

Chronology of Women

in the
West Virginia
Legislature

1922-2020



CHRONOLOGY OF WOMEN IN THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

When the first woman was elected to office in the mountain state in 1922, West Virginia couldn't have prepared for the unstoppable force that would become the female politicians the state has to offer. Since Mrs. Anna Gates's election as a Delegate in 1922, hundreds of empowered women from all over the state have won elections and held a seat in the statehouse, where they helped to craft the policies that have shaped West Virginia for decades. Without the courage and stamina of these women to challenge the men who occupied these seats and hold their own on the chamber floors, West Virginia would look drastically different today.

This extensive Chronology of Women in the West Virginia Legislature helps to commemorate the legacies of the hard-working and powerful women who overcame societal expectations to make a difference in the state that they loved and called home.

1920s

7 Delegates
(4 elected, 3 appointed)

DELEGATES

1922 - 1 Delegate (elected)

Mrs. Tom (Anna) Gates (D) Kanawha, elected
(First woman elected to the West Virginia Legislature.)

1924 - 2 Delegates (both elected)

Mrs. Thomas J. Davis (R) Fayette, elected
Dr. Harriet B. Jones (R) Marshall, elected

1926 - 2 Delegates (both appointed)

Hannah Cooke (D) Jefferson
(Appointed Jan. 27 by Gov. Howard Mason Gore upon the death of her husband.)
Mrs. Fannie Anshutz Hall (D) Wetzel
(Appointed Apr. 2 by Gov. Gore upon the death of her husband.)

1928 - 2 Delegates (1 elected, 1 appointed)

Mrs. Minnie Buckingham Harper (R) McDowell
(Appointed Jan. 10 by Gov. Gore upon the death of her husband.)
Frances Irving Radenbaugh (R) Wood, elected



ANNA GATES
WV BLUE BOOK



DR. HARRIET B. JONES
WV BLUE BOOK



MINNIE BUCKINGHAM HARPER
WV BLUE BOOK

1930s

7 Delegates
(4 elected, 3 appointed)

2 Senators
(both appointed)

SENATORS

1934 - 1 Senator (appointed)

Mrs. Hazel E. Hyre (D) Jackson
(Appointed Mar. 12 by Gov. Herman Guy Kump upon the death of her husband.)

1939 - Mrs. John C. Dice (D) Greenbrier

(Appointed in Dec. by Gov. Homer Holt upon the death of Sen. William Jasper.)

DELEGATES

1931 - Mrs. Lucille Scott Strite (D) Morgan

(Appointed by Gov. William Conley upon the death of James C. Scott.)

1932 - 2 Delegates (both elected)

Mrs. Pearl Theressa Harman (R) McDowell, elected
Eddie Seiver Suddarth (D) Taylor, elected

1934 - 1 Delegate (elected)

Mrs. S.W. Price (D) Fayette, elected

1936 - 2 Delegates (1 elected, 1 appointed)

Mrs. Allie D. Proctor (D) Fayette
(Appointed June 13 by Gov. Herman Kump upon the death of her husband.)
Mrs. Nell W. Walker (D) Fayette, elected

1938 - 1 Delegate (re-elected)

Nell Walker (D) Fayette, re-elected

1939 - Virginia Reay Kurtz (R) Lewis

(Appointed Dec. 26 by Gov. Homer D. Holt upon the death of her husband.)



NELL W. WALKER
WV BLUE BOOK

1940s

8 Delegates
(1 elected, 7 appointed)

DELEGATES

1940 - 1 Delegate (re-elected)

Nell W. Walker (D) Fayette, re-elected

1941 - Margaret Potts Williams (D) Jefferson

(Appointed Nov. 19 by Gov. M.M. Neeley upon the death of William Alexander.)

Winifred Davis Woods (R) Ritchie

(Appointed Mar. 10 by Gov. Neeley upon the death of her husband.)

1942 - 1 Delegate (re-elected)

Nell Walker (D) Fayette, re-elected

1943 - Louise Goudy Potts (R) Taylor

(Appointed Dec. 18 upon the death of her husband.)

1944 - 1 Delegate (re-elected)

Nell Walker (D) Fayette, re-elected

1945 - Grace Miller Hathaway (R) Calhoun

(Appointed Nov. 7 by Gov. Clarence Meadows upon the death of her husband.)

Katie B. Johnson (D) Braxton

(Appointed Mar. 7 by Gov. Meadows upon the death of her husband.)

Mary Van Sickler (D) Greenbrier

(Appointed Feb. 27 by Gov. Meadows upon the death of her husband.)

1946 - 1 Delegate (re-elected)

Nell Walker (D) Fayette, re-elected

1948 - 1 Delegate (re-elected)

Nell Walker (D) Fayette, re-elected

1949 - Frances Evans (D) Logan

(Appointed May 16 by Gov. Okey Patteson upon the resignation of Curtis Trent.)

1950s

10 Delegates
(7 elected, 3 appointed)

1 Senator
(appointed)

SENATORS

1958 - 1 Senator (appointed)

Mary O. Marchand (D) Monongalia
(Appointed June 17 by Gov. Cecil Underwood upon the death of her husband.)

DELEGATES

1950 - 2 Delegates (1 elected, 1 re-elected)

Elizabeth Simpson Drewry (D) McDowell, elected
Nell Walker (D) Fayette, re-elected

1952 - 2 Delegates (both re-elected)

Elizabeth Simpson Drewry (D) McDowell, re-elected
Nell Walker (D) Fayette, re-elected

1954 - 2 Delegates (both re-elected)

Elizabeth Simpson Drewry (D) McDowell, re-elected
Nell Walker (D) Fayette, re-elected
(Resigned on July 15, 1955 to accept appointment by Gov. William Marland to Banking Commissioner)

1955 - Helen Holt (R) Lewis

(Appointed Feb. 17 by Gov. Marland to fill vacancy opened due to her husband's illness.)

1956 - 3 Delegates (2 elected, 1 re-elected)

Elizabeth Simpson Drewry (D) McDowell, re-elected
Elizabeth V. Hallahan (R) Kanawha, elected
(Resigned July 1, 1957.)
Mrs. E. Wyatt (Jessica) Payne (R) Cabell, elected

1958 - 7 Delegates (4 elected, 1 re-elected, 2 appointed)

Eudora C. Andrews (D) Kanawha, elected
Mae S. Belcher (D) Wyoming, elected
Elizabeth Simpson Drewry (D) McDowell, re-elected
Mildred Flannery (D) Logan
(Appointed Mar. 19 by Gov. Cecil Underwood upon the death of her husband, W.E. Flannery.)
Opaldene Mills (D) McDowell
(Appointed June 18 by Gov. Cecil Underwood upon the death of her husband, W.L. Mills.)
Callie Tsapis (D) Hancock, elected
Nell Walker (D) Fayette, elected



HELEN HOLT



ELIZABETH V. HALLAHAN
WV BLUE BOOK

1960s

19 Delegates
(12 elected, 7 appointed & 2 later elected)

1 Senator
(appointed, then later elected)

SENATORS

1965 - Betty H. Baker (D) Hardy
(Appointed Jan. 11 by Gov. Hulett Smith upon the death of her husband, Donald J. Baker.)

1966 - Betty H. Baker (D) Hardy, elected

DELEGATES

1960 - 4 Delegates (1 elected, 3 re-elected)
Elizabeth Simpson Drewry (D) McDowell, re-elected
Callie Tsapis (D) Hancock, re-elected
Nell Walker (D) Fayette, re-elected
Jackie Withrow (D) Raleigh, elected

1961 - Pearl Yoho (D) Marshall
(Appointed Sept. 14 by Gov. W.W. Barron upon the resignation of E.C. Pastilong)

1962 - 5 Delegates (2 elected, 3 re-elected)
Mae S. Belcher (D) Wyoming, elected
Ethel L. Crandall (D) Fayette, elected
Elizabeth Simpson Drewry (D) McDowell, re-elected
Callie Tsapis (D) Hancock, re-elected
Jackie Withrow (D) Raleigh, re-elected

1964 - 3 Delegates (1 elected, 1 appointed)
Betty C. Baker (D) Cabell
(Appointed Jan. 7 by Gov. Barron upon the death of her husband, Tom T. Baker.)
Freda N. Paul (D) Cabell, elected
Jackie Withrow (D) Raleigh, re-elected

1965 - Maxie Mathis (D) Wayne
(Appointed Dec. 17 by Gov. Hulett Smith upon the death of her husband, Boyd Mathis.)
Evelyn Schupbach (D) Wetzel
(Appointed Sept. 20 by Gov. Smith upon the death of her husband, Herbert Schupbach.)
Lucille Thornhill (D) Mercer
(Appointed Oct. 28 by Gov. Smith upon the resignation of Robert E. Holroyd.)



ELIZABETH SIMPSON DREWRY
WV BLUE BOOK



CALLIE TSAPIS
WV BLUE BOOK

1966 - 6 Delegates (4 elected, 2 re-elected)

Ethel L. Crandall (D) Fayette, elected
Freda N. Paul (D) Cabell, re-elected
Evelyn Schupbach (D) Wetzel, elected
Jody G. Smirl (R) Cabell, elected
Callie Tapis (D) Hancock, elected
Jackie Withrow (D) Raleigh, re-elected

1968 - 7 Delegates (3 elected, 3 re-elected, 1 appointed)

Helen B. Bolling (D) Harrison
*(Appointed June 27 by Gov. Smith upon the death of
C.P. Marsteller.)*
Ethel L. Crandall (D) Fayette, re-elected
Irma Maple (D) Brooke, elected (died in 1969.)
Phyllis Rutledge (D) Kanawha, elected
Jody G. Smirl (R) Cabell, re-elected
Lucille Thornhill (D) Mercer, elected
Jackie Withrow (D) Raleigh, re-elected

1969 - Shirley Pickett (D) McDowell

*(Appointed July 8 by Gov. Arch A. Moore upon the
resignation of Fred G. Wooten.)*



PHYLLIS RUTLEDGE
WV BLUE BOOK



JACKIE WINTHROW
WV BLUE BOOK

1970s

28 Delegates
(20 elected, 8 appointed & 2 later elected)

2 Senators
(1 elected, 1 appointed & later elected)

SENATORS

1970 - 1 Senator (elected)

Louise Leonard (R) Jefferson, elected

1974 - 2 Senators (1 re-elected, 1 appointed & later elected)

Judith Herndon (R) Ohio

(Appointed July 3 by Gov. Moore upon the resignation of Chester Hubbard, & then later elected.)

Louise Leonard (R) Jefferson, re-elected

1978 - 1 Senator (re-elected)

Judith Herndon (R) Ohio, re-elected

DELEGATES

1970 - 7 Delegates (2 elected, 4 re-elected, 1 appointed & later elected)

Ethel L. Crandall (D) Fayette, re-elected

Phyllis Given (D) Kanawha, elected

Judith Herndon (R) Ohio

(Appointed June 2 by Gov. Moore upon the resignation of J.F. Companion & then later elected.)

Mary Martha Merritt (D) Raleigh, elected

Phyllis Rutledge (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Jody G. Smirl (R) Cabell, re-elected

Jackie Withrow (D) Raleigh, re-elected

1971 - Barbara Boiarsky (D) Kanawha

(Appointed April 13 by Gov. Moore upon the death of her husband, the Speaker of the House.)

Freda N. Paul (D) Cabell

(Appointed Jan. 11 by Gov. Moore upon the death of Michael R. Prestera, Sr.)

1972 - 11 Delegates (4 elected, 6 re-elected, 1 appointed)

G. Michele Prestera (D) Cabell, elected

Betsy J. Edgar (D) Pocahontas

(Appointed April 18 by Gov. Moore upon the death of her husband.)

Lucille Gillispie (R) Kanawha, elected

Phyllis Given (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Judith Herndon (R) Ohio, re-elected

Jean S. Holt (R) Kanawha, elected

Mary Martha Merritt (D) Raleigh, re-elected

Sarah Lee Neal (D) Greenbrier, elected

Phyllis Rutledge (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Jody G. Smirl (R) Cabell, re-elected *(Resigned Aug. 1, 1974)*

Jackie Withrow (D) Raleigh, re-elected



LOUISE LEONARD
WV BLUE BOOK

1974 - 8 Delegates (3 elected, 4 re-elected, 1 appointed & later elected)

G. Michele Prestera (D) Cabell, re-elected

Phyllis Given (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Sarah Lee Neal (D) Greenbrier, re-elected

Julia Pitsenberger (D) Randolph, elected

Pamela Sue Shuman (D) Brooke

*(Appointed Jan. 30 by Gov. Moore upon the resignation of
Mino R. D'Aurora, then later elected)*

Jae Spears (D) Randolph, elected

Martha Wehrle (D) Kanawha, elected

Jackie Withrow (D) Raleigh, re-elected

1976 - 12 Delegates (5 elected, 7 re-elected)

Thais F. Blatnik (D) Ohio, elected

Michele Prestera Craig (D) Cabell, re-elected

Betty D. Crookshanks (D) Greenbrier, elected

Patricia O. Hartman (D) Cabell, elected

Sarah Lee Neal (D) Greenbrier, re-elected

Julia Pitsenberger (D) Randolph, re-elected

Helaine Rotgin (D) Kanawha, elected

Pamela Sue Shuman (D) Brooke, re-elected

Carolyn M. Snyder (D) Jefferson, elected

Jae Spears (D) Randolph, re-elected

Martha Wehrle (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Jackie Withrow (D) Raleigh, re-elected



G. MICHELE PRESTERA
WV BLUE BOOK

1977 - Bianca M. James (D) Jefferson

(Appointed Oct. by Gov. John D. Rockefeller IV upon the resignation of her husband.)

1978 - 9 Delegates (2 elected, 6 re-elected, 1 appointed)

Majorie H. Burke (D) Gilmer

(Appointed Apr.13 by Gov. Rockefeller upon the resignation of her husband, Billy B. Burke.)

Betty Crookshanks (D) Greenbrier, re-elected

Patricia Hartman (D) Cabell, re-elected

Charlotte R. Lane (R) Kanawha, elected

Sarah Lee Neal (D) Greenbrier, re-elected

Evelyn E. Richards (R) Cabell, elected

Pamela Sue Shuman (D) Brooke, re-elected

Jae Spears (D) Randolph, re-elected

Martha Wehrle (D) Kanawha, re-elected

1979 - Phyllis A. Presley (D) Raleigh

(Appointed by Gov. Rockefeller upon the resignation of Ted. T. Stacy)

1980s

41 Delegates
(37 elected, 4 appointed & 1 later elected)

9 Senators
(7 elected, 2 appointed & later elected)

SENATORS

1980 - 3 Senators (2 elected, 1 re-elected)

- Jean Scott Chace (D) Lewis, elected
- Judith Herndon (R) Ohio, re-elected *(Died mid-term, Nov. 20th)*
- Jae Spears (D) Randolph, elected

1982 - 3 Senators (1 elected, 2 mid-term)

- Jean Scott Chace (D) Lewis, mid-term
- Sondra Moore Lucht (D) Berkeley, elected
- Jae Spears (D) Randolph, mid-term

1984 - 2 Senators (1 re-elected, 1 mid-term)

- Sondra Moore Lucht (D) Berkeley, mid-term
- Jae Spears (D) Randolph, re-elected

1985 - Donna Boley (R) Pleasants

(Appointed May 13th by Gov. Arch Moore upon the resignation of Sam White.)

1986 - 3 Senators (1 elected, 1 re-elected, 1 mid-term)

- Donna Boley (R) Pleasants, elected
- Sondra Moore Lucht (D) Berkeley, re-elected
- Jae Spears (D) Randolph, mid-term

1988 - 6 Senators (3 elected, 2 re-elected, 1 mid-term)

- Thais Blatnik (D) Ohio, elected
- Donna Boley (R) Pleasants, re-elected
- Sondra Moore Lucht (D) Berkeley, mid-term
- Charlotte Jean Pritt (D) Kanawha, elected
- Jae Spears (D) Randolph, re-elected
- Juliet Walker-Rundle (D) Wyoming, elected

1989 - Martha Wehrle (D) Kanawha

(Appointed Sept. 5 by Gov. Gaston Caperton upon the resignation of Darrell Holmes.)



JUDITH HERNDON
WV BLUE BOOK



JAE SPEARS
WV BLUE BOOK

DELEGATES

1980 - 14 Delegates (9 elected, 5 re-elected)

Thais Blatnik (D) Ohio, elected
June Bledsoe (D) Kanawha, elected
Marjorie Burke (D) Gilmer, elected
Betty H. Crookshanks (D) Greenbrier, re-elected
Sue A. Davis (D) Cabell, elected
Phyllis Given (D) Cabell, elected
Ruth S. Goldsmith (R) Kanawha, elected
Patricia Hartman (D) Cabell, re-elected
Elizabeth M. Martin (D) Monongalia, elected
Sarah Lee Neal (D) Greenbrier, re-elected
Sandy Rogers (R) Wood, elected
Pamela Sue Shuman (D) Brooke, re-elected
Jane H. Theiling (D) Kanawha, elected
Martha Wehrle (D) Kanawha, re-elected

1982 - 15 Delegates (4 elected, 11 re-elected)

Thais Blatnik (D) Ohio, re-elected
June Bledsoe (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Bonnie L. Brown (D) Kanawha, elected
Marjorie Burke (D) Gilmer, re-elected
Betty H. Crookshanks (D) Greenbrier, re-elected
Sue A. Davis (D) Cabell, re-elected
Patricia Hartman (D) Cabell, re-elected
Shelby B. Leary (D) Monongalia, elected
Joan McCallister (D) Putnam, elected
Elizabeth Martin (D) Monongalia, re-elected
Sarah Lee Neal (D) Greenbrier, re-elected
Sandy Rogers (R) Wood, re-elected
Sharon Spencer (D) Kanawha, elected
Jane Theiling (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Martha Wehrle (D) Kanawha, re-elected



THAIS F. BLATNIK
WV BLUE BOOK

1984 - 21 Delegates (11 elected, 9 re-elected, 1 appointed)

Thais Blatnik (D) Ohio, re-elected

Bonnie L. Brown (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Marjorie Burke (D) Gilmer, re-elected

Betty H. Crookshanks (D) Greenbrier, re-elected

Sue A. Davis (D) Cabell, re-elected

Linda Nelson Garrett (D) Webster, elected

Phyllis Given (D) Cabell, elected

Barbara "Bobbie" Hatfield (D) Kanawha, elected

Katherine Holt (D) Summers

(Appointed Aug. 20 by Gov. Rockefeller upon the death of her husband.)

Charlotte R. Lane (R) Kanawha, elected *(Resigned Feb. 18, 1985)*

Shelby B. Leary (D) Monongalia, re-elected

Elizabeth Martin (D) Monongalia, re-elected

Patricia Mastrantoni (D) Hancock, elected

Florence L. Merow (D) Monongalia, elected

Sarah Lee Neal (D) Greenbrier, re-elected

Deborah F. Phillips (D) Putnam, elected

Charlotte Jean Pritt (D) Kanawha, elected

Evelyn E. Richards (R) Cabell, elected

Sandy Rogers (R) Wood, re-elected

Jody G. Smirl (R) Cabell, elected

Patricia Holmes White (D) Putnam, elected

1986 - 18 Delegates (5 elected, 13 re-elected)

Patricia Bradley (D) Hancock, re-elected

Bonnie Brown (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Marjorie H. Burke (D) Gilmer, re-elected

Dee Caperton (D) Kanawha, elected

Betty Crookshanks (D) Greenbrier, re-elected

Linda Nelson Garrett (D) Webster, re-elected

Phyllis Given (D) Cabell, re-elected

Patricia Hartman (D) Cabell, elected

Barbara "Bobbie" Hatfield (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Shelby B. Leary (D) Monongalia, re-elected

Twila S. Metheny (D) Monongalia, elected

Sarah Lee Neal (D) Greenbrier, re-elected

Deborah F. Phillips (D) Putnam, re-elected

Charlotte Jean Pritt (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Sandy Rogers (R) Wood, re-elected *(Resigned June 29, 1987)*

Sharon Spencer (D) Kanawha, elected

Virginia Jolliffe Starcher (D) Jackson, elected

Patricia Holmes White (D) Putnam, re-elected

1988 - 18 Delegates (9 elected, 9 re-elected)

Patricia Bradley (D) Hancock, re-elected (*Resigned Nov. 1, 1989*)
Marjorie H. Burke (D) Gilmer, re-elected
Ramona Cerra (D) Kanawha, elected
Mary Pearl Compton (D) Monroe, elected
Delores W. Cook (D) Boone, elected
Phyllis Given (D) Cabell, re-elected
Barbara "Bobbie" Hatfield (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Lydia D. Long (D) Mason, elected
Florence L. Merow (D) Monongalia, elected (*Resigned July 10, 1990*)
Twila S. Metheney (D) Monongalia, re-elected (*Resigned after 1989 Session.*)
Margaret "Peggy" Miller (R) Kanawha, elected
Deborah F. Phillips (D) Putnam, re-elected
Evelyn E. Richards (R) Cabell, elected
Phyllis Rutledge (D) Kanawha, elected
Sharon Spencer (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Virginia Jolliffe Starcher (D) Jackson, re-elected
Barbara A. Warner (D) Harrison, elected
Patricia Holmes White (D) Putnam, re-elected

1989 - Jane Price Sharp (D) Pocahontas

(Appointed Oct. 11 by Gov. Caperton upon the resignation of Walt Helmick.)
Phyllis Cole (R) Grant
(Appointed Oct. 23 by Gov. Caperton upon the resignation of Marc L. Harmon.)
Tamara Pettit (D) Hancock
(Appointed Nov. 20 by Gov. Caperton upon the resignation of Patricia Bradley.)

SENATORS

1990 - 7 Senators (1 elected, 1 re-elected, 5 mid-term)

Thais Blatnik (D) Ohio, mid-term
Donna Boley (R) Pleasants, mid-term
Sondra Moore Lucht (D) Berkeley, re-elected
Charlotte Pritt (D) Kanawha, mid-term
Jae Spears (D) Randolph, mid-term
Juliet Walker-Rundle (D) Wyoming, mid-term *(Resigned Jan. 4, 1991)*
Martha Wehrle (D) Kanawha, elected

1992 - 5 Senators (1 elected, 3 re-elected, 2 mid-term)

Thais Blatnik (D) Ohio, re-elected
Donna Boley (R) Pleasants, re-elected
Sondra Moore Lucht (D) Berkeley, mid-term
Martha Yeager Walker (D) Kanawha, elected
Martha Wehrle (D) Kanawha, mid-term

1994 - 5 Senators (2 elected, 3 mid-term)

Thais Blatnik (D) Ohio, mid-term
Donna Boley (R) Pleasants, mid-term
Sarah Minear (R) Tucker, elected
Martha Yeager Walker (D) Kanawha, mid-term
Rebecca I. White (D) Lewis, elected

1996 - 4 Senators (2 re-elected, 2 mid-term)

Donna J. Boley (R) Pleasants, re-elected
Sarah M. Minear (R) Tucker, mid-term
Martha Yeager Walker (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Rebecca I. White (D) Harrison, mid-term

1998 - 5 Senators (1 elected, 2 re-elected, 2 mid-term)

Donna J. Boley (R) Pleasants, mid-term
Sarah M. Minear (R) Tucker, re-elected
Marie E. Redd (D) Cabell, elected
(First African-American elected to the Senate)
Martha Yeager Walker (D) Kanawha, mid-term
Rebecca I. White (D) Harrison, re-elected



DONNA BOLEY
WV BLUE BOOK



MARIE REDD
WV BLUE BOOK

DELEGATES

1990 - 22 Delegates (11 elected, 10 re-elected, 1 appointed)

Bonnie L. Brown (D) Kanawha, elected
Brenda Brum (D) Wood, elected
Ann Calvert (R) Kanawha, elected
Ramona Cerra (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Mary Pearl Compton (D) Monroe, re-elected
Delores W. Cook (D) Boone, re-elected
Vicki V. Douglas (D) Berkeley, elected
Ruth S. Goldsmith (R) Kanawha, elected
Nancy Kessel (D) Kanawha, elected
Charlotte R. Lane (R) Kanawha, elected
Lucille Meadows (D) Fayette

(Appointed Dec. 11 by Gov. Caperton upon the resignation of John Hatcher.)

Margaret "Peggy" Miller (R) Kanawha, re-elected
Tamara Pettit (D) Hancock, elected
Deborah F. Phillips (D) Putnam, re-elected
Pat Reed (D) Raleigh, elected
Evelyn E. Richards (R) Cabell, re-elected
Phyllis Rutledge (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Barbara Sims (R) Wood, elected
Sharon Spencer (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Martha Yeager Walker (D) Kanawha, elected
Barbara A. Warner (D) Harrison, re-elected
Patricia Holmes White (D) Putnam, re-elected

1992 - 18 Delegates (2 elected, 15 re-elected, 1 appointed)

Bonnie L. Brown (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Brenda Brum (D) Wood, re-elected
Mary Pearl Compton (D) Monroe, re-elected
Delores Cook (D) Boone, re-elected
Vicki V. Douglas (D) Berkeley, re-elected
Karen L. Facemyer (R) Jackson, elected
Nancy Kessel (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Margaret R. Leach (D) Cabell, elected
Margaret "Peggy" Miller (R) Kanawha, re-elected
Tamara Pettit (D) Hancock, re-elected
Deborah F. Phillips (D) Putnam, re-elected
Pat Reed (D) Raleigh, re-elected
Evelyn E. Richards (R) Cabell, re-elected
Phyllis Rutledge (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Sharon Spencer (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Barbara A. Warner (D) Harrison, re-elected
Patricia Holmes White (D) Putnam, re-elected
Emily W. Yeager (D) McDowell

(Appointed March 10, 1993 by Gov. Caperton upon the resignation of Ebb K. Whitley Jr.)

1994 - 15 Delegates (7 elected, 7 re-elected, 1 appointed & later elected)

Marjorie H. Burke (D) Gilmer, elected
Ann Calvert (R) Kanawha, elected
Mary Pearl Compton (D) Monroe, re-elected
Vicki V. Douglas (D) Berkeley, re-elected
Karen L. Facemyer (R) Jackson, re-elected
Barbara Evans Fleischauer (D) Monongalia, elected
Kelly Given (R) Putnam, elected
Susan Hubbard (D) Cabell, elected
Margarette R. Leach (D) Cabell, re-elected
Margaret "Peggy" Miller (R) Kanawha, re-elected
Elizabeth Osborne (D) Mercer

(Appointed Oct. 20, 1994 by Gov. Caperton upon the death of Odell H. Huffman, & later elected.)

Tamara Pettit (D) Hancock, re-elected
Jody G. Smirl (R) Cabell, elected
Barbara A. Warner (D) Harrison, re-elected
Emily W. Yeager (D) McDowell, elected

1996 - 17 Delegates (4 elected, 12 re-elected, 1 appointed)

Shelley Moore Capito (R) Kanawha, elected
Mary Pearl Compton (D) Monroe, re-elected
Vicki V. Douglas (D) Berkeley, re-elected
Karen L. Facemyer (R) Jackson, re-elected
Barbara Evans Fleischauer (D) Monongalia, re-elected
Kelly Given (R) Putnam, re-elected
Susan Hubbard (D) Cabell, re-elected
Margarette R. Leach (D) Cabell, re-elected
Virginia Mahan (D) Summers, elected
Margaret "Peggy" Miller (R) Kanawha, re-elected
Elizabeth Osborne (D) Mercer, elected
Tamara Pettit (D) Hancock, re-elected
Jody G. Smirl (R) Cabell, re-elected
Sharon Spencer (D) Kanawha, elected
Gloria B. Stewart (D) McDowell

(Appointed Feb. 1, 1996 by Gov. Caperton upon the resignation of Ernest C. Moore.)

Barbara A. Warner (D) Harrison, re-elected
Emily W. Yeager (D) McDowell, re-elected

1998 - 21 Delegates (6 elected, 14 re-elected, 1 appointed in 1999)

Ann Calvert (R) Kanawha

(Appointed Aug. 17, 1999 by Gov. Underwood upon the resignation of Del. Margaret Miller.)

Shelley Moore Capito (R) Kanawha, re-elected

Mary Pearl Compton (D) Monroe, re-elected

Vicki V. Douglas (D) Berkeley, re-elected

Karen L. Facemyer (R) Jackson, re-elected

Barbara Evans Fleischauer (D) Monongalia, re-elected

Sheirl L. Fletcher (R) Monongalia, elected

Barbara "Bobbie" Hatfield (D) Kanawha, elected

Nancy Houston (D) Monongalia, elected

Susan Hubbard (D) Cabell, re-elected

Margarette R. Leach (D) Cabell, re-elected

Virginia Mahan (D) Summers, re-elected

Charlene J. Marshall (D) Monongalia, elected

Margaret "Peggy" Miller (R) Kanawha, re-elected

Tamara Pettit (D) Hancock, re-elected

Jody G. Smirl (R) Cabell, re-elected

Lisa D. Smith (R) Putnam, elected

Sharon Spencer (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Sally Matz Susman (D) Raleigh, elected

Barbara A. Warner (D) Harrison, re-elected

Emily W. Yeager (D) McDowell, re-elected

2000s

39 Delegates
(all elected)

6 Senators
(all elected)

SENATORS

2000 - 5 Senators (2 elected, 1 re-elected, 2 mid-term)

Donna J. Boley (R) Pleasants, re-elected
Anita Skeens Caldwell (D) Mercer, elected
Karen L. Facemyer (R) Jackson, elected
Sarah M. Minear (R) Tucker, mid-term
Marie E. Redd (D) Cabell, mid-term

2002 - 5 Senators (1 elected, 1 re-elected, 3 mid-term)

Donna J. Boley (R) Pleasants, mid-term
Anita Skeens Caldwell (D) Mercer, mid-term
Karen L. Facemyer (R) Jackson, mid-term
Sarah M. Minear (R) Tucker, re-elected
Lisa D. Smith (R) Putnam, elected

2004 - 3 Senators (2 re-elected, 1 mid-term)

Donna J. Boley (R) Pleasants, re-elected
Karen L. Facemyer (R) Jackson, re-elected
Sarah M. Minear (R) Tucker, mid-term

2006 - 2 Senators (2 mid-term)

Donna J. Boley (R) Pleasants, mid-term
Karen L. Facemyer (R) Jackson, mid-term

2008 - 2 Senators (2 re-elected)

Donna J. Boley (R) Pleasants, re-elected
Karen L. Facemyer (R) Jackson, re-elected

DELEGATES

2000 - 20 Delegates (5 elected, 15 re-elected)

Bonnie L. Brown (D) Kanawha, elected
Mary Pearl Compton (D) Monroe, re-elected
Vicki V. Douglas (D) Berkeley, re-elected
Barbara Evans Fleischauer (D) Monongalia, re-elected
Sheirl L. Fletcher (R) Monongalia, re-elected
Barbara "Bobbie" Hatfield (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Lidella Wilson Hrutkay (D) Logan, elected
Susan Hubbard (D) Cabell, re-elected
Margarette R. Leach (D) Cabell, re-elected
Virginia Mahan (D) Summers, re-elected
Charlene J. Marshall (D) Monongalia, re-elected
Rebecca A. Mathews (D) Kanawha, elected
Mary M. Poling (D) Barbour, elected
Jody G. Smirl (R) Cabell, re-elected
Lisa D. Smith (R) Putnam, re-elected
Sharon Spencer (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Sally Matz Susman (D) Raleigh, re-elected
Barbara A. Warner (D) Harrison, re-elected
Carrie Webster (D) Kanawha, elected
Emily W. Yeager (D) Mcdowell, re-elected

2002 - 20 Delegates (7 elected, 13 re-elected)

Bonnie L. Brown (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Ann Calvert (R) Kanawha, elected
Barbara Evans Fleischauer (D) Monongalia, re-elected
Cindy Frich (R) Monongalia, elected
Barbara "Bobbie" Hatfield (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Nancy Houston (D) Monongalia, elected
Lidella Wilson Hrutkay (D) Logan, re-elected
Margarette R. Leach (D) Cabell, re-elected
Virginia Mahan (D) Summers, re-elected
Mary M. Poling (D) Barbour, re-elected
Donna Reid Renner (D) Marion, elected
Patti Eagloski Schoen (R) Putnam, elected
Jody G. Smirl (R) Cabell, re-elected
Kelli Sobonya (R) Cabell, elected
Sharon Spencer (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Linda Sumner (R) Raleigh, elected
Sally Matz Susman (D) Raleigh, re-elected
Barbara A. Warner (D) Harrison, re-elected
Carrie Webster (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Emily W. Yeager (D) McDowell, re-elected

2004 - 18 Delegates (4 elected, 13 re-elected)

Bonnie L. Brown (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Cindy Frich (R) Monongalia, re-elected
Barbara "Bobbie" Hatfield (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Nancy Houston (D) Monongalia, re-elected
Lidella Wilson Hrutkay (D) Logan, re-elected
Margarette R. Leach (D) Cabell, re-elected
Linda Longstreth (R) Marion, elected
Virginia Mahan (D) Summers, re-elected
Charlene Marshall (D) Monongalia, elected
Mary M. Poling (D) Barbour, re-elected
Ruth Rowan (R) Hampshire, elected
Patti Eagloski Schoen (R) Putnam, re-elected
Kelli Sobonya (R) Cabell, re-elected
Sharon Spencer (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Debbie Stevens (R) Tucker, elected
Linda Sumner (R) Raleigh, re-elected
Sally Matz Susman (D) Raleigh, re-elected
Carrie Webster (D) Kanawha, re-elected

2006 - 17 Delegates (4 elected, 14 re-elected)

Bonnie L. Brown (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Barbara Evans Fleishauer (D) Monongalia, elected
Nancy Peoples Guthrie (D) Kanawha, elected
Barbara "Bobbie" Hatfield (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Lidella Wilson Hrutkay (D) Logan, re-elected
Linda Longstreth (D) Marion, re-elected
Virginia Mahan (D) Summers, re-elected
Charlene Marshall (D) Monongalia, re-elected
Carol Miller (R) Cabell, elected
Mary M. Poling (D) Barbour, re-elected
Ruth Rowan (R) Hampshire, re-elected
Patti Eagloski Schoen (R) Putnam, re-elected
Kelli Sobonya (R) Cabell, re-elected
Sharon Spencer (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Margaret Anne Staggars (D) Fayette, elected
Linda Sumner (R) Raleigh, re-elected
Carrie Webster (D) Kanawha, re-elected

2008 - 20 Delegates (4 elected, 16 re-elected)

Bonnie L. Brown (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Barbara Evans Fleishauer (D) Monongalia, re-elected
Nancy Peoples Guthrie (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Barbara "Bobbie" Hatfield (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Tiffany E. Lawrence (D) Jefferson, elected
Linda Longstreth (D) Marion, re-elected
Virginia Mahan (D) Summers, re-elected
Charlene Marshall (D) Monogalia, re-elected
Carol Miller (R) Cabell, re-elected
Linda Goode Phillips (D) Wyoming, elected
Mary M. Poling (D) Barbour, re-elected
Ruth Rowan (R) Hampshire, re-elected
Patti Eagloski Schoen (R) Putnam, re-elected
Margaret Donaldson Smith (D) Lewis, elected
Kelli Sobonya (R) Cabell, re-elected
Sharon Spencer (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Margaret Anne Staggers (D) Fayette, re-elected
Linda Sumner (R) Raleigh, re-elected
Sally Susman (D) Raleigh, elected
Carrie Webster (D) Kanawha, re-elected

2010s

41 Delegates
(36 elected, 5 appointed)

5 Senators
(3 elected, 2 appointed)

SENATORS

2010 - 2 Senators (2 midterm)

Donna J. Boley (R) Pleasants, midterm
Karen L. Facemyer (R) Jackson, midterm

2012 - 1 Senator (1 re-elected)

Donna J. Boley (R) Pleasants, re-elected

2014 - 1 Senator (midterm)

Donna J. Boley (R) Pleasants, midterm

2016 - 3 Senators (1 elected, 1 re-elected, 1 appointed)

Donna J. Boley (R) Pleasants, re-elected
Sue Cline (R) Wyoming
(Appointed on Jan. 22 to replace Daniel Hall following his resignation.)
Patricia Puertas Rucker (R) Jefferson, elected

2018 - 4 Senators (2 midterm, 1 re-elected, 1 appointed)

Karen Arvon (R) Raleigh
(Appointed Jan. 23, 2018 to replace Jeff Mullins following his resignation.)
Donna J. Boley (R) Pleasants, midterm
Sue Cline (R) Wyoming, re-elected
Patricia Puertas Rucker (R) Jefferson, midterm

DELEGATES

2010 - 22 Delegates (16 re-elected, 4 elected, 2 appointed)

Anna Border (R) Wood

(Appointed June 21, 2011 by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin upon the death of her husband. Larry Border)

Bonnie Brown (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Denise Campbell (D) Randolph, elected

Barbara Evans Fleischauer, (D) Monongalia, re-elected

Nancy Peoples Guthrie (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Barbara Hatfield (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Tiffany E. Lawrence (D) Jefferson, re-elected

Linda Longstreth (D) Marion, re-elected

Virginia Mahan (D) Summers, re-elected

Charlene Marshall (D) Monongalia, re-elected

Helen Martin (D) Putnam

(Appointed May 17, 2011 by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin upon the death of her husband Dale Martin)

Carol Miller (R) Cabell, re-elected

Amanda Pasdon (R) Monongalia, elected

Linda Goode Phillips (D) Wyoming, re-elected

Mary Poling (D) Barbour, re-elected

Meshea L. Poore (D) Kanawha, elected

Ruth Rowan (R) Hampshire, re-elected

Margaret Donaldson Smith (D) Lewis, re-elected

Kelli Sobonya (R) Cabell, re-elected

Margaret Anne Staggars (D) Fayette, re-elected

Erikka L Storch (R) Ohio, elected

Linda Sumner (R) Raleigh, re-elected

2012 - 21 Delegates (17 re-elected, 4 elected)

Karen Arvon (R) Raleigh, elected

Anna Border (R) Wood, elected

Denise Campbell (D) Randolph, re-elected

Barbara Evans Fleischauer, (D) Monongalia, re-elected

Cindy Frich (R) Monongalia, elected

Nancy Peoples Guthrie (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Tiffany E. Lawrence (D) Jefferson, re-elected

Linda Longstreth (D) Marion, re-elected

Charlene Marshall (D) Monongalia, re-elected

Carol Miller (R) Cabell, re-elected

Amanda Pasdon (R) Monongalia, re-elected

Linda Goode Phillips (D) Wyoming, re-elected

Mary Poling (D) Barbour, re-elected

Meshea L. Poore (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Suzette Raines (R) Kanawha, elected
Ruth Rowan (R) Hampshire, re-elected
Margaret Donaldson Smith (D) Lewis, re-elected
Kelli Sobonya (R) Cabell, re-elected
Margaret Anne Staggers (D) Fayette, re-elected
Erikka L Storch (R) Ohio, re-elected
Linda Sumner (R) Raleigh, re-elected

2014 - 25 Delegates (21 re-elected, 4 elected)

Karen Arvon (R) Raleigh re-elected
Saira Blair (R) Berkeley, elected
Anna Border Sheppard (R) Wood, re-elected
Denise Campbell (D) Randolph, re-elected
Barbara Evans Fleischauer (D) Monongalia, re-elected
Cindy Frich (R) Monongalia, re-elected
Nancy Peoples Guthrie (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Kayla Kessinger (R) Fayette, elected
Tiffany E. Lawrence (D) Jefferson, re-elected
Linda Longstreth (D) Marion, re-elected
Charlene Marshall (D) Monongalia, re-elected
Carol Miller (R) Cabell, re-elected
Amanda Pasdon (R) Monongalia, re-elected
Linda Goode Phillips (D) Wyoming, re-elected
Mary M. Poling (D) Barbour, re-elected
Meshea L. Poore (D) Kanawha, re-elected
Suzette Raines (R) Kanawha, re-elected
Ruth Rowan (R) Hampshire, re-elected
Peggy Donaldson Smith (D) Lewis, re-elected
Kelli Sobonya (R) Cabell, re-elected
Margaret Anne Staggers (D) Fayette, re-elected
Erikka Storch (R) Ohio, re-elected
Amy Summers (R) Taylor, elected
Linda Sumner (R) Raleigh, re-elected
Jill Upson (R) Jefferson, elected

2016 - 22 Delegates (18 re-elected, 2 elected, 2 appointed)

Karen Arvon (R) Raleigh, re-elected
Saira Blair (R) Berkeley, re-elected
Denise Campbell (D) Randolph, re-elected
Barbara Evans Fleischauer (D) Monongalia, re-elected
Cindy Frich (R) Monongalia, re-elected
Nancy Foster (R) Kanawha, elected

Dianna Graves (R) Kanawha

(Appointed September 19th, 2017 to replace Nancy Foster following her resignation.)

Nancy Peoples Guthrie (D) Kanawha, re-elected

Kayla Kessinger (R) Fayette, re-elected

Linda Longstreth (D) Marion, re-elected

Carol Miller (R) Cabell, re-elected

Amanda Pasdon (R) Monongalia, re-elected

Linda Goode Phillips (D) Wyoming, re-elected

Ruth Rowan (R) Hampshire, re-elected

Anna Border Sheppard (R) Wood, re-elected

Margaret Donaldson Smith (D) Lewis, re-elected

Kelli Sobonya (R) Cabell re-elected

Erikka Storch (R) Ohio, re-elected

Terri Funk Sypolt (R) Preston, elected

Amy Summers (R) Taylor, re-elected

Jill Upson (R) Jefferson, re-elected

Phyllis White (D) Mingo

(Appointed on Jan. 13, 2016 to replace Harry Keith White following his resignation.)

2018 - 16 Delegates (9 re-elected, 6 elected, 1 appointed)

Sammi Brown (D) Jefferson, elected

Amanda Estep-Burton (D) Kanawha, elected

Barbara Evans Fleischauer (D) Monongalia, re-elected

Dianna Graves (R) Kanawha, re-elected

Kayla Kessinger (R) Fayette, re-elected

Cindy Lavender-Bowe (D) Greenbrier, elected

Linda Longstreth (D) Marion, re-elected

Sharon Lewis Malcolm (R) Kanawha

(Appointed March 22nd 2018, to Replace Ron Walters following his resignation. Later re-elected.)

Ruth Rowan (R) Hampshire, re-elected

Margaret Anne Staggers (D) Fayette, re-elected

Erikka Storch (R) Ohio, re-elected

Amy Summers (R) Taylor, re-elected

Terri Funk Sypolt (R) Preston, re-elected

Danielle Walker (D) Monongalia, elected

Theresa Waxman (R) Harrison, elected

Lisa Zukoff (D) Marshall, elected

NOTABLE WOMEN IN THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

- 1. Anna Gates** was the first woman to ever hold public office in West Virginia. She served a single term in the House of Delegates in 1922. She sponsored 13 bills during her time, five of which were passed. Among her successes was “Mother’s Pensions” legislation, a state welfare program to provide income to any woman with children whose husband was unable to support the family. Mrs. Gates was a suffragette, and held public office just three years after women were given the right to vote.

 - e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia “Anna Johnson Gates.” e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 24 October 2012. Web. 03 April 2019.
- 2. Minnie Buckingham Harper** was the first African-American woman to serve within a state legislative body in the United States. She was appointed by the McDowell County Republican Executive Committee after her husband, who was serving a term in the House of Delegates, passed away.

 - Talbott, I. D. “Duke” and Charles M. Murphy “Minnie Buckingham Harper.” e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 15 May 2018. Web. 03 April 2019.
- 3. Dr. Harriet B. Jones** was the first female licensed physician in the state of West Virginia. Along with serving as Delegate in 1924, she was a pioneer in the fight against tuberculosis and opened several hospital and welfare institutions throughout the state. She founded four state institutions by the end of her life, including two orphanages and two tuberculosis sanitariums.

 - “Harriet B. Jones.” Harriet B. Jones, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History, 13 Nov. 1937, www.wvculture.org/history/women/jonesharriet01.html.
- 4. Nell Walker**, was often referred to as the “First Lady of Fayette County”, she served twelve terms in the House of Delegates. Walker got the nickname “Pistol Nell” after her stint as vice-president and assistant cashier at the Winona National Bank. The bank was robbed three times during her time of employment. During one hold-up, she smuggled a pistol to a bank official, which she used to shoot and wound the robber.

 - Miller, Cathy Hershberger ““Pistol Nell” Walker.” e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 07 February 2017. Web. 03 April 2019.
- 5. Elizabeth Simpson Drewry** served 13 years in the WV legislature as a Delegate. Drewry was a leading advocate for education and labor. She chaired both the Military Affairs and Health committees. She introduced legislation in 1955 allowing women to serve on juries. West Virginia was the last state to eliminate this form of discrimination. In 1956, Ebony magazine honored her as one of the ten outstanding black women in government.

 - “Elizabeth Simpson Drewry .” West Virginia Archives and History, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History, 2018, www.wvculture.org/history/archives/women/drewry.html.
- 6. Helen Holt** served as Delegate from 1955-1957, before being appointed as WV’s Secretary of State by Governor Cecil Underwood in 1957. This would make Holt the first woman to hold a statewide office in the state of West Virginia. She served in that capacity until 1959.

 - “Helen Holt-- Honorary Degrees.” Helen Holt | Honorary Degrees | West Virginia University, West Virginia University, 2 Apr. 2014, web.archive.org/web/20150714133538/http://honorarydegrees.wvu.edu/2000s/2013/helen-holt.

7. **Elizabeth V. Hallanan** served as a Delegate from 1956-1957, and then served as a judge on the Juvenile Court in Kanawha County, West Virginia, from 1959 to 1961. On November 8, 1983, Hallanan was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to a seat on the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia. She was confirmed by the United States Senate on November 11, 1983, and received her commission on November 14, 1983. She assumed senior status on December 1, 1996, serving in that capacity until her death, in Charleston, on June 8, 2004.
 - “Hallanan, Elizabeth Virginia.” Hallanan, Elizabeth Virginia | Federal Judicial Center, Federal Judicial Center, www.fjc.gov/node/1381701.

8. **Callie Tsapis** was the first woman trial judge elected in the State of West Virginia in 1972. The daughter of Greek immigrants, Tsapis served as Judge of the first Judicial Circuit for 20 years until her retirement in 1992.
 - “Judge Callie Tsapis (1923-2003).” Findagrave.com, Find A Grave, 19 July 2015, www.findagrave.com/memorial/149492060/callie-tsapis.

9. **Jackie Withrow** served in state government for 18 years and was a fierce advocate for patients at state health facilities. Because of this, she got an influential state hospital named after her: Jackie Withrow Hospital in Beckley, WV.
 - “History of Jackie Withrow Hospital.” WVDHHR, WV Department of Health and Human Resources, dhr.wv.gov/officeofhealthfacilities/Pages/Jackie-Withrow-Hospital-History.aspx.

10. **Phyllis Rutledge** served in the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1968-72, and again from 1988-94. She was a powerhouse in the Legislature during these years, including having introduced a bill requiring a 10% pay cut for all state employees earning more than \$50,000. Rutledge was also the Kanawha County coordinator for Hillary Clinton’s 2008 presidential campaign.
 - Hodousek, Carrie. “Phyllis Rutledge, Former Kanawha County Political Figure, Dies.” WV MetroNews, WV MetroNews, 4 May 2015, wvmetronews.com/2015/05/04/phyllis-rutledge-former-kanawha-county-political-figure-dies/.

11. **Louise Leonard**, the second female Senator elected to serve in the state, got to travel abroad during her 1970-1974 term when she traveled to Paris, France to meet with North Vietnamese officials to help negotiate the release of American prisoners of war.
 - Tomblin, Earl Ray. “Senate Resolution No. 6 .” sr6 Intr, West Virginia State Legislature , 2003, www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_html/2003_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sr6%20intr.htm.

12. **Judith Herndon** made a memorable impact on the state legislature during her time as Delegate from 1970 to 1972 and her service as State Senator from 1974 to 1980. She was a leader for tax reform, sunset legislation, sexual assault legislation and in attempts to curb the powers of bureaucratic government agencies. She was known for being bright, controversial, and admired for her poise and intelligence. Herndon died at age 39 in the middle of her 1980 term as Senator after a long battle with cancer. Today, there is a notable Political Science internship at the WV State Legislature named after her, for her courage and poise as a female lawmaker.
 - “Wheeling Hall of Fame: Judith A. Herndon.” Wheeling History > Wheeling Hall of Fame: Judith A. Herndon | Ohio County Public Library, Ohio County Public Library, 1984, www.ohiocountylibrary.org/wheeling-history/-wheeling-hall-of-fame-judith-a.-herndon-/4157.

- 13. Jae Spears** was the first female in the WV Legislature to serve as Senate Majority Whip. She was also the first and only female to serve as Chairwoman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, playing a pivotal role in putting together the WV state budget from 1984 to 1986.
- “Senator Ursula Jae Spears.” WV News, WV News, 5 Dec. 2017, www.wvnews.com/theet/obituaries/senator-ursula-jae-spears/article_f821ea44-910a-11e2-9fbb-001a4bcf887a.html.
- 14. Thais F. Blatnik** was an inquisitive and high-profile journalist before she made her run for the statehouse. During her times writing for the Weirton Daily Times, the Wheeling Intelligencer and the Dominion Post, Blatnik got to interview Presidents Kennedy and Ford. Standing at only five feet tall, Blatnik’s feisty spirit and cunning attitude allowed her to stand out.
- “Thais F. Blatnik O’Donnell.” Altmeyer Funeral Homes West Virginia Thais F ODonnell Blatnik, Altmeyer Funeral Homes West Virginia , 2015, www.altmeyerfuneralhomes.com/obituary/thais-f-odonnell-blatnik/.
- 15. Donna Boley** broke the record for longest serving Senator May of 2019. She has served consecutively as state Senator from 1985 to 2019. Boley also served as Minority Leader for three legislative sessions in a row.
- “Donna Boley.” Ballotpedia, Ballotpedia , ballotpedia.org/Donna_Boley.
- 16. Michele Prestera Craig** had a successful career in the statehouse, but after she left in the late 70’s, she became the first woman to hold the position of Executive Director of an Interstate Planning Commission in the state of WV. Craig was the Executive Director of the KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission for 30 years, building a legacy as the woman behind some of the state’s most well-known highways.
- Tarbett Hardiman, Jean. “Michele Craig Retires from Distinguished Career with KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission.” The Herald Dispatch, The Herald Dispatch, 10 July 2016, www.herald-dispatch.com/features_entertainment/michele-craig-retires-from-distinguished-career-with-kyova-interstate-planning/article_1230cb5b-8dbd-5bb8-90a1-4c500b729e42.html.
- 17. Dee Caperton** served a single, two-year term in the House of Delegates before she declined to run again in order to help her husband, Gaston Caperton, campaign for his gubernatorial race. The Former Miss West Virginia also became West Virginia’s First Lady after her husband became Governor in 1989. After her and her husband split 1990 and a failed run for State Treasurer, Caperton moved to France and operated a small hotel in Saint-Remy, where she comfortably lived out the rest of her life.
- McAllister, Bill. “W. VIRGINIA POLITICS GETS ‘SOAP OPERA’ SPIN.” The Washington Post, WP Company, 25 Mar. 1990, www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1990/03/25/w-virginia-politics-gets-soap-opera-spin/1cc21fe4-5955-49dd-91a0-a4825099ea27/?utm_term=.67381829c772.
- 18. Virginia (Ginny) Joliffe Starcher** was the first woman to serve in the House of Delegates representing Jackson County and part of Monroe. Starcher was elected in 1986 and served again as a Delegate in 1988.
- Westfall, Steve, et al. “House Resolution No. 30.” West Virginia Legislature, West Virginia State Legislature, 2013, www.wvlegislature.gov/bill_text_html/2013_SESSIONS/rs/bills/hr30%20intr.htm.

- 19. Jane Price Sharp** was a well-known journalist before she was appointed to the House of Delegates. She served as Editor of the Pocahontas Times in 1957 without any journalism experience, and worked long hours to manually hand-set newspapers to keep her community informed. She was still actively involved with the newspaper in 1985 when a flood devastated the typography equipment that the Pocahontas Times used to write their daily papers. Mrs. Sharp worked on a manual typewriter by candlelight to “typeset” copy at the home of her nephew, William Price McNeel, who by then was editor of the newspaper. The flood issue of The Pocahontas Times was a day late, but it provided flood victims with an invaluable sense of continuity and well-being that Sharp was dedicated to providing to home she loved so dearly. Because of her dedication to public service, Jane Price Sharp was awarded the Adam R. Kelly Premier Journalist Award from The Press Association in 1995.
- “Jane Price Sharp – A Selfless Life.” The Pocahontas Times, The Pocahontas Times, 30 Sept. 2015, pocahontastimes.com/jane-price-sharp-a-selfless-life/.
- 20. Marie E. Redd (D)** was elected to the West Virginia State Senate in 1998, becoming the first African American woman elected to the state Senate. She was born and raised in Huntington, West Virginia where she attended Marshall University to pursue a degree in criminal justice. Upon her election, Redd represented her hometown by representing the 5th senatorial district until 2002.
- 21. Vicki V. Douglas (D)** was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1990 where she quickly became an active member until her departure from the body in 2002. While in office Douglas created numerous pieces of legislation relating to end-of-life care which ultimately became law and improved the state’s system. In 2006 the Vicki V. Douglas Juvenile Center was named after the Delegate to commemorate Douglas’ work for West Virginia’s abused or neglected children.
- Bosley, Candice. “Community Pays Homage to Vicki Douglas.” Herald, 13 Oct. 2005, articles.herald-mail.com/2005-10-13/news/25046294_1_entire-move-detention-center-lady.
- 22. Charlotte R. Lane (R)** was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1990 where she represented the 35th District for one term before she became Chair for the West Virginia Public Service Commission. Prior to becoming a Delegate, Lane served as an interim United States Attorney, in addition to serving an eight-year term on the United State International Trade Commission following appointment from President George W. Bush.
- 23. Shelley Moore Capito (R)** first served in the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1996 to 2001. The daughter of former West Virginia Gov. Arch Alfred Moore Jr., Moore has been very active in West Virginia politics on a state-wide and national level. Following her departure from the House of Delegates, Moore served as a U.S. Representative for West Virginia’s 2nd congressional district before becoming the first woman from West Virginia to be elected as a U.S. Senator.
- “Shelley Moore Capito.” Ballotpedia, ballotpedia.org/Shelley_Moore_Capito.
- 24. Charlene J. Marshall (D)** was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates where she served from 1998 to 2014. Following her departure from the House of Delegates, Marshall went on to be the first African American mayor of Morgantown, West Virginia.
- “Charlene Marshall.” Ballotpedia, ballotpedia.org/Charlene_Marshall.

- 25. Carrie Webster** (D) was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates from 2000 to 2009 until she was appointed as a judge to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit by then-Gov. Joe Manchin. Delegate Webster served as the first female Judiciary chair in the House.
- “Carrie Webster.” Ballotpedia, ballotpedia.org/Carrie_Webster.
- 26. Saira Blair** served as a Republican Delegate in the state of West Virginia from 2014 to 2018. Her conservative ideals and support for family values helped her to stand out in the statehouse, and while she was there for a short time, she made an impact. Blair served as Delegate when she was 18 and won her election when she was 17, making her officially the youngest person ever elected to state or federal office. She hopes to continue a life in public service after she completes graduate school.
- Umstead, Matthew. “Blair Won’t Seek Third Term in W.Va. House.” The Herald Mail, Herald Mail Media , 11 Jan. 2018, www.heraldmillmedia.com/news/tri_state/west_virginia/blair-won-t-see-third-term-in-w-va-house/article_c9baaa27-55d2-5039-9a71-908827f95992.html.
- 27. Jill Upson** served in the House of Delegates from 2014 to 2018. Positioning herself as a pragmatic and strong leader valuing fiscal responsibility, Upson was the first black Republican woman to be elected in the WV House of Delegates.
- “Jill Upson.” Ballotpedia, Ballotpedia, ballotpedia.org/Jill_Upson.
- 28. Carol Miller** is a former Republican member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing Cabell County from 2006 to 2018. She served as the first female Majority Whip in the House of Delegates. In 2018 she successfully ran for the U.S. House of Representatives winning the election to represent West Virginia’s 3rd Congressional District. She became the first woman to be elected to Congress from West Virginia’s 3rd Congressional District.
- 29. Amy Summers** has been a Republican Delegate since she was first elected in 2014. A registered nurse by trade, Summers is the first female Majority Leader in the House of Delegates.
- Young, Charles. “Del. Amy Summers, First Female GOP Majority Leader of WV House, Speaks about Historic Selection, Session Goals.” WV News, WV News, 16 Dec. 2018, www.wvnews.com/news/wvnews/del-amy-summers-first-female-gop-majority-leader-of-wv/article_b348ff97-f429-555d-b1da-c4fef8efa48e.html.

