	U.S. representative, state senator and state representative, member of Auburn Board of Voter Registration. Won open seat in general election after serving eight terms in U.S. House.	1/4/95—present
Sheila Frahm (R-KS)	Lieutenant governor and secretary of administration, state senator and senate majority leader, State Board of Education member and vice chair, Colby School Board member, farmer. Appointed to fill vacancy caused by resignation of predecessor, lost primary bid.	6/11/96—11/8/96
Susan Collins (R-ME)	Businesswoman, regional Small Business Administration Administrator, state cabinet member. Won open seat in general election.	1/7/97—present
Mary Landrieu (D-LA)	State treasurer, state representative, unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1995. Won open seat in general election.	1/7/97—present
Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)	U.S. representative; congressional staff member; legislative affairs specialist. Won open seat in general election.	1/6/99—present
Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	U.S. representative; state representative; technology executive. Defeated incumbent by narrow margin to make Washington 4th state to send two women to the U.S. Senate simultaneously.	1/3/01—present
Jean Carnahan (D-MO)	Children's advocate; author. Appointed to a two-year term to fill her husband's seat after he was elected posthumously.	1/3/01—11/23/02
Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY)	Only First Lady elected to public office; first woman from New York elected to the U.S. Senate; attorney; author; children's advocate. Won open seat in general election.	1/3/01—present
Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)	U.S. representative; state senator; state representative; first woman chair of Ingham County Board of Commissioners; social worker. Defeated incumbent to win general election in 2000.	1/3/01—present
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	State house majority leader; state representative; state Republican committeewoman; community activist; attorney. Appointed by her father to fill vacancy created when he resigned to become governor.	12/20/02-present
Elizabeth Dole (R-NC)	Presidential candidate; presidential cabinet member and staff member; federal trade commissioner; president of the American Red Cross; national director of education and information for Hospice. Won open seat in general election.	1/7/03-present