ILLINOIS WOMEN IN CONGRESS AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Overview

Ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920 opened the door for Illinois women to take an active role in government. In 1922, Winifred Mason Huck became the first woman elected to Congress from Illinois, and Lottie Holman O'Neil was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives (later also serving in the Illinois Senate).

Of 18 Illinois women serving in Congress since 1922, five (Representatives Jan Schakowsky, Cheri Bustos, Robin Kelly, and Lauren Underwood and Senator Tammy Duckworth) currently serve. Representatives Schakowsky and Kelly also served in the Illinois House of Representatives.

Democratic Representative Cardiss Collins was the first African American to hold the party leadership position of Whip at Large in Congress. Representative Lynn Martin became the first Republican woman elected to a leadership position in the U.S. House, serving as Vice-Chairman of the Republican Conference. Carol Moseley-Braun, after serving in the Illinois House, in 1992 became the first Illinois, and first African American, woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

The tables on the following pages list numbers and percentages of women in each General Assembly. There is more information available on members of recent General Assemblies than of earlier ones, due to the posting of such information for recent General Assemblies on the General Assembly website. Table 1 shows numbers of women in the 85th through 92nd General Assemblies (1987-2002) and the percentages they were of all members, based on Illinois Blue Book entries. The Blue Books list only one member per seat in each General Assembly. If a member left office early and the vacancy was filled during that General Assembly, the Blue Book lists only one person (the one who was serving when it was compiled) as holding that seat for that biennium.
Table 1: Number of Women and Their Percentage of All Members, 85th-92nd General Assemblies (1987-2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Assembly</th>
<th>Women shown in Blue Book</th>
<th>% of members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85th</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86th</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87th</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88th</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89th</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90th</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91st</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92nd</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 shows the number of women who were originally seated in the 93rd through 101st General Assemblies (2003-2019), based on information from the General Assembly website. It also shows the percentage that those originally seated women were of the members of each General Assembly.

Table 2: Number of Women Originally Seated and Their Percentage of All Members, 93rd-101st General Assemblies (2003-2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Assembly</th>
<th>Women originally seated*</th>
<th>% of members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93rd</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94th</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95th</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96th</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97th</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98th</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99th</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100th</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101st†</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* If an elected member resigned before being seated, her replacement is treated as originally seated.
† Through March 11, 2019.

The General Assembly website includes member lists showing the total number of legislators who served at any time during a given General Assembly. Table 3 on the next page counts all women who served due to either election or appointment. Thus, in several cases a seat is represented more than once in Table 3. For example, if a woman resigned and was replaced by a woman, the count in Table 3 includes both women.
Table 3: Total Women Serving in 93rd-101st General Assemblies (2003-2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Assembly</th>
<th>Total women serving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93rd</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94th</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95th</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>96th</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>97th</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98th</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99th</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100th</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101st*</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Through March 11, 2019.

The current partisan division of women in the General Assembly is 54 Democrats and 10 Republicans. The Senate has 20 women (33.9% of its membership). The House has 44 (37.3%). The General Assembly has 14 African American women—5 in the Senate and 9 in the House.

This report lists Illinois women legislators from 1922 to the present. Members of Congress are listed in chronological order; General Assembly members are listed alphabetically due to their much greater numbers. Years of service are shown in parentheses. Appendix A lists the number of women in the General Assembly each year since ratification of the 19th Amendment.
Women in Congress

HUCK, WINNIFRED MASON (1922-23). Republican from Chicago; served in House. A journalist and lecturer, she was the first Illinois woman to be elected to Congress, completing the unexpired term of her father, William E. Mason. During her 5 months of service in 1922-23, she sponsored the first Congressional resolution to establish a universal plebiscite on a primary declaration of war.

McCORMICK, RUTH HANNA (1929-31). Republican from Byron; served in House. She was the widow of Joseph Medill McCormick, an Illinois legislator and later Congressman at Large and U.S. Senator. She published the Rockford Daily Republic and owned and operated a dairy and breeding farm in Byron. Elected Congressman at Large in 1928. She was the first elected Republican National Committee woman from Illinois, and Chairperson of the first woman’s executive committee of the National Republican Committee. She worked actively for the women’s suffrage amendment starting in 1913.

SUMNER, JESSIE (1939-47). Republican from Milford; served in House. She received a degree in economics from Smith College and studied law at the University of Chicago, as well as Columbia and Oxford Universities. She practiced law in New York and Illinois, and was employed by Chase National Bank before opening a law office in Milford in 1932. In 1937 she was elected to fill an unexpired term as county judge, the first woman to serve as a county judge in Illinois.

DOUGLAS, EMILY TAFT (1945-47). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She was an actress, author, wife of former U.S. Senator Paul H. Douglas, and daughter of American sculptor Lorado Taft. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago. She organized the Illinois League of Women Voters, was secretary of the International Relations Center of Chicago, and served as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

CHURCH, MARGUERITE STITT (1951-63). Republican from Evanston; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Wellesley College and a master’s degree from Columbia University. She was a lecturer, writer, and consulting psychologist, and was president of the Congressional Club from 1948 to 1950. She was also the president of the National Alumnae Association of Wellesley College from 1940 to 1943 and a trustee of the National College of Education in Evanston.

SIMPSON, EDNA OAKES (1959-61). Republican from Carrollton; served in House. She was the widow of Sidney E. Simpson, who served as a U.S. Representative from 1942 to 1958. She served on the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and House Committee on Administration.

REID-BARBER, CHARLOTTE T. (1963-71). Republican from Aurora; served in House. A professional singer, she was the featured vocalist on the “Don McNeal’s Breakfast Club” radio program. She left the House to become a Federal Communications Commissioner (the second woman in that post).
COLLINS, CARDISS (1973-96). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She was elected at a special election in 1973 to the seat vacated by her husband Congressman George Collins, who was killed in an airplane crash in 1972; she was re-elected to each succeeding Congress until her retirement in 1996. She was the first African American Congresswoman from Illinois and the first African American person and woman to hold the leadership position of Whip at Large in the U.S. House of Representatives. She chaired the Congressional Black Caucus in the 96th Congress, and chaired Members of Congress for Peace Through Law. In the 101st Congress she chaired the Subcommittee on Government Activities and Transportation of the Government Operations Committee. In the 102nd and 103rd Congresses she chaired the Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Competitiveness of the Energy and Commerce Committee. In the 104th Congress she was the ranking minority member of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee.

MARTIN, LYNN M. (1981-91) (also in General Assembly 1977-81). Republican from Rockford; elected to Illinois House of Representatives in 1976 and to Illinois Senate in 1978. Elected to U.S. House in 1980. She was Vice-Chairwoman of the House Republican Conference in 1984 and 1986, becoming the first Republican woman in leadership. After unsuccessfully running for the U.S. Senate against Paul Simon in 1990, she was appointed as Secretary of Labor by President H. W. Bush in 1991. Before entering politics, she received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois, was a high school teacher, and chaired the Winnebago County Board Republican Caucus in 1973 to 1976.

MOSELEY-BRAUN, CAROL (1993-98) (also in General Assembly 1979-88). Democrat from Chicago; served in Senate. She was Assistant Majority Leader of the Illinois House for three terms, and chaired the Black Legislative Caucus from 1979 to 1987. A former Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, she received the Attorney General’s Special Achievement Award for litigation in 1977. She has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a J.D. from the University of Chicago. She is a founder and past president of University of Chicago Black Law Students’ Association. She was elected Cook County Recorder of Deeds in 1988. She became the first African American woman in the U.S. Senate after the 1992 election. Defeated for re-election in 1998, she was appointed U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and served until 2001. She sought the Democratic nomination for President in 2004 and the Chicago mayorship in 2011.

BIGGERT, JUDY (1999-2013) (also in General Assembly 1993-98). Republican from Hinsdale; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree in international relations from Stanford University, and a J.D. from Northwestern University. She is a former law clerk to Judge Luther M. Swygert of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. She chaired both the Energy Subcommittee of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the Insurance, Housing, and Community Opportunity Subcommittee of the Financial Services Committee. She was also the Republican Co-Chair of the Caucus on Women’s Issues.

SCHAKOWSKY, JANICE D. “Jan” (1999- ) (also in General Assembly 1991-98). Democrat from Evanston; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from the University of Illinois.
She is now on the House Democratic Leadership Team as Senior Chief Deputy Whip and Vice-Chair of the Democracy Reform Task Force. She serves on the Budget, and Energy and Commerce Committees, chairing the Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee. She also is Co-Chair of the House Democratic Caucus Congressional Seniors Task Force.

**BEAN, MELISSA L. (2005-11).** Democrat from Barrington; served in House. She founded Sales Resource Inc. (SRI), a consulting firm serving high-tech Fortune 1000 clients internationally. She has a bachelor’s degree in political science from Roosevelt University. She was a member of the National Association of Women Business Owners, Palatine Chamber of Commerce, and Barrington Area Professional Women, among other community organizations.

**HALVORSON, DEBORAH (2009-11) (also in General Assembly 1997-2009).** Democrat from Crete; served in House. She received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communications from Governors State University. In the Illinois Senate she served as Majority Leader (she was the first woman to hold this title), Majority Caucus Chair, Minority Caucus Whip, and Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee. She formerly was Crete township clerk.

**BUSTOS, CHERI (2013- ).** Democrat from East Moline; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Maryland, and a master’s degree in public affairs reporting from the University of Illinois at Springfield. She was an investigative reporter and East Moline City Council member. She serves on the Agriculture and Appropriations Committees and chairs the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

**DUCKWORTH, TAMMY (2013- ).** Democrat from Hoffman Estates; served in House from 2013 to 2017; currently serves in Senate. While serving in Iraq with the Illinois National Guard in 2004, she received severe combat wounds. She was the director of the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs and assistant secretary of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. She received a master’s degree in international affairs from George Washington University, and a Ph.D. in Human Services from Capella University. She serves on the Committee on Armed Services, and its Airland; Personnel; and Readiness and Management Support Subcommittees. She is also a member of the following committees: Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Environment and Public Works; and Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

**KELLY, ROBIN (2013- ) (also in General Assembly 2003-07).** Democrat from Matteson; serves in House. She received degrees from Bradley University, and a Ph.D. in political science from Northern Illinois University. She was the co-founder and president of the Unity Coalition of the South Suburbs. She serves on the Energy and Commerce and Oversight and Reform Committees.

**UNDERWOOD, LAUREN (2019- ).** Democrat from Naperville; serves in House. She received degrees from the University of Michigan and Johns Hopkins University. She is a registered nurse and formerly served as a senior advisor at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She serves on the Education and Labor, Veteran’s Affairs, and Homeland Security Committees.
ALEXANDER, ETHEL SKYLES (1979-93). Democrat from Chicago; served four terms in House, then was appointed and later elected to Senate, where she chaired the Elections and Reapportionment Committee. She served more than 34 years in the Criminal Division of Cook County Circuit Court, and was the first African American woman appointed as assistant chief deputy clerk. Before election to the General Assembly, she was a 20th Ward Regular Democratic Organization precinct captain for 28 years and committeewoman for 24 years. She was a member of the National Conference of Black Legislators, and secretary of the Illinois Black Legislative Caucus from 1983 to 1987.

ALTHOFF, PAMELA J. (2003-18). Republican from McHenry; appointed to Senate in 2003 and later elected. She was the Minority Spokesperson on the Revenue Committee. She is a former teacher, mayor of McHenry City; and administrator at McHenry County Chamber of Commerce. She received a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and a master's from Northeastern Illinois University.

AMMONS, CAROL (2015- ). Democrat from Champaign; serves in House. She is a former member of the Urbana City Council and the Champaign County Board. She has been a staff member for Catholic Charities, the Boys and Girls Club, and the R.E.A.D.Y. Program through the local Regional Office of Education. She chairs the Higher Education Committee and serves on the Appropriations—Higher Education; Energy and Environment; Personnel and Pensions; and Public Utilities Committees.

AXLEY, CHERYL (2005-07). Republican from Mt. Prospect; served in Senate. She graduated from the University of Illinois and The John Marshall Law School. She practiced estate and real estate law in Mt. Prospect.

BAILEY, PATRICIA (2003-05). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She was Vice-Chair of the House Health Care Availability and Access Committee. She received a bachelor's degree in social work from Chicago State University and an M.A. in religious studies. She was a Cook County probation officer and a Department of Children and Family Services social worker.

BALANOFF, MIRIAM (1979-83). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. A graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, she practiced law in the Chicago area for a number of years and served as a circuit judge in Cook County. She taught real estate, business, commercial, and tax law, and was a member of the Chicago Council of Lawyers.

BARNES, JANE M. (1975-93). Republican from Palos Park; served in House. She held positions of Minority Whip, Minority Spokesperson on the Constitutional Officers Committee, Vice-Spokesperson on the Committee on Aging, and Co-Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Commission. She was the first woman to chair the Midwestern Conference of the Council of State Governments, and charter president of Illinois Women in Government. She also chaired the Arts and Tourism Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Assembly on the Legislature. She
was the first woman to serve as assistant chief deputy sheriff in Cook County and was a licensed real estate broker.

**BARNES, LIZZIE** (1939-41). Democrat from Carmi; served in House. She was born in Kentucky in 1892 but raised in White County, Illinois. She served on the Agriculture; Banks and Building and Loan Associations; Charities and Corrections; Parks; and Waterways Committees, and the Committee to Visit Educational Institutions.

**BASSI, SUZANNE “Suzie”** (1999-2011). Republican from Palatine; served in House. She was the Minority Spokesperson on the Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education, Infrastructure, and Tourism and Conventions Committees. She received a B.A. from Rosary College (now Dominican University) and an M.A.T. degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and served as a high school teacher and school board member.

**BELLOCK, PATRICIA R. “Patti”** (1999-2018). Republican from Hinsdale; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree in history and American government from St. Norbert College. She formerly was a teacher and businesswoman. She was the Minority Spokesperson on the Appropriations—Human Services and Human Services Committees, and on the House Budget Oversight Panel. In 2018 she was appointed the director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

**BERRIOS, MARIA ANTONIA “Toni”** (2003-15). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She graduated with a Board of Governors Degree from Northeastern Illinois University. She chaired the House Financial Institutions Committee, and also was the secretary of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus. She formerly worked for the Cook County Recorder of Deeds, and for the Illinois Liquor Control Commission as a tobacco compliance specialist.

**BERTINO-TARRANT, JENNIFER** (2013- ). Democrat from Plainfield; serves in Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree from Illinois State University, a master’s in curriculum and instruction from the University of St. Francis, and an Ed. D. from Loyola University. She has been a teacher, assistant principal, and principal, and served two terms as the Will County Regional School Superintendent. She has been the president of Vista Learning, which provides refurbished computers to students in Will County. She is the Chairperson of the Education Committee, Vice-Chairperson of the Licensed Activities Committee, and serves on the Commerce and Economic Development; Insurance; Labor; and Transportation Committees.

**BIGGERT, JUDY.** See Women in Congress.

**BOHRER, FLORENCE FIFER** (1925-33). Republican from Bloomington; served in Senate, where she was a member of numerous committees. She was the daughter of Illinois Governor Joseph W. Fifer (who served 1889-93), and was Illinois’ first woman senator. She was a lifelong resident of Bloomington, and was active in civic and charitable organizations.

**BOURNE, AVERY** (2015- ). Republican from Litchfield; appointed, then elected to House. She is a graduate of Columbia College in
Missouri and is a law student at Washington University in St. Louis, where she has been a Dean’s Fellowship Scholar. She previously worked in the offices of a Missouri state senator and two members of Congress. She is the Republican Spokesperson for the Elementary and Secondary Education: Curriculum Policies Committee. She also serves on the Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education Committee; Counties and Townships; and International Trade and Commerce Committees.

**BOWLES, EVELYN M. (1994-2002).** Democrat from Edwardsville; appointed, then elected to Senate. She served as Minority Spokesperson on both the Licensed Activities and Environment and Energy Committees. She attended several educational institutions, including Illinois State University, Greenville College, and Southern Illinois University. She served in the U.S. Coast Guard Women’s Reserve Intelligence Division. She served as Madison County Clerk before being elected to the Senate.

**BRESLIN, PEG McDONNELL (1977-91).** Democrat from Ottawa; served in House. She was an Assistant Majority Leader for one term and Majority Whip for three. She later served as a Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court in the Third District. She founded and chaired Wish List, a political action committee to elect Democratic women to the General Assembly. She received a B.S. in political science and a law degree, both from Loyola University. She was legal advisor to the State Board of Education from 1974 to 1976; a Co-Chairperson of the Illinois Conference of Women Legislators; a member of the Democratic State Central Committee; and a delegate to the 1984 and 1988 Democratic National Conventions. She ran for State Treasurer in 1990.

**BRISTOW, MONICA (2017- ).** Democrat from Godfrey; appointed to House in 2017 and elected in 2018. She received a bachelor’s degree from Lindenwood University. She is a former president of the RiverBend Growth Association and served on several charitable organizations’ boards, including the American Cancer Society and United Way Southwestern Illinois Auxiliary. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the Economic Opportunity and Equity Committee and serves on the Agriculture and Conservation; Human Services; Mental Health; and Prescription Drug Affordability and Accessibility Committees.

**BRYANT, TERRI (2015- ).** Republican from Murphysboro; serves in House. She previously managed the dietary departments at the Pinckneyville Correctional Center and the Du Quoin Impact Incarceration Program. She is a former president of the governing board of the Illinois Lincoln Excellence in Public Service Series; vice-chairperson of the Jackson County Republican Party; vice-president of the Jackson County Republican Women’s Organization; and coordinator of Coalitions for the Illinois Republican Party. She is the Minority Spokesperson on the Judiciary—Criminal Committee and also serves on the Appropriations—Higher Education; Insurance; Health Care Licenses; Higher Education; and Human Services Committees.

**BURKE, KELLY (2011- ).** Democrat from Evergreen Park; serves in House. She received a B.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. She formerly was legal counsel to Saint Xavier University. She is a past president of the Evergreen Park Public Library board; a youth sports coach; and a founder of a
mock trial program for junior high students. She is a member of the Appropriations—Higher Education; Health Care Licenses; Higher Education; Museums, Arts, and Cultural Enhancements; and Agriculture and Conservation; Personnel and Pensions; and Elementary and Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing and Charter School Committees.

**BUSH, MELINDA (2013- ).** Democrat from Grayslake; serves in Senate. She has been a member of the Lake County Board and a Lake County Forest Preserve commissioner. She is a former small business owner and Grayslake village trustee, and started the effort to create the Rollins Savanna forest preserve. She chairs the Environment and Conservation Committee, and is a member of the Appropriations II; Education; Government Accountability and Pensions; Revenue; and Transportation Committees.

**CARLI, DENA M. (2011-13).** Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Governors State University and an M.B.A. in business management from Saint Xavier University. She served as a Chicago police sergeant.

**CASSIDY, KELLY M. (2011- ).** Democrat from Chicago; serves in the House. She is a former legislative director for the National Organization for Women and a former legislative aide to state Senator John Cullerton. Before being appointed to the House, she was the director of programs and development for the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office. She chairs the Appropriations—Public Safety Committee and is Vice-Chairman of the Judiciary—Criminal Committee. She serves on the Adoption and Child Welfare; Labor and Commerce; and Prescription Drug Affordability and Accessibility; and Human Services Committees.

**CASTRO, CRISTINA (2017- ).** Democrat from Elgin; serves in Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree and an M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University. She is a former member of the Kane County Board and the Board of Directors of the Illinois Housing Development Authority. She is the Chairperson of the Veterans Affairs Committee and Vice-Chairperson of the Revenue Committee. She also serves on the Appropriations I; Commerce and Economic Development; Energy and Public Utilities; Labor; and Transportation Committees.

**CATANIA, SUSAN (1973-83).** Republican from Chicago; served in House. She received a B.A. in chemistry from St. Xavier College, and did graduate work at Northwestern University. She worked as a technical writer, editor, and market researcher. She chaired the Commission on the Status of Women and the Illinois Women’s Political Caucus, and was a major Illinois sponsor of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment. She was a delegate to Republican National Conventions in 1976, 1980, and 1984. After leaving the General Assembly, she had a fellowship at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. She was president of the Illinois chapter of AARP, and administrator of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Intervention Program of the Illinois Department of Human Services. (A history of her General Assembly service was made by the Oral History Office of Sangamon State University—now the University of Illinois at Springfield—for the Legislative Research Unit, now the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability Research Unit).
CHAPA LaVIA, LINDA (2003-19). Democrat from Aurora; served in House, where she chaired the Energy; Elementary and Secondary Education; and Veterans’ Affairs Committees in various General Assemblies. She received a B.A. in political science from the University of Illinois at Chicago; served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army; and is a real estate broker. She resigned from the House in 2019 after being appointed Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

CHAPMAN, EUGENIA S. (1965-83). Democrat from Arlington Heights; served in House. She chaired the Committee on Human Resources and the Appropriations II Committee in 1980, and was Democratic Whip from 1981 to 1983. She was a chief Illinois sponsor of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment, and of the Illinois Public Junior College Act. She was a member of the Northwest Suburban High School District 214 board from 1961 to 1964, and Chief of the Division of Senior Citizen Advocacy and Coordinator for Community Education in the Attorney General’s office from 1983 to 1989.

CHAVEZ, MICHELLE (2005-07). Democrat from Cicero; served in House. A Mexican native, she moved to Chicago in 1970. Her work career included being field manager for a building maintenance company.

CHENEY, FLORA SYLVESTER (1929). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She died in 1929, shortly after her first term began. She was the first president of the Illinois League of Women Voters, and editor of its bulletin. She was also the executive chairman of the Woodlawn Community Center for 13 years, and the first president of the Public School Community Center Association of Chicago.

CIARLO, FLORA L. (1995-97). Republican from Steger; served in House. She received a B.S. in education from the National College of Education (now National Louis University). She served as program manager for Bloom Township High School District 206, and as an elementary school teacher in Steger School District 194. She was a member of the Prairie State College Board of Trustees and St. James Hospital and Health Center Citizens Advisory Board.

CLAYTON, Verna L. (1993-99). Republican from Buffalo Grove; served in House, where she was Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Minority Spokesperson on the Administration and Election Reform Committee, and Minority Vice-Spokesperson on the Transportation and Motor Vehicles Committee. She served as Buffalo Grove village clerk from 1971 to 1979, and village president from 1979 to 1991. She chaired the Council of Mayors for the Chicago Area Transportation Study, and the National League of Cities Transportation Committee; was president of the Illinois Municipal League; and served on Governor Edgar’s transition team.

CLEMEN'TS, FLOY (1959-61). Democrat from Chicago; served as the first African American woman in the House. She received a bachelor’s degree in social sciences and languages from Wilberforce University. She was a precinct captain in the 4th Ward Regular Democratic Organization for over 20 years, and committeewoman for many years. She was active in numerous social, civic, and educational groups.
CLOONEN, KATHERINE “Kate” (2013-17). Democrat from Kankakee; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Ball State University and a master’s degree in education from the National College of Education (now National Louis University). She taught for 16 years, and later founded a steel erection and rebar installation company, and has been a director of Provena St. Mary’s Hospital. She was the Vice-Chairperson of the Agriculture and Conservation Committee.

COLE, SANDY (2007-13). Republican from Grayslake; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Rockford College. She served on the Lake County Board for 10 years. In the House, she was the Minority Spokesperson on the Business and Occupational Licenses and Appropriations—General Service Committees.

COLLINS, ANNAZETTE R. (2001-13). Democrat from Chicago; served in House from 2001 to 2011 and in Senate from 2011 to 2013. In the House, she chaired the Public Utilities and Juvenile Justice Reform Committees, and was Vice-Chairperson of the Judiciary II—Criminal Law Committee as well as being a member of several committees. Earlier she was an administrator for the Chicago school board; a prison correctional officer; and an employee of the Department of Children and Family Services. She received a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a master’s degree in criminal justice.

COLLINS, EARLEAN (1977-98). Democrat from Chicago; served in Senate, where she was the first woman as well as the first African American woman in a Democratic leadership position. She received a B.A. in sociology from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She chaired the Transportation Committee and the Select Committee on Drug Abuse, and was the Minority Spokesperson on the Executive Committee. She also was an Assistant Minority Leader. She sponsored several community service organizations aimed at youth development, teen pregnancy, and single-parent networking. She had been a child welfare executive in the Department of Children and Family Services and worked in the real estate field. In 1994, she was the first African American woman to win the nomination for statewide office as the Democratic candidate for Comptroller. She later was a Cook County commissioner.

COLLINS, JACQUELINE Y. “Jacqui” (2003- ). Democrat from Chicago; serves in Senate, where she is Majority Whip and chairs the Financial Institutions Committee. She also serves on the Insurance and Transportation Committees. She studied journalism at Northwestern University, and is a graduate of Harvard University. She was a legislative fellow for Senator Hillary Clinton in 2001 and has been an Emmy award-nominated news editor at CBS-TV.

CONROY, DEBORAH “Deb” (2013- ). Democrat from Villa Park; serves in House. She chairs the Mental Health Committee. She is also a member of the Appropriations—Capital; Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum and Policies; Insurance; and Financial Institutions Committees. She is a former community volunteer and member of the District 205 school board, and coordinates an annual fundraiser for sick and disabled children for the Elmhurst Children’s Assistance Foundation. She helped create the York Student Enrichment Team, which helps pay school fees for families in financial difficulty.
Coulson, Elizabeth (1997-2011). Republican from Glenview; served in House. She was the Minority Spokesperson on the Business Occupational Licenses and Health and Healthcare Disparities Committees. She received a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Kansas, an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Business Management, and an advanced certificate in physical therapy from Northwestern University Medical School. She is a licensed physical therapist and has taught physical therapy, health policy, and ethics at the Chicago Medical School.

Conyears-Ervin, Melissa (2017- ). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Eastern Illinois University and an M.B.A. from Roosevelt University. She worked in the insurance industry for 15 years before being elected to the General Assembly. She is the Chairperson of the Child Care Accessibility and Early Childhood Committee and serves on the Financial Institutions; Public Utilities; Transportation: Vehicles and Safety; and Appropriations—Capital Committees.

Cowlishaw, Mary Lou (1983-2003). Republican from Naperville; served in House. She was Assistant Minority Leader; Chairperson and Minority Spokesperson on the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee; Vice-Chair of the Public Utilities Committee; Vice-Spokesperson of the Education Appropriations and Higher Education Committees. She received a B.S. in journalism from the University of Illinois, and was a member of the Naperville Sun editorial staff. She also was a member of the District 203 Board of Education.

Crotty, M. Maggie (1997-2013). Democrat from Oak Forest; served in House from 1997 to 2002 and in Senate from 2003 to 2013. Before being elected to the General Assembly, she served on and was president of the School District 145 board. In the Senate, she served as Assistant Majority Leader and was the Vice-Chairperson of the State Government and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Crowe, Rachelle (2019- ). Democrat from Glen Carbon; serves in Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri at St. Louis and a J.D. from Saint Louis University. She is a former criminal prosecutor in the Madison County State’s Attorney’s office. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the Judiciary Committee and serves on the Appropriations II; Criminal Law; Labor; Licensed Activities; and Veterans Affairs Committees.

Currie, Barbara Flynn (1979-2019). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She was the House Majority Leader (the first woman to hold that post), and chaired the Committee on Rules and the House Budget Oversight Panel. A political scientist, she taught at DePaul University and directed a National Opinion Research Center study on women, politics, and Chicago community organizations. She received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Chicago.

Curry, Julie A. (1995-2003). Democrat from Mount Zion; served in House, where she chaired the Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and co-chaired the Legislative Audit Commission. She was also Macon County Treasurer. She received a B.A. in political
science and an M.A. in political science and public administration from Eastern Illinois University. She has served on the boards of directors of the United Way of Macon County, Decatur YWCA, and Communities in Partnership, and has been a member of the Government Finance Officers’ Association and the Mid-Illinois Treasury Management Association.

DAVIDSON, MARY (1931-35). Democrat from Carthage; served in House. She received a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Illinois, and was the first woman vice-president of the Illinois Press Association. She was managing editor and publisher of the Carthage Republican (a Democratic weekly that was owned by her family for over 70 years).

DAVIS, MONIQUE D. (1987-2016). Democrat from Chicago; served in House, where she chaired the Insurance Committee. At Roosevelt University she received a B.S. in elementary education and an M.S. in guidance and counseling, and did work toward a doctorate degree. A teacher and program coordinator for the Chicago Board of Education, she served as legislative chairperson of the Chicago Area Alliance of Black School Educators.

DAWSON, FRANCES L. (1957-71). Republican from Evanston; served in House. She received a bachelor’s in history from Simpson College and a master’s degree from Northwestern University. She was a college instructor and recipient of Northwestern University’s Alumni Merit Award. (A history of her years in the General Assembly was made by the Oral History Office of Sangamon State University—now the University of Illinois at Springfield—for the Legislative Council, predecessor of the Legislative Research Unit and of the present Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability Research Unit.)

DEMIZIO, DEANNA (2004-11). Democrat from Carlinville; served in Senate. She was appointed to the Senate in May 2004 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, Vince Demuzio. She chaired the State Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, and vice-chaired the Human Services and Redistricting Committees. She is a past small business owner and education curriculum planner.

DEUCHLER, SUZANNE L. “Sue” (1981-99). Republican from Aurora; served in House. She received a B.A. from the University of Illinois. She chaired the Financial Institutions Committee; and was Vice-Chairperson of the Personnel and Pensions Committee; Minority Spokesperson on the Financial Institutions and State Government Administration Committees; and Vice-Spokesperson on the Environment and Energy and Reapportionment Committees. She served on the Kane County Board, and held leadership positions in the League of Women Voters and American Association of University Women. She was a legislative co-founder of the Illinois Math and Science Academy, and was active in the PTA and the Department of Public Aid’s Welfare Services Committee. She also co-chaired the Conference of Women Legislators.

DIDRICKSON, LOLETA A. (1983-91). Republican from Flossmoor; served in House, where she was Minority Spokesperson on the Labor and Commerce Committee. She received a B.A. in communications from Governors State University. Before serving in the House, she was an aide to Senator Aldo DeAngelis (1979-81), and was appointed as Director of the

**DOEDERLEIN, DELORIS (1987-93).** Republican from East Dundee; served in House, where she was Minority Spokesperson on the Housing Committee. She received a B.A. from Valparaiso University and an M.S. from the National College of Education at Evanston (now National Louis University). She was a member of the National Education Task Force of the American Legislative Exchange Council, and a member of the Kane County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency Board. She was a member of the McHenry County and Illinois State Federation of Republican Women’s Clubs.

**DONAHUE, LAURA KENT (1981-2003).** Republican from Quincy; appointed to Senate in 1981 to fill the vacancy from the death of her mother, Mary Lou Kent, and was then elected. She served as Assistant Majority Leader and Vice-Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and as Minority Spokesperson on the Executive Committee. She received a B.S. from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. She had worked in merchandising and bookkeeping, and was in business as an instructor, choreographer, and musical theater consultant.

**DU BUCLET, KIMBERLY (2011-13).** Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree in marketing from the University of Illinois, and a master’s of business administration in marketing from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

**DUGAN, LISA M. (2003-13).** Democrat from Kankakee; appointed to House in December 2003 and elected in 2004. She chaired the Agriculture and Conservation Committee, and vice-chaired the State Government Administration Committee. She was president/CEO of the Bourbonnais Chamber of Commerce and a Bradley village trustee, and has served on numerous other boards and commissions.

**DYER, GOU DYLOCK E. “Giddy” (1969-81).** Republican from Hinsdale; served in House. She was one of the major Illinois sponsors of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment. She received a bachelor’s degree from Agnes Scott College. She served two terms on the DuPage County Board of Supervisors. She was also a director of the Illinois and National Council of Republican Workshops, and a member of the Public Health Council of DuPage County.

**EDLY-ALLEN, MARY (2019—).** Democrat from Libertyville; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Northern Illinois University and a master’s degree from National Louis University. She is a former elementary school teacher with a bilingual certification. She is also the co-founder of an educational nonprofit, Foundation46. She serves on the Adoption and Child Welfare; Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum and Policies; Energy and Environment; Human Services; Mental Health; and State Government Administration Committees.

**ELLMAN, LAURA (2019—).** Democrat from Naperville; serves in Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Grinnell College and a master’s degree in applied statistics from the University of Iowa.
She is a former quality engineer at 3M and Argonne National Laboratory. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the Higher Education Committee and serves on the Appropriations I; Energy and Public Utilities; Government Accountability and Pensions; and Veterans Affairs Committees.

ELROD, RENA (1925-31). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She was the president of the 7th Congressional District Women’s Clubs, and a board member of the Illinois Federation of Women’s Clubs. She pursued a career in music.

ERWIN, JUDY (1993-2003). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin and an M.A. in education from the National College of Education at Evanston (now National Louis University), and became a public relations executive. She chaired the Higher Education Committee, and vice-chaired the Appropriations—Higher Education and Tourism Committees.

FANTIN, ARLINE M. (1995-99). Democrat from Calumet City; served in House, where she vice-chaired the Committee on Revenue. She served as Thornton Township assessor, and as South Suburban College job developer.

FAWELL, BEVERLY (1981-2000). Republican from Glen Ellyn; elected to House in 1980 and to Senate in 1982. She received a B.A. in elementary education and business administration from Elmhurst College. She chaired the Transportation and Republican Policy Committees. She served on the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and the Legislative Information System. She also served on task forces and commissions on mental health, child care, aging, and railroads.

FEIGENHOLTZ, SARA (1995- ). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House, where she served as an Assistant Majority Leader in the 98th to 100th General Assemblies. She chairs the Adoption and Child Welfare Committee. She is also a member of the Appropriations—Human Services; Insurance; and Mental Health Committees. She received a bachelor's degree in political science, speech, and performing arts from Northeastern Illinois University.

FINE, LAURA (2013-19). Democrat from Glenview; served in House, where she chaired the Youth and Young Adults Committee. She received a B.A. in telecommunications from Indiana University and an M.A. in political science from Northeastern Illinois University, and is a graduate of the Illinois Women’s Institute for Leadership. She is a former journalist, Northfield Township Clerk, and political science instructor at Northeastern Illinois University. She serves on the board of Angles (formerly Links North Shore Youth Health Service).

FINNIE, NATALIE PHELPS (2017-19). Democrat from Elizabeth-town; appointed to House. She was a family nurse practitioner at Gallatin County Wellness Center before serving in the House. She is also a member of the gospel trio “The Phelps Sisters.”
FLOWERS, MARY E. (1985– ). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House, where she chairs the Health Care Availability and Accessibility Committee. She also serves on the Human Services and Prescription Drug Affordability and Accessibility Committees. She was an Assistant House Majority Leader in the 100th General Assembly. She was educated at Kennedy-King College and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

FREDERICK, VIRGINIA F. (1979-95). Republican from Lake Forest; served in House, where she was an Assistant Minority Leader. She received a B.A. from the University of Iowa. She was the first woman alderman in Lake Forest, and a Co-Chairperson of the Citizens’ Council on Children. She served on the coordinating committee for the 1976 International Women’s Year and the Illinois International Women’s Year Task Force, and was a delegate to the 1974 World Food Conference in Rome.

GABEL, ROBYN (2010– ). Democrat from Evanston; serves in House. She received a B.A. from Beloit College, an M.S.P.H. from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, and an M.J. in health law from Loyola University of Chicago. She was executive director of the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition from 1988 to 2010. She chairs the Appropriations—Human Services Committee; vice-chairs the Energy and Environment Committee; and serves on the Insurance and Museums, Arts, and Cultural Enhancements Committees.

GARRETT, SUSAN (1999-2013). Democrat from Lake Forest; served in House from 1998 to 2002, and in Senate from 2003 to 2013. In the Senate she served as Majority Whip; chaired the Commerce Committee, vice-chaired the Education Committee, and served on the Senate’s Public Health and Revenue Committees. She received a bachelor’s degree from Lake Forest College. She founded a marketing firm and worked as a marketing and advertising executive for Illinois banks.

GASH, LAUREN BETH (1993-2001). Democrat from Highland Park; served in House, where she chaired the Judiciary II (Criminal Law) Committee and vice-chaired the Elections and Campaign Reform Committee. She received a B.A. from Clark University, and a J.D. from Georgetown University, where she was an associate editor of the American Criminal Law Review. She has been an officer and/or board member for numerous organizations including the League of Women Voters. She ran for Congress in the 10th Congressional District in 2000.

GEO-KARIS, ADELINE J. (1973-2007). Republican from Zion; served in House from 1973 to 1979 and in Senate from 1979 to 2007. She attended Northwestern University, and received an L.L.B. from DePaul University College of Law. She was a Lieutenant Commander (Ret.) in the U.S. Naval Reserves, and a former teacher of naval law at Smith College. In the Senate, she was an Assistant Majority Leader and the first woman appointed to Senate leadership. She co-chaired the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments, and served on the Pensions and Investments Committee. She was the first woman assistant state’s attorney in Lake County, and was the mayor of Zion.

GILLESPIE, ANN (2019– ). Democrat from Arlington Heights; serves in Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of
Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a J.D. from DePaul University. She has worked in healthcare as a lawyer, consultant, and executive. She also tutored at the La Rabida Children’s Hospital. She serves as the Vice-Chairperson of the Commerce and Economic Development Committee and serves on the Appropriations I; Education; Government Accountability and Pensions; and Insurance Committees.

GIOLITTO, BARBARA A. (1993-95). Democrat from Rockford; served in House. She received a B.S. in sociology from Rockford College. She was a member of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and the Governor’s Welfare Reform Task Force.

GLOWIACK, SUZANNE “Suzy” (2019- ). Democrat from Western Springs; serves in Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology and a master’s degree in manufacturing engineering from Northwestern University. She is a former village trustee for Western Springs and has served as a consultant investigating accidents. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the Labor Committee and serves on the Appropriations II; Education; Energy and Public Utilities; Insurance; and Local Government Committee.

GOLAR, ESTHER (2005-15). Democrat from Chicago; served in House, where she chaired the Housing Committee. She attended Malcolm X College. She was a member of Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago and the Robert Fulton Elementary Local School Council. She died in 2015 while serving in the House.

GONG-GERSHOWITZ, JENNIFER (2019- ). Democrat from Glenview; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University, a J.D. from Loyola University Chicago, and an LL.M. from Northwestern University. She serves as the Vice-Chairperson of the Mental Health Committee and as a member of the Appropriations—Human Services; Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum and Policies; Higher Education; and Judiciary—Civil Committees. She was the first director of an immigration law practice at the Highland Park-Highwood Legal Aid Clinic and a founding member of the Illinois Unaccompanied Children’s Task Force.

GOODE, KATHERINE HANCOCK (1925-28). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She was also a delegate to the 1922 Republican State Convention, and to the 1924 Seventh District Supreme Court Convention.

GORDON, CAREEN M. (2003-11). Democrat from Coal City; served in House. She received a B.A. in political science and English from the University of Illinois, and a J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. She chaired the Computer Technology and the Smart Growth and Regional Planning Committees in different General Assemblies. She formerly served in several state’s attorneys’ offices and in the Illinois Attorney General’s criminal division.

GORDON-BOOTH, JEHAN (2009- ). Democrat from Peoria; serves in House, where she is Deputy Majority Leader. She vice-chairs the Child Care Accessibility and Early Childhood Education Committee and is a member of the Appropriations—Capital; Appropriations—Public Safety;
Economic Opportunity and Equity; Executive; and Public Utilities Committees. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She worked at Bradley University's Small Business Development Center, and as a coordinator of retention efforts at Illinois Central College. She also chaired Peoria's Promise, and was a member of the Pleasant Hill school board.

**GRAHAM, DEBORAH L. (2003-10).** Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Robert Morris University. She chaired the Renewable Energy Committee, and vice-chaired the Electric Utility Oversight Committee. She worked as a Shelter Plus Care housing program manager.

**GRANT, AMY L. (2019- ).** Republican from Wheaton; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a former teacher at Pittsburgh public schools and was a retail merchandise buyer at Ralph Lauren. She serves on the Adoption and Child Welfare; Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education; Appropriations—Capital; Consumer Protection; Financial Institutions; and Museums, Arts, and Cultural Enhancement Committees.

**GREEN, MABEL E. (1949-63).** Republican from Rockford; served in House. She was born in Oregon, Illinois, but moved to Rockford and lived in the area some 30 years before being elected. She was the widow of Leroy M. Green, who served in the House from 1923 to 1937 and from 1939 to 1943.

**GREEN, MADGE MILLER (1963-65).** Republican from Palestine; served in Senate, and later served as Senate postmistress. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Indiana State College. She was a teacher and author of the textbook *Through the Years in Indiana* used in Indiana schools. She was the widow of Herschel S. Green, who served in the House from 1947 to 1957 and Senate from 1957 to 1963.

**GREENWOOD, LATOYA (2017- ).** Democrat from East St. Louis; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a master's degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Formerly she was a member of the East St. Louis City Council and the director of human resources for East St. Louis School District 189. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and serves on the Counties and Townships; Health Care Availability and Accessibility; International Trade and Commerce; Labor and Commerce; and Museums, Arts, and Cultural Enhancement Committees.

**GROW, DORAH (1965-67).** Democrat from Quincy; served in House. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in business from Northeastern State University at Tanglewood and taught at several high schools and colleges. She was Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Chief Clerk of the County Election Board in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She became the personnel administrator for J. Paul Getty (reputed to be the world's richest man at the time).
HALSTROM, MARY JEANNE “Dolly” (1979-83). Republican from Evanston; served in House. She chaired the State Advisory Council on Education of Handicapped Children for 13 years, and was a member of the Illinois Commission on Children for 15 years, and a member of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. She was instrumental in organizing the Fund for Perceptually Handicapped Children. She received numerous awards for work on behalf of children with learning disabilities and persons with physical disabilities; was a legislative resource coordinator for Equip for Equality, Inc. (a nonprofit organization providing services and advocacy for people with disabilities); and was elected to the Chicago Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 1990.

HALVORSON, DEBORAH. See Women in Congress.

HAMMOND, NORINE (2010- ). Republican from Macomb; serves in House. She serves as an Assistant Minority Leader and is the Minority Spokesperson on the Consumer Protection; Higher Education; and Human Services Committees. She is a member of the Appropriations—Higher Education; Insurance; Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, and IT Committees. She attended Western Illinois University. She formerly served on the Macomb City Planning Commission, and as a township trustee and supervisor.

HAMOS, JULIE (1999-2010). Democrat from Evanston; served in House. She received a B.A. from Washington University and a J.D. from George Washington University. She chaired the Mass Transit Committee and vice-chaired the Computer Technology Committee. She sought the Democratic nomination for a Congressional seat in February 2010. In April 2010 she was appointed Director of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

HANLEY, SARAH BOND (1927-31). Democrat from Monmouth; served in House as one of the first Democratic women elected to the General Assembly. She attended Monmouth College. She conceived of federating Women’s Clubs by districts, and was elected the first treasurer of the 1st District Federation of Women’s Clubs in Illinois. She was also a member of the first Democratic Women’s Club in the U.S and a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1924.

HANNIG, BETSY (2009-11). Democrat from Litchfield; served in House, to which she was appointed to replace her husband, Gary Hannig, when he became Illinois Secretary of Transportation. She received a bachelor’s degree in agricultural economics and animal science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She formerly was an account analyst for the Teachers’ Retirement System of Illinois, and a manager of a horse stable.

HARPER, SONYA M. (2015- ). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House and then elected. She currently chairs the Economic Opportunity and Equity Committee and vice-chairs the Agriculture and Conservation Committee. She also serves on the Appropriations—Public Safety; Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum and policies; Energy and Environment; and Human Services Committees. She received a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has been the executive director of Grow Greater Englewood and owner of Sharper PR Communications.
HASARA, KAREN (1986-95). Republican from Springfield; appointed and then elected to House, and in 1992 elected to Senate. She received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield). In the House she was Minority Spokesperson on the Mental Health Committee, Vice-Spokesperson on the State Government Administration Committee, and Chairperson of the Guardianship and Advocacy Commission. In the Senate she vice-chaired the Higher Education, Local Government and Elections, and Transportation Committees. She was a member of the Sangamon County Board from 1975 to 1980; a member of the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission from 1978 to 1981; and Sangamon County Circuit Clerk from 1980 to 1985. She was also a state board member of the Illinois Federation of Republican Women. After leaving the Senate, she was mayor of Springfield until 2002.

HATCHER, KAY (2009-15). Republican from Yorkville; served in House. She received corporate communications training at Boston College’s Carroll School of Management. She was Minority Spokesperson on the Human Services; Transportation—Vehicles and Safety; and Tourism and Conventions Committees. She had been a member of the Oswego school board and Kendall County Board, and president of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District. She was the founder of Reputation Management, Inc.

HERNANDEZ, BARBARA (2019- ). Democrat from Aurora; appointed to House in 2019. She received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Aurora University. She has been a residential counselor at the Illinois Science and Mathematics Academy, precinct committeeman, Kane County Board member, and assistant chief of staff to then-state Representative Linda Chapa LaVia. At her appointment she became the youngest member of the 101st General Assembly.

HERNANDEZ, ELIZABETH “Lisa” (2007- ). Democrat from Cicero; serves in House, where she is an Assistant Majority Leader. She was formerly employed by Cicero Public School District 99 and as a senior policy advisor to then-Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn. She chairs the Consumer Protection Committee and serves on the Appropriations—Human Services; Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education; Health Care Licenses; and Higher Education Committees.

HICKEY, VIVIAN V. (1974-79). Democrat from Rockford; appointed to fill the Senate vacancy caused by the death of Senator Betty Ann Keegan in 1974, and elected later that year. She received a bachelor’s degree from Rockford College and a master’s degree from the University of North Carolina. She was a former high school and college teacher, Democratic precinct committeeman, and was twice elected to the Rock Valley College Board.

HOLMBERG, JOYCE (1983-93). Democrat from Rockford; served in Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree from Northern Illinois University and a master’s degree in counseling psychology from the Alfred Adler Institute. She chaired the Higher Education Committee, vice-chaired the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee. She formerly was an instructor at Rock Valley College.
HOLMES, LINDA (2007- ). Democrat from Aurora; serves in Senate, where she chairs the Local Government Committee and vice-chairs the Agriculture Committee. She also serves on the Commerce and Economic Development; Executive; Labor; and Telecommunications and Information Technology Committees. She received a bachelor’s degree in business from the National College of Education (now National Louis University). She owned a remodeling company and was the first woman president of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. She is a former member of the Kane County Board and Kane County Forest Preserve commissioner.

HOWARD, CONSTANCE A. “Connie” (1995-2012). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She chaired the Committee on Computer Technology and vice-chaired the Committee on Children and Youth. She received B.A. and M.S. degrees from Chicago State University. She was an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984 and 1988, and a member of the Democratic state committee in Illinois’ 1st Congressional District.

HOWARD, TERRA COSTA (2019- ). Democrat from Glen Ellyn; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a J.D. from DePaul University. Through her legal practice, she served as a court-appointed guardian ad litem for vulnerable children, seniors, and people with disabilities. She served two terms on the Glen Ellyn School District Board and has been on the Glen Ellyn Plan Commission. She serves on the Cities and Villages; Elementary and Secondary Education; School Curriculum and Policies; Judiciary—Civil; Mental Health; State Government Administration; and Transportation: Regulation, Roads, and Bridges Committees.

HOXSEY, BETTY J. (1977-83). Republican from Ottawa; served in House. She vice-chaired the Appropriations Committee and was a member of the Commission on the Organization of the General Assembly, Governor’s Commission on Mandated Programs, and Agricultural-Economic Fair Commission. She participated in state and Congressional election campaigns, and participated in public- and private-sector business activities. After leaving the General Assembly, she served as manager of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs’ civic center support program.

HUGHES, ANN (1993-97). Republican from Woodstock; served in House, where she was Chair and Minority Spokesperson on the Counties and Townships Committee. She chaired the McHenry County Board from 1988 to 1992, and is a past secretary of the Illinois Farm Development Authority. She received a B.A. in biology from Wells College, and studied in Europe through the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program.

HUNTER, MATTIE (2003- ). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to Senate in December 2002, and elected beginning in 2004. She received a B.A. in government from Monmouth College and an M.A. in sociology from Jackson State University, and is a certified drug and alcohol counselor and prevention specialist. She is Majority Caucus Chair and vice-chairs the Energy and Public Utilities Committee. She serves on the Executive Committee; Human Services; Public Health; and Appropriations I Committees.
HURLEY, FRANCES A. (2013- ). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House. She is a graduate of Saint Xavier University, and has been an aide to two Chicago aldermen. She has also been a director of the Saint Christina Manna Program. She chairs the Human Services Committee, vice-chairs the Museums, Arts, and Cultural Enhancement Committee, and is a member of the Appropriations—Capital; Energy and Environment; and Labor and Commerce Committees.

HURLEY, JEANNE C. (1957-61). Democrat from Wilmette; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Barat College and a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law. She was an assistant Cook County state’s attorney from 1953 to 1956, and a former president of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. She chaired the National Commission on Library and Information Science. She was the wife of U.S. Senator Paul Simon, whom she met while they were in the General Assembly. They became the first husband-wife team in General Assembly history, and co-authored Protestant-Catholic Marriages Can Succeed. In 1989 she authored Codename: Scarlet, Life on the Campaign Trail by the Wife of a Presidential Candidate.

HUTCHINSON, TOI W. (2009- ). Democrat from Olympia Fields; serves in Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and attended the Executive Management Program at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. She formerly was Olympia Fields village clerk and chief of staff to Senator Debbie Halvorson. She chairs the Revenue Committee, and serves on the Executive; Judiciary; Public Health; and Transportation Committees as well as the Special Committee on Pension Investments.

ICKES, ANNA WILMARTH (1929-35). Republican from Winnetka; served in House. She was educated at the University of Chicago, and was a trustee of the University of Illinois. She served on the Committees on Charities and Corrections, Civil Service, Education, Efficiency and Economy, Elections, Industrial Affairs, and Waterways. She was active in many clubs and civic organizations.

IVES, JEANNE (2013-19). Republican from Wheaton; served in House. She received a B.S. in economics from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and has served as an Army officer, most recently as an ROTC instructor at Wheaton College. She also worked as a tax consultant and was a member of the Wheaton City Council. She served as the Minority Spokesperson on the Labor and Commerce; Mass Transit; and Government Transparency Committees. She ran in the 2018 Republican Primary against then-Governor Bruce Rauner.

JAKOBSSEN, NAOMI D. (2003-15). Democrat from Urbana; served in House. She received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Illinois. She chaired the Higher Education Committee, and vice-chaired the Adoption Reform Committee. She formerly was Executive Director of Champaign’s University YWCA, and the Champaign County Recorder of Deeds.
JEFFERIES, ELGA L. (2006-09). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House in 2006 and elected later that year. In 2002 she completed the term of Senator Margaret Smith after her retirement. She vice-chaired the House Prison Reform Committee.

JESIEL, SHERI L. (2014-19). Republican from Gurnee; appointed to House in 2014, and elected later that year. She received a bachelor’s degree in business administration and accounting from Carthage College. She became a CPA and worked as a business manager and accountant. She served as Minority Spokesperson of the Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education and Business Growth and Incentives Committees.

JIMENEZ, SARA WOJCICKI (2015-19). Republican from Springfield; appointed, then elected to House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and a master’s degree from the University of Illinois at Springfield. She was press spokesperson for the House Republican Staff and later Chief of Staff for the then-First Lady of Illinois, Diana Rauner.

JOHNSON, CHRISTINE J. (2011-13). Republican from Shabbona; appointed to Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree in journalism and public relations from Northern Illinois University. She was the DeKalb County Treasurer from 1994 until 2011, and has been president of the Illinois County Treasurers’ Association. She was Minority Spokesperson on the Higher Education Committee.

JONES, LOVANA S. “Lou” (1987-2006). Democrat from Chicago; served in House, where she was an Assistant Majority Leader and chaired the Appropriations—Public Safety Committee. She studied business administration at Ohio State University.

JONES, MARJORIE (1980-81). Republican from Springfield. She was appointed to the House to complete the term of her late husband, J. David Jones.

JONES, SHIRLEY M. (1988-2002). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House in September 1988, and elected later that year. She attended George Williams College, and was an administrator in the Chicago Park District. She was Chairperson and Minority Spokesperson on the Public Utilities Committee; and Vice-Chairperson of the Revenue and Aging Committees.

JOYCE, JANET (1992-93). Democrat from Reddick; appointed to Senate to complete the term of her husband, Jerome J. Joyce, after his resignation.

KARMAZYN, LILLIAN K. (1969-73). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She was a registered beauty culturist and also taught beauty culture. She also served as a precinct captain of the 22nd Ward Republican Organization.
KARPIEL, DORIS C. (1979-2003). Republican from Carol Stream; appointed to House in 1979 and elected in 1980, then elected to Senate in 1984. She received a B.A. in political science from Northern Illinois University. She was Majority Caucus Chair; chaired the Executive Committee; vice-chaired the Environment and Energy Committee; and was Minority Spokesperson on the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee. She had formerly served as a Bloomingdale Township supervisor and trustee.

KASZAK, NANCY (1993-97). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She was the general attorney for the Chicago Park District from 1987 to 1992. She received a bachelor’s degree from Elmhurst College, an M.P.A. from Roosevelt University, and a J.D. from Northern Illinois University. She taught at Illinois Benedictine College, and was a legislative analyst for the Illinois House Democratic Staff. She also served as a commissioner of the City Landmarks Commission; president of the Landmarks Preservation Council; and vice-president of the Chicago Council of Lawyers. In 1996 she ran for Congress in the 5th Congressional District.

KEEGAN, BETTY ANN (1973-74). Democrat from Rockford; was elected to Senate in 1972, but died in 1974. She graduated from Rockford College. She was a delegate at the 6th Illinois Constitutional Convention (1969-70), and a member of the Citizens’ Task Force on Constitutional Implementation. She also was a delegate at large to the Democratic National Convention in 1964 and 1968.

KELLY, ROBIN (2003-06). See Women in Congress.

KENT, LAURA. See DONAHUE, LAURA KENT.

KENT, MARY LOU (1973-81). Republican from Quincy; elected to House in 1972 and to Senate in 1980. She died in 1981. She was the Minority Spokesperson on the House Executive Committee, and later on the House Public Utilities Committee. Her interests included community and industrial development, tourism, and highways.

KIFOWIT, STEPHANIE (2013–). Democrat from Aurora; serves in House. She received a B.S. in political science and an M.P.A. from Northern Illinois University. She is a Marine Corps veteran, former substitute teacher, and former Aurora alderman. She chairs the State Government Administration Committee and the Veterans’ Affairs Committee. She is Vice-Chairperson of the Appropriations—General Services Committee and also serves on both the Adoption and Child Welfare and Revenue and Finance Committees.

KLINGLER, GWENN (1995-2003). Republican from Springfield; served in House, where she was Minority Spokesperson on the Committee on Children and Youth, and vice-chaired the Judiciary—Civil Law Committee. She received a B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University, an M.A. from the University of Michigan, and a J.D. from George Washington University. She worked for the Illinois Attorney General from 1981 to 1984 and the State’s Attorneys’ Appellate Prosecutor from 1984 to 1991. She also was a partner in a Springfield law firm; president of the Springfield District 186 school board; and a Springfield alderman.
KOELER, JUDY (1981-87). Republican from Henry; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University, and a law degree from Loyola University of Chicago. She was the Minority Spokesperson on the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee, and a member of the Economic and Fiscal Commission and the Legislative Council. She had been a teacher, social worker for the blind and aged, and buyer for major department stores. After her legislative service, she served as director of legislative affairs for the American Lung Association of Illinois; an assistant state's attorney in DuPage County; and a judge in the Third District of the Illinois Appellate Court.

KOSEL, RENEE (1997-2015). Republican from Mokena; served in House, where she was an Assistant Minority Leader. She was the Minority Spokesperson on the Executive Committee and the Museums, Arts, and Cultural Enhancement Committee, and served on several other committees. She received a B.S. in education from Western Illinois University. She had been a school teacher, school board member, and director of the Illinois Association of School Boards.

KRAUSE, CAROLYN H. (1993-2009). Republican from Mt. Prospect; served in House, where she was Republican Spokesperson on the Electric Utility Oversight Committee. She was mayor of Mt. Prospect from 1977 to 1989. She received a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a law degree from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. She was a member of the Local Government Finance Study Commission in 1980.

KURTZ, ROSEMARY (2001-05). Republican from Crystal Lake; served in House. She was the Minority Spokesperson on the Health Care Availability and Access Committee. A former high school and college teacher, she also served on the Crystal Lake Zoning Board of Appeals, and on local civic and social service organizations. She served as Crystal Lake Treasurer. She received a B.A. from the University of Oklahoma and an M.A. from the University of Kansas, and did work toward a Ph.D. at the University of Iowa.

LIGHTFORD, KIMBERLY A. (1998- ). Democrat from Maywood; serves in Senate, where she is Senate Majority Leader. She chairs the Assignments Committee. She is also a member of the Education; Energy and Public Utilities; Executive Appointments; Executive; Higher Education; and Labor Committees as well as the Special Committees on Oversight of Medicaid Managed Care and Supplier Diversity. She has a B.A. in public communications and human relations from Western Illinois University, and a master's in public administration from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

LILLY, CAMILLE Y. (2010- ). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House. She is a former vice-president for External Affairs and Development at Loretto Hospital and has been vice-president of BethAnneLife Centre at Bethel New Life, and Executive Director of the Austin Chamber of Commerce. She is Chairperson of the Financial Institutions and Museums, Arts, and Cultural Enhancements Committees; Vice-Chairperson the Appropriations—Public Safety Committee; and also serves on the Appropriations—Human Services and Insurance Committees.
LINDNER, PATRICIA REID (1993-2009). Republican from Aurora; served in House. She was Assistant Republican Leader and Minority Spokesperson on the Judiciary II—Criminal Law and Juvenile Justice Reform Committees. She received a B.S. from Northwestern University, an M.A. from the University of Colorado, and a J.D. from Northern Illinois University.

LYONS, EILEEN (1995-2005). Republican from Western Springs; served in House, where she was an assistant Republican Leader. She co-chaired the Intergovernmental Cooperation Commission, and was Minority Spokesperson on the Committee on Juvenile Justice Reform. She received a bachelor’s degree in English from Elmhurst College. She served on the Western Springs Board of Police and Fire Commissioners, and as a teacher with Literacy Volunteers of America.

MACDONALD, VIRGINIA B. (1973-93). Republican from Arlington Heights. She served four House terms, then was elected in 1982 to the Senate, where she was Minority Spokesperson on the Energy and Environment Committee and co-chaired the Citizens’ Council on Women. She attended the University of New Mexico. She was a delegate to the 6th Illinois Constitutional Convention from 1969 to 1970, and secretary of the House Republican Caucus from 1972 to 1982. She served as assistant to the director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and an officer in several Republican organizations.

MADIGAN, LISA (1999-2003). Democrat from Chicago; served in Senate, where she was Minority Spokesperson on the Committee on Education. She was elected in 2002 as Illinois’ first woman Attorney General, and served four terms in that office. She received a B.A. from Georgetown University and a J.D. from Loyola University of Chicago.

MAH, THERESA (2017- ). Democrat from Chicago; serves in the House. She received a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and spent much of her career as a college professor. She is the daughter of immigrant parents and the first Asian American to serve in the Illinois House of Representatives. Formerly she served as a senior policy advisor and director of Asian-American outreach under then-Governor Pat Quinn. She serves as Vice-Chairperson of the Health Care Licensees Committee and as a member of the Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education; Energy and Environment; International Trade and Commerce; and Museums, Arts, and Cultural Enhancement.

MANLEY, NATALIE (2013- ). Democrat from Joliet; serves in House. She received a B.A. in business administration from the University of St. Francis. She is a certified public accountant, and has been a senior staff accountant at Werner, Rogers, Doran and Ruzon LLC. She was a committee member for the Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living. She is Vice-Chairperson of the Human Services Committee. Other committee assignments include the Financial Institutions; Counties and Townships; Transportation: Regulation, Roads, and Bridges; Transportation: Vehicles and Safety; and Rules Committees.

MARKETTE, SHARON G. (1983-85). Democrat from Chicago; served in House, where she was a member of several committees. She received a B.S. in criminal justice from Chicago State University.
MARTIN, LYNN M. See Women in Congress.

MARTIN, PEGGY SMITH (1973-75 and 1977-79). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree in correctional and criminal justice from Governor’s State University and was the only African American woman in the 78th General Assembly (1973-75). She was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1972. She also chaired the Illinois Council on Hunger, Health, and Nutrition.

MARTINEZ, IRIS Y. (2003– ). Democrat from Chicago; serves in Senate, where she is an Assistant Majority Leader. She received a bachelor’s degree from Northeastern Illinois University. She co-chairs the Special Committee on Pension Investments and vice-chairs the Government Accountability and Pensions Committee. She also serves on the Commerce and Economic Development; Education; Energy and Public Utilities; Executive; and Transportation Committees. She is the Senate Co-Chair of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus, and a past president of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators.

MASON, JOYCE (2019– ). Democrat from Gurnee; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago and an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management. She formerly was the vice-president of the Woodland Community School District Board of Education. She serves on the Agriculture and Conservation; Appropriations—Higher Education; Economic Opportunity and Equity; Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum and Policies; and Museums, Arts, and Cultural Enhancement Committees.

MAY, KAREN (2001-13). Democrat from Highland Park; served in House, where she chaired the Telecommunications and Environmental Health Committees, and vice-chaired the Committee on Health Care Availability and Access. She was a founder and president of a public relations advertising agency, and active in many organizations in Lake County. She received a bachelor’s degree in communications from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

MAYFIELD, RITA (2010– ). Democrat from Waukegan; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Columbia College, and a master’s degree in management and organization behavior from Benedictine University. She formerly was a workforce development manager. She chairs the Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education Committee. She is Vice-Chairperson of the Consumer Protection Committee. Her other committee assignments include the Appropriations—Public Safety, Labor and Commerce; Prescriptions Drug Affordability and Accessibility; and Judiciary—Civil Committees.

MAZZOCCHI, DEANNE M. (2018– ). Republican from Elmhurst; appointed to House in 2018 and elected later that year. She received a bachelor’s degree in political science and chemistry from Boston University and a J.D. from George Washington University. She was a founding member of a law firm specializing in patent and life sciences law and has been the Chairman of the College of DuPage Board of Trustees since 2016. She serves on the Appropriations—Capital; Appropriations—Public Safety; Energy and
Environment; Judiciary—Civil; Labor and Commerce; and Prescription Drug Affordability and Accessibility Committees.

McADAMS, MARY C. (1927-31). Democrat from Quincy; served in House as one of the first Democratic women elected to the General Assembly. She was born in England and came to America at age 1. She had served as assistant postmistress, and then as postmistress, of the General Assembly from 1896 to 1902.

McASEY, EMILY (2009-17). Democrat from Lockport; served in House. She is a graduate of the College of William and Mary and of Loyola University of Chicago School of Law. Before becoming a lawyer, she taught 8th grade social studies. She formerly was a criminal prosecutor in the Will County State’s Attorney’s office. She chaired the Elementary and Secondary Education: Charter School Policy Committee, and was Vice-Chairperson of the Renewable Energy and Sustainability Committee.

McCASKRIN, HAZEL A. (1947-49 and 1951-57). Republican from Rock Island; served in House. She was the wife of Representative Harry M. McCaskrin (1921-41), and his secretary for 20 years. She was president of the Business and Professional Women’s Club and of the Rock Island Council of Parents and Teachers.

MCCOMBIE, TONY (2017- ). Republican from Savanna; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Western Illinois University. She is a real estate broker and the former the mayor of Savanna. She serves on the Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, and IT; Economic Opportunity and Equity; Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum and Policies; Judiciary—Criminal; and Transportation: Regulation, Roads and Bridges Committees.

McCONNAUGHAy, KAREN (2013-18). Republican from St. Charles; served in Senate. She is a graduate of the College of DuPage. She had chaired the Kane County Board and the Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Group. She is also a former member of the executive council of Chicago Metropolis 2020 and of the board of the Illinois Lincoln Excellence in Public Service Series, which trains women for public service. She was the Minority Spokesperson on the Transportation Committee.

McCORMICK, HOPE (1965-67). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She was a Republican National Committeewoman from 1968 to 1976, and president of the Republican Citizens’ Committee of the 9th Congressional District. She was also a member of the Board of Governors of the United Republican Fund and of civic and philanthropic organizations.

McCDermed, marginal (2015- ). Republican from Mokena; serves in House. She received a J.D. from DePaul University, and practiced law with Amoco and BP for 30 years. She has served as the Frankfort Township Collector, Trustee, and Clerk, and been a member of the Will County Board. She founded the Mokena Educational Foundation. She is the Minority Spokesperson on the Transportation: Regulation, Roads, and Bridges and Judiciary—Civil Committees. Other committee assignments include the Appropriations—Capital; Judiciary—Criminal; Museums, Arts, and Cultural Enhancements; and Revenue and Finance Committees.
MEANY, MARY K. (1964-69). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She was a past president of both the Chicago regional PTA and the 3rd Congressional District Women’s Republican Club. She was a graduate of Northwestern University and a former high school teacher, and the widow of Robert E. Meaney, a Wrigley Company executive.

MELL, DEBORAH (2009-13). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Cornell College, and studied at the California Culinary Academy. She was Vice-Chairperson of the Mass Transit Committee.

MENDOZA, SUSANA A. (2001-11). Democrat from Chicago; served in House, where she chaired the International Trade and Commerce Committee and vice-chaired the Bio-Technology Committee. She received a B.A. from Northeast Missouri State University. She was elected as Chicago City Clerk in 2011 and Illinois Comptroller in 2016. She sought the Democratic Nomination for the Chicago mayorship in 2019.

MEYERS-MARTIN, DEBBIE (2019- ). Democrat from Olympia Fields; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has been the mayor and a trustee of Olympia Fields and was the former community affairs marketing specialist for the Illinois State Treasurer. She serves on the Appropriations—General Services; Appropriations—Higher Education; Child Care Accessibility and Early Childhood Education; Cities and Villages; Economic Opportunity and Equity; and Insurance Committees.

MOELLER, ANNA (2014- ). Democrat from Elgin; appointed to House in 2014 and elected later that year. She received a B.A. in history and an M.P.A. from Northern Illinois University, and was a member of the first class of the Edgar Fellows Program at the University of Illinois. She was executive director of the McHenry County Council of Governments, and a member of the Elgin City Council. She chairs the Health Care Licenses Committee and serves on the Appropriations—Human Services; Economic Opportunity and Equity; Energy and Environment; and Insurance Committees.

MOORE, ANDREA S. (1993-2002). Republican from Libertyville; served in House. She chaired the Committees on Commerce; Industry and Labor; and Elections and State Government Administration, and in other General Assemblies was Minority Spokesperson on the Elections and State Government Administration and the Revenue Committees, among other committee positions. She served as president of the Lake County Forest Preserves; a Lake County commissioner, and a member of the Condell Medical Center board. She also served on the Illinois Supreme Court Advisory Committee, the Governor’s Task Force for Flood Control, and the Governor’s Committee for the Future of Illinois; as a village trustee of Libertyville; and on the boards of the David Adler Cultural Center of Libertyville and the National Association of County Organizations. She was appointed Assistant Director of the Department of Natural Resources in 2002.

MOORE, KATHLEEN C. (2010-2011). Democrat from Chicago; served in the House. She was appointed to the House on December 29, 2010 to fill a vacancy in the 11th district.
MORRISON, JULIE A. (2013- ). Democrat from Deerfield; serves in Senate. She received a B.A. in political science from Knox College. She served as West Deerfield Township Supervisor and as road commissioner. Her other past positions include working as a federal energy regulation analyst with Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America, and serving on the Governor’s Statewide Advisory Council to the Department of Children and Family Services. She is the Chairperson of the Human Services Committee and Vice-Chairperson of the Public Health Committee. She also serves on the Agriculture; Environment and Conservation; and Transportation Committees as well as the Special Committee on Oversight of Medicaid Managed Care.

MOSELEY, VICKIE (1993-95). Democrat from Springfield; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Blackburn College. She was the Director of State Relations for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and a member of the Governor’s Family Preservation Task Force. She and her husband owned a financial and legislative consulting firm for educational facilities and facilities helping persons with disabilities.

MOSELEY-BRAUN, CAROL. See Women in Congress.

MULLIGAN, ROSEMARY (1993-2013). Republican from Des Plaines; served in House. She studied at Illinois State University and William Rainey Harper College, and worked for a number of years as a paralegal before beginning her legislative service. She chaired the Appropriations—Human Services Committee, and in other General Assemblies was Minority Spokesperson on that and other committees.

MUNIZZI, PAMELA A. (1989-93). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House in 1989 and elected in 1990; she vice-chaired the House Appropriations—General Services Committee. She was appointed to the Senate in 1992, and served on numerous committees there. She received a B.A. from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and did graduate work at DePaul University and the Illinois Institute of Technology. She was employed by the Committee on Local Transportation of the Chicago City Council, and as Victim-Witness Coordinator in the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office. She also was active on the boards of Mercy Hospital Women’s Board, Valentine Boys and Girls Club, and Benton House Community Center.

MUNSON, RUTH (2002-09). Republican from Elgin; appointed to House in 2002. She was Minority Spokesperson on both the Computer Technology and the Bio-Technology Committees. She received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Northern Illinois University. She founded and was president of EveryWare, Inc., a software development firm. She had also served on the Elgin City Council, and been involved in many civic organizations.

MURPHY, LAURA M. (2015- ). Democrat from Des Plaines; appointed, then elected, to Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Illinois State University. She is a former Des Plaines alderman. She chairs the Commerce and Economic Development Committee and also serves on the Appropriations I; Financial Institutions; Higher Education; Insurance; Public Health; and Executive Appointments Committees.
MURPHY, MAUREEN (1993-97). Republican from Evergreen Park; served in House, where she chaired the Cities and Villages Committee and Revenue Committee. She attended Moraine Valley Community College. She was Worth Township Clerk from 1985 to 1989, and has been a broker-associate with R.B. Konie and Co., Realtors. She also was vice-president and area leader for the Worth Township Regular Republican Organization, and president of the Evergreen Park Regular Republican Organization.

MUSSMAN, MICHELLE (2011- ). Democrat from Schaumburg; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Cincinnati. She served as local PTA president and treasurer, and has been active in the Schaumburg Township Council of PTAs. She is Chairperson of the Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum and Policies Committee. She serves on the Appropriations—Human Services; Adoption and Child Welfare; Energy and Environment; Human Services; and Mental Health Committees.

MYERS, JUDITH A. (1997-2002). Republican from Danville; was appointed to Senate in 1997, and elected in 1998. She was Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Executive Appointments. She received a B.S. from Purdue University. She served as Vermilion County Recorder, and was active in various Danville organizations.

NEKRITZ, ELAINE (2003-17). Democrat from Northbrook; served in House, where she was an Assistant Majority Leader. She received a bachelor’s degree from Trinity University and a law degree from the University of Michigan. She chaired Northbrook’s Community Relations Commission, and has been a partner in the Altheimer and Gray law firm. She chaired the Judiciary—Civil and Personnel and Pensions Committees.

NELSON, DIANA (1981-85). Republican from Western Springs; served in House, where she was Spokesperson on the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee. She also served on the Commission on Children and the School Problems Commission. She received a B.S. in education from the University of Wisconsin, and was a former high school teacher. In 1992 she became president of Leadership for Quality Education, a business-backed school reform advocacy group. She also was a vice-president of public affairs at Harris Bank in Chicago; secretary/treasurer of the Harris Bank Foundation; and executive director of the Mental Health Association in Illinois. She chaired the Chicago Private Industry Council from 1990 to 1992.

NETSCH, DAWN CLARK (1973-91). Democrat from Chicago; served in Senate. She received a B.A. and J.D. from Northwestern University. She was administrator and legal aide to Governor Otto Kerner from 1961 to 1965; was a delegate to the 6th Illinois Constitutional Convention and Vice-Chair of its Committee on Revenue and Finance from 1969 to 1970; chaired the Senate Revenue Committee in five General Assemblies, and co-chaired the Economic and Fiscal Commission; served as State Comptroller from 1991 to 1995; and ran for Governor in 1994. She later was a professor at Northwestern University Law School, and co-authored State and Local Government in a Federal System.
OBLINGER, JOSEPHINE K. (1979-87). Republican from Williamsville; served in House. She was the Governor’s Director of Senior Involvement from 1987 to 1992; a board member of the Illinois Humanities Council and the Federal Council on Aging; a board member and honorary Chairperson of the Governor’s Office of Volunteerism; and president of the Illinois Association of County Clerks and Recorders, Illinois Federation of Republican Women, Sangamon County Republican Women’s Club, and Illinois Federation of Teachers. She also was Chairperson of the Sangamon County Republican Central Committee. She received a B.S. in education from the University of Illinois, and a law degree from the University of Detroit Law School, where she was the only female student.

O’BRIEN, MARY K. (1997-2003). Democrat from Coal City; served in House, where she was Vice-Chair of the Committee on Child Support Enforcement. She also chaired the Judiciary II—Criminal Law Committee. She received a B.S. from Western Illinois University and a J.D. from the University of Illinois. She served as a Grundy County assistant state’s attorney and an Assistant Attorney General. She has since served as a Justice on the Third District Appellate Court.

O’NEILL, LOTTIE HOLMAN (1923-31; 1933-51; and 1951-63). Republican from Downers Grove. She was the first woman elected to the House, serving from 1923 to 1931 and from 1933 to 1951. She also served in the Senate from 1951 to 1963, compiling the women’s longevity record (at that time) of 19 General Assemblies. She was a member of several women’s organizations, including the Federation of Women’s Clubs, League of Women Voters, Woman’s Trade Union League, and Business and Professional Women’s Clubs.

OSMOND, JOANN D. (2003-15). Republican from Gurnee; she appointed in 2003 to fill the House vacancy due to the death of her husband, Timothy H. Osmond, and elected in 2004. She was Minority Spokesperson on the Human Services Committee. She formerly owned an insurance company.

PALMER, ALICE (1991-97). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to Senate and then elected in 1992. She was Minority Spokesperson on the Revenue Committee and the Commerce and Industry Committee. She received an M.A. in urban studies from Roosevelt University, and a Ph.D. in educational administration from Northwestern University. She was the executive director of Chicago Cities in Schools (a dropout intervention program that she helped found), and was an administrator at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Malcolm X Community College, and Northwestern University. She co-authored *The Mature Student’s Guide to Reading and Composition*, a literacy book for adult learners.

PANKAU, CAROLE (1993-2013). Republican from Itasca; served in House from 1993 to 2005, and in Senate from 2005 to 2013. She received a B.S. in accounting from the University of Illinois. In the Senate, she was the Minority Caucus Whip, and was at various times the Minority Spokesperson on the Commerce, Executive, Labor, and Public Health Committees, along with serving on numerous other committees.
PAPPAS, DIANE (2019- ). Democrat from Itasca; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University and a J.D. from Yale Law School. She immigrated to the United States from Poland at age 11. She is former in-house counsel for Motorola Solutions, Inc., YRC Worldwide, Inc., and USF Corporation. She serves on the Adoption and Child Welfare; Appropriations—General Services; Cities and Villages; Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, and IT; and Prescription Drug Affordability and Accessibility Committees.

PARCELLS, MARGARET (1984-95). Republican from Northfield; appointed to House in April 1984 and elected later that year. She was Minority Spokesperson of the House Insurance Committee and Vice-Spokesperson of the Appropriations—Public Safety and Infrastructure Committees. She received a B.A. from the University of Iowa, and was elected clerk of Northfield Township in 1977, township supervisor in 1981, and Northfield village trustee in 1989. She also served as deputy auditor of Illinois.

PARKER, KATHLEEN K. (1995-2003). Republican from Northbrook; served in Senate, where she vice-chaired the Senate Public Health and Welfare, and Transportation Committees. She received a B.A. in mass communications from the University of Miami. She worked in advertising and real estate sales and as co-owner of Keith Parker and Associates, representing manufacturers of industrial electronic security products. She was Northfield Township assessor from 1979 to 1983 and served on the RTA board and on other public bodies, including the Northeastern Illinois Planning Council; the Governor’s Committee on Transportation for the Disabled; and the Speaker’s Task Force on Coordination of Special Services.

PARKHURST, LINDSAY (2017- ). Republican from Kankakee; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois, a J.D. from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law; and an L.L.M. from DePaul University. She is a former assistant public defender, civil practice trial, and criminal defense attorney. She serves on the Appropriations—Public Safety; Child Care and Early Childhood; Transportation: Regulation, Roads, and Bridges; Prescription Drug Affordability and Accessibility; Judiciary—Criminal; and Judiciary—Civil Committees.

PEBWORTH, MARJORIE (1965-67). Republican from Riverdale; served in House. She chaired the 1965-67 Constitution Study Commission, which advocated the calling of a constitutional convention. She received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Indiana University. She died during her second term in the House.

PEFFERS, MAUD N. (1936-56). Republican from Aurora; appointed to fill the seventh House term of her late husband, John M. Peffers, and then elected to nine House terms. She was a graduate of Allen’s Business College, and became a member of the National Order of Women Legislators.

PERRY, JOSEPHINE (1931-35). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She was a graduate of Illinois State Normal University (now Illinois State University), and a member of several civic and social welfare organizations.
PIERCE, FERNE CARTER (1957-62). Democrat from Malta; served in House. She was an active partner in a farming and Angus cattle operation. She also was a precinct committeewoman and former secretary of the DeKalb County Democratic Central Committee, and secretary-treasurer of the Women’s Auxiliary of the American Angus Association.

PIHOS, SANDRA M. (2003-13). Republican from Glen Ellyn; served in House. She was Minority Spokesperson on the Aging; Disability Services; and Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education Committees. She received a B.A. from Mount Union College, and an M.S. from Northern Illinois University. She served as a high school guidance counselor, and was president of the Glenbard Township District 87 school board.

PIOTROWSKI, LILLIAN (1951-64). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Loyola University, and worked as a deputy sheriff in Chicago’s criminal and juvenile courts and as a juvenile and adult probation officer. She also was employed by the Board of Education’s Division of School Attendance. She served on the Cook County Board after serving in the House.

PRUSSING, LAUREL LUNT (1993-95). Democrat from Urbana; served in House. She received a B.A. from Wellesley College and an M.A. in economics from Boston University. She was Champaign County Auditor from 1976 to 1992; a member of the Illinois Comptroller’s Local Government Audit Advisory Committee; and president of the Illinois Association of County Auditors. She also was a research economist at the University of Illinois Center for Advanced Computation, and ran for Congress from the 15th Congressional District in 1994.

PULLEN, PENNY (1977-93). Republican from Park Ridge; served in House, where she became Assistant Minority Leader and Minority Whip. She received a B.A. in communications from the University of Illinois, and worked as a reporter, editorial assistant, and television production technician. She was an Illinois Republican National Committeewoman; received two Presidential appointments as a director of the Legal Services Corporation; and was dean of the board of the American Legislative Exchange Council. She also was a member of the National Council on Educational Research, and of the Presidential Commission on the HIV/AIDS Epidemic.

RADOGNO, CHRISTINE (1997-2017). Republican from Lemont; served in Senate, where she was the first woman to serve as Senate Republican Leader. She earlier was the Minority Spokesperson on the Appropriations II Committee and vice-chaired the Commerce and Industry Committee. She was the 2006 republican nominee for State Treasurer. She received bachelor’s and M.S.W. degrees from Loyola University of Chicago.

RAMIREZ, DELIA C. (2018- ). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Northeastern Illinois University. She is the founding executive director of the Center for Changing Lives and a former board chair of the Latin United Community Housing Association.
and the Logan Square Neighborhood Association. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the Adoption and Child Welfare Committee and serves on the Appropriations—Human Services; Elementary and Secondary Education; Administration, Licensing and Charter School; Judiciary—Criminal; and Mental Health Committees.

**RASCHKE-LIND, PAULA (1993-95).** Democrat from Rockford; served in House. A graduate of Rock Valley College in Rockford, she was a legislative aide to Representative E.J. "Zeke" Giorgi, and was appointed to fill the vacancy left by his death in 1993.

**REAVES-HARRIS, PAMELA (2015-17).** Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois, and a J.D. from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. She has engaged in the private practice of law and been an administrative law judge.

**REED, BETTY LOU (1975-83).** Republican from Deerfield; served in House. She chaired the Water Resources Commission, and was a member of the Lake Level Advisory Board to the International Joint Commission that resolves disputes along the U.S.-Canadian border. She served on the Lake County Board of Supervisors from 1969 to 1972, and was executive assistant to Congressman John E. Porter, overseeing district office operations in 1982 to 1989. She was the secretary of and chaired the Lake County Republican Central Committee; was state central committeewoman in the 12th Congressional District; and was executive director of Republican Women Power—Illinois Style. She received a Presidential appointment to the Midwest Regional Advisory Council to the Small Business Administration.

**REZIN, SUE (2010- ).** Republican from Morris; serves in Senate, where she is Assistant Republican Leader. She received a bachelor’s degree from Augustana College. She was elected to the House in November 2010, but was appointed to the Senate the next month. She managed her family’s real estate business for 15 years. She has been vice-president of the Morris Hospital Foundation board, and has served on the boards of the Community Foundation of Greater Grundy County and We Care of Grundy County. She is the Minority Spokesperson on the Energy and Public Utilities and Revenue and Committees. She also serves on the Education; Executive; and Government Accountability and Pensions Committees.

**RINAKER, PAULINE B. (1953-57).** Republican from Carlinville; served in House. She attended Blackburn College and Northwestern University, and taught history and French at Carlinville High School. She was state president of the Philanthropic Educational Organization, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Federation of Illinois Women’s Republican Clubs.

**RONEN, CAROL (1993-2008).** Democrat from Chicago; served in House from 1993 to 2000, then was appointed to Senate in January 2000. She received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Bradley University, and a master’s in public administration from Roosevelt University. She chaired the Senate Health and Human Services and the Labor and Commerce Committees in different General Assemblies. She also was assistant commissioner of the Chicago Department of Housing, and assistant commissioner of the Chicago Department of Planning.
ROTH, PAM (2011-13). Republican from Morris; served in House. She received a degree in business administration and accounting from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, and worked as a CPA. She was senior financial analyst for the Morris nuclear power plant, and president of the Saratoga District 60C school board.

RYG, KATHLEEN A. (2003-09). Democrat from Vernon Hills; served in House, where she chaired the Committee on Disability Services and vice-chaired the Drivers Education and Safety Committee. She received a B.S. from Northern Illinois University and an M.A. degree from Roosevelt University. She worked as a mental health administrator and served as a Village Trustee and Village Clerk for Vernon Hills as well as Chief Deputy Recorder of Deeds for Lake County.

SAPERSTEIN, ESTHER (1957-75). Democrat from Chicago; served in House from 1957 to 1967 and in Senate (where she was the first Democratic woman) from 1967 to 1975. She chaired the Commission on Mental Health and the Commission on the Status of Women. She was elected a Chicago alderman in 1975, and later served as a public member of the Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. She was a founder and president of the City of Hope. (A history of her years in the General Assembly was made by the Oral History Office of Sangamon State University—now the University of Illinois at Springfield—for the Legislative Council (predecessor of the Legislative Research Unit, now the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability Research Unit).)

SATTERTHWAITE, HELEN (1975-93). Democrat from Urbana; served in House. She received a B.S. in chemistry from Duquesne University. She chaired the House Higher Education Committee, vice-chaired the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee, and was an Assistant Majority Leader. She served on the University of Illinois School of Social Work Dean’s Advisory Council, and was a member of the National Order of Women Legislators.

SCHAKOWSKY, JANICE D. “Jan”. See Women in Congress.

SCHERER, SUE (2013- ). Democrat from Decatur; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree in education from Illinois State University and a master’s degree in education from Eastern Illinois University, and has been an elementary school teacher. She chairs the Elementary and Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing and Charter School Committee. She also serves on the Appropriations—Capital; Child Care Accessibility and Early Childhood Education; Consumer Protection; and Transportation: Regulation, Roads, and Bridges Committees.

SCHLAGENHAUF, LILLIAN E. (1953-65). Republican from Quincy; served in Senate. She was an Assistant Illinois Attorney General for 8 years, and practiced law in Quincy for 25 years. She received a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University and an LL.B. degree from the University of Illinois. She served as president of the Women’s City Club of Quincy and of the Federated Business and Professional Women’s Club of Quincy.

SCHMIDT, SUZI (2011-13). Republican from Lake Villa; served in Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree from Southern Illinois University.
She was Minority Spokesperson on the Local Government Committee. She earlier served on the Lake County Board, chairing it for several years, and as a Lake County Forest Preserve commissioner.

SENGER, DARLENE J. (2009-15). Republican from Naperville; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree in finance from Purdue University, and an M.B.A. from DePaul University. She was the Minority Spokesperson on the Appropriations—General Services and Personnel and Pensions Committees. She also served on the Naperville City Council and the Naperville Plan Commission.

SENTE, CAROL (2009-19). Democrat from Vernon Hills; served in House, where she chaired the Business Growth and Incentives Committee and Environment Committee. She received a B.S. degree from Indiana University and studied toward a master’s degree at Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management. She was president and managing partner of SRBL Architects in Deerfield, and has been vice-president of the Vernon Hills Park District board. Her community activities include being a counselor at a youth camp for children coping with grief.

SEVERNS, PENNY (1987-98). Democrat from Decatur; served in Senate until her death in 1998. At different times she was Vice-Chairperson of the Appropriations I Committee, and Minority Spokesperson of the Appropriations and Executive Committees. She also co-chaired the Intergovernmental Cooperation Commission and served as Minority Whip. She was an assistant to the Illinois Comptroller from 1981 to 1986, and a member of the Decatur City Council from 1983 to 1986. She also served as special assistant to the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development. She was a delegate to four Democratic National Conventions; co-chair of the Illinois Democratic Party platform committee in 1984; and the Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor in 1994.


SILVA, SONIA (1997-2001). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She was a co-founder of two social service agencies for Latinos; a delegate to the 1996 Democratic National Convention; and a former advisory member to the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education. She received a bachelor’s degree from Northeastern Illinois University and a master’s degree in social service administration from the University of Chicago.

SIMON, JEANNE C. See HURLEY, JEANNE C.

SLOANE, RICCA C. (1997-2005). Democrat from Peoria Heights; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Washington University; master’s degrees in anthropology and public administration from the University of California and Ohio State University; and a J.D. from the University of Illinois. She chaired the House Appropriations—Higher Education Committee, and vice-chaired the Environment and Energy and Appropriations—General Services Committees.
SMITH, MARGARET (1981-2002). Democrat from Chicago; elected to House in 1980 and to Senate in 1982. She chaired the Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Corrections Committee; was Vice-Chair of the Insurance, Pensions and Licensed Activities and Labor Committees; and chaired the Senate Minority Caucus.

SOTO, CYNTHIA (2001-18). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She attended William Rainey Harper College. She chaired the Financial Institutions and Health Care Licenses Committees in different General Assemblies. She has been an Administrative Supervisor in the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office, and a member of the Near North Civic Committee board.

STAVA-MURRAY, ANNE (2019- ). Democrat from Naperville; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College. She formerly was a consumer researcher and focus group moderator. She has also been a Naperville Fire and Police commissioner. She serves on the Appropriations—Capital; Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, and IT; Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum and Policies; Judiciary—Criminal; and Museums, Arts, and Cultural Enhancement Committees.

STEANS, HEATHER (2008- ). Democrat from Chicago; serves in Senate. She has a B.A. in urban studies from Princeton, and an M.A. in public policy from Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. She has been a strategic planner for the Chicago Public Schools; a budget director for the Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations; and a consultant at Ernst and Young. She is co-Chair of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability. She chairs the Appropriations I Committee and the Special Committee on Oversight of Medicaid Managed Care. She is also a member of the Appropriations II; Environment and Conservation; Executive Appointments; Executive; Government Accountability and Pensions; and Human Services Committees.

STEPAN, ANN (1991-93). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House in 1991. She received a bachelor’s degree from Barat College, and attended Columbia College in Chicago.

STERN, GRACE MARY (1985-95). Democrat from Highland Park; served in House, then was elected to Senate in 1992. She attended Wellesley College. In the House she chaired the Mental Health Committee, and vice-chaired the Election Law Committee. She served as Lake County Clerk and represented Deerfield Township on the Lake County Board of Supervisors. She was the Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor in 1982. She served on the boards of the John Howard Association of Chicago and the Irene Josselyn (Mental Health) Clinic in Northfield.

STEWART, MONICA FAITH (1981-83). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a B.A. in history from Vassar College, and a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. After her House term she became director of development of public education and children-at-risk issues for North Central Regional Educational Laboratory at Oak Brook. She was also an adjunct member of Northeastern Illinois University’s political science department.
STIEHL, CELESTE M. (1973-83). Republican from Belleville; served in House. She was the first woman in General Assembly leadership, serving as Assistant Minority Leader from 1975 to 1981 and Assistant Majority Leader from 1981 to 1983. She was a member of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and of the Small Business Advisory Council. She was also a member of the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees. She was a director of the Belleville Economic Development Corporation; executive director of Belleville Economic Progress Inc.; president of St. Clair County Republican Women; and Co-Chair of the Illinois Positive Action Task Force.

STRATTON, JULIANA (2017-18). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She was elected Lieutenant Governor in 2018, and is the first African American to serve in that office. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a J.D. from DePaul University. She formerly was the director for the Center for Public Safety and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

STUART, KATIE (2017- ). Democrat from Edwardsville; serves in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Rutgers University and a master’s degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, both in mathematics. She is a former elementary and high school math teacher, and also was a math instructor at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the Higher Education Committee and serves on the Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education; Consumer Protection; Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum and Policies; Labor and Commerce; and Museums, Arts, and Cultural Enhancement Committees.

SUMNER, MARY LOU (1977-81). Republican from Dunlap; served in House. She was the president of Peoria County Republican Women and a delegate to the Republican Women’s National Convention. She also was the Legislative Chair of the Peoria Medical Society Women’s Auxiliary.

SUTHERS, MARIE H. (1951-53). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She was a parliamentarian, teacher, and author, and served as president of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois; Illinois and National Federations of Women’s Republican Clubs; and Chicago Association of Parliamentarians. She graduated from Chicago Teachers College. She was also dean and education director of Illini Girls’ State.

TABARES, SILVANA (2013-18). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a B.A. in journalism from Columbia College in Chicago. She was managing editor for EXTRA Community Newspaper, and taught radio broadcast to local youth as an audio producer for WRTE Radio Arte in Chicago. She chaired the Elections and Campaign Finance Committee and vice-chaired the Health Care Availability and Accessibility Committee. In 2018, she was appointed as Chicago’s 23rd Ward Alderman.

TOPINKA, JUDY BAAR (1981-95). Republican from Riverside; served in House, then in Senate starting in 1985. She was then elected as State Treasurer in 1994, and re-elected in 1998 and 2002. In 2006, she was the Republican candidate for Governor. She was elected State Comptroller in 2010 and re-elected in 2014, but died before her second term began. In the Senate, she chaired the Public Health and Welfare Committee, and was a
member of the Legislative Audit Commission, Infant Mortality Reduction Advisory Board, and Technical Task Force on Community Mental Health Services. She received a B.S. degree from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism and became a features editor, reporter, and columnist for Life Newspapers and a public relations consultant and executive vice-president of Cicero Radio Corporation. She was active in the Chicago Chapter of Women in Communications, Illinois Women’s Press Association, Chicago Press Club, and Executive Club of Chicago.

TRACY, JIL (2006-15; 2017- ). Republican from Quincy; served in House from 2006-15, and was then elected to the Senate in 2016. In 2014, she was the Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor. She received a B.A. in political science and a law degree from Southern Illinois University. She was the Director of the Attorney General’s West Central Illinois regional office. She currently serves as Senate Minority Whip and as Minority Spokesperson of the Telecommunications and Information Technology Committee. She is also a member of the Agriculture; Executive Appointments; Judiciary; Labor; and State Government Committees, and the Special Committees on Pension Investments and Supplier Diversity.

VAN DER VRIES, BERNICE T. (1935-57). Republican from Winnetka; served in House. In 1941 she became the first woman to chair a legislative committee (the Municipality Committee). She was a Winnetka Village trustee from 1931 to 1935; a member of the Chicago Transit Authority board; and director of Hull House and the Illinois Society for Mental Hygiene. She also chaired the Board of Managers of the Council of State Governments. She was a member of the Illinois State Council of Defense in 1941 and of the Illinois War Council in 1943. (A history of her years in the General Assembly was compiled by the Oral History Office of Sangamon State University—now the University of Illinois at Springfield—for the former Legislative Council (predecessor of the Legislative Research Unit and of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability Research Unit).)

VAN PELT, PATRICIA (2013- ). Democrat from Chicago; serves in Senate. She received a B.A. from Roosevelt University, an M.A. from the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago, and a Ph.D. in management of nonprofit agencies from Capella University. She is a certified public accountant, and has served on the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council and the Illinois Charter School Commission. She is Chairperson of the Public Health Committee. She is a member of the Agriculture; Criminal Law; Energy and Public Utilities; and State Government Committees, as well as the Special Committee on Oversight of Medicaid Managed Care.

VILLA, KARINA (2019- ). Democrat from West Chicago; serves in House. She received a master’s degree in social work from Aurora University. She formerly was a school social worker and the vice president of the West Chicago District school board. She is a daughter of immigrants who were local small business owners. She serves on the Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education; Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum and Policies; Health Care Availability and Accessibility; Labor and Commerce; Mental Health; and Veterans’ Affairs Committees.
VILLANUEVA, CELINA (2018- ). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House in 2018 and elected later that year. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a former community organizer with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the Health Care Availability and Accessibility Committee and serves on the Appropriations—Human Services; Higher Education; Labor and Commerce; and Public Utilities Committees.

VON BERGEN-WESSELS, PENNIE L. (1993-95). Democrat from Sterling; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree in education from Northern Illinois University and a J.D. from the University of Illinois. She was a lawyer-activist and Whiteside County Board member, and a local director of the Citizens’ Utility Board from 1989 to 1992.

WALLACE, LITESA E. (2014-19). Democrat from Rockford; appointed to the House and then elected. She received a B.A. from Western Illinois University, an M.A. in applied family and child studies, and a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Northern Illinois University. She has been a counselor at Rosecrance Health Network and Rock Valley College. She vice-chaired the Human Services Committee. She was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor in 2018.

WALSH, HELENE MILLER (2018-19). Republican from Libertyville; appointed to House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Occidental College, where she majored in diplomacy and world affairs. She is the chief operating officer of the multi-media production company Leenie Productions, LLC. She serves on the board of advisors to Project H.O.O.D., the Haym Salomon Center, and Turning Point USA.

WHEELER, BARBARA (2013-19). Republican from Fox Lake; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from Loyola University of Chicago and a master’s degree from National Louis University (both in education). She has been a teacher and Peace Corps volunteer, and a McHenry County Board member. She was the Minority Spokesperson on the following committees: Health Care Licenses; Judiciary—Criminal; Tourism, Hospitality and Craft Industries; and Restorative Justice.

WILLER, ANNE WALSH (1975-81). Democrat from LaGrange; served in House. She was a delegate to the 6th Illinois Constitutional Convention in 1969-70 and a member of its Judiciary Committee. She was appointed to the Judicial Inquiry Board in 1971. She was the president of the Proviso League of Women Voters; a founding member of Proviso-Riverside Independent Democrats; and director of the Proviso Mental Health Center.

WILLIAMS, ANN M. (2011- ). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a B.A. in journalism from the University of Iowa and a J.D. from Drake University Law School. She was a legislative director and assistant attorney for the Illinois Attorney General’s office. She chairs the Energy and Environment Committee, and vice-chairs the Judiciary—Civil Committee. She is also a member of the Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, and IT; and Labor and Commerce Committees.
WILLIAMSON, LINDA (1985-91). Republican from Northlake; served in House. She studied political science at Triton College. She was Minority Spokesperson on the Committee on Aging. She served as a Leyden Township trustee from 1982 to 1984, and a member of the citizens’ advisory board to the Cook County Board of (tax) Appeals. She was a founder and president of Taxpayers for Better Government (now defunct), and a member of the Citizens’ Utility Board. She also was Director of Governmental Affairs for the Illinois Commissioner of Savings and Residential Finance.

WILLIS, KATHLEEN (2013- ). Democrat from Addison; serves in House. She received a B.A. in human services administration from Elmhurst College, and a master’s degree in library and information services from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She was the coordinator of access services at Elmhurst College, and a part-time teacher of children’s and youth literature. She has also been a member of the Addison Elementary School District Board. She serves on the Appropriations—Human Services; Adoption and Child Welfare; Cities and Villages; Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum and Policies; Executive; and State Government Administration Committees.

WINGER, CHRISTINE (2015-19). Republican from Wood Dale; served in House. She received a B.S. in social science from Illinois State University. She has been a project manager for IBM and a financial advisor. She has been a member of the Wood Dale City Council and a Deputy Mayor of Wood Dale.

WOJCIK, KATHLEEN L. “Kay” (1983-2005). Republican from Schaumburg; served in House from 1983 to 2003. She was appointed to fill a Senate vacancy in January 2003, but resigned her Senate seat in 2005. Her education was at William Rainey Harper College. She was Minority Spokesperson of the Licensed Activities Committee and the Labor and Commerce Committee, and an Assistant House Minority Leader from 1991 to 2003. She served as Schaumburg Township Clerk for 14 years, and as a director of the Township Officials of Illinois and Township Clerks of Illinois.

WOOD, CORINNE G. (1997-98). Republican from Lake Forest; served in House. She received a B.A. from the University of Illinois and a J.D. from Loyola University of Chicago. She practiced law in Lake Forest, and served on the Lake Forest Planning Commission and as counsel to the Illinois Commissioner of Banks and Trusts. She was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1998, and sought the Republican nomination for Governor in 2002.

YARBROUGH, KAREN A. (2001-12). Democrat from Maywood; served in House. She received a B.A. in business administration from Chicago State University and an M.A. in inner city studies from Northeastern Illinois University. She was the founder and president of an insurance agency and president of the Maywood Chamber of Commerce. In the House, she chaired the Appropriations—Public Safety; Housing and Urban Development; and Housing Committees in different General Assemblies.
YOUNGE, WYVETTER H. (1974-2008). Democrat from East St. Louis; served in House. She received a J.D. from St. Louis University and a master of law degree from Washington University. She was an Assistant Majority Leader; Vice-Chair of the Environmental Health Committee; and Majority Conference Chairperson. She had been an attorney for the Federal National Mortgage Association and director of Neighborhood Opportunity Centers (War on Poverty), and chaired the East St. Louis Planning Commission.

ZICKUS, ANNE (1989-91 and 1993-2002). Republican from Palos Hills; served in House. She chaired the Consumer Protection Committee and was Minority Spokesperson of the Committee on Registration and Regulation. She had been a Palos Hills alderman and plan commission member. She was a member of the Palos Republican Women’s Organization, Illinois Federation of Republican Women, and National Federation of Republican Women.

ZWICK, JILL (1981-87). Republican from Dundee; served in House. She majored in business at Bradley and Roosevelt Universities. She was a member of the Kane County Board and co-chaired the Illinois Women’s Political Caucus. She was a founding member of the Republican Women’s Round Table; a member of the executive board of the Elgin and Dundee Republican Women’s Clubs; and Dundee United Way president in 1989 and campaign Chairperson in 1990. She also was Executive Director of the Dundee Area Chamber of Commerce and served on the Illinois State Bar Association’s legislative committee from 1986 to 1993. She was Executive Director of Senator Carol Moseley-Braun’s Chicago office, after being her deputy campaign manager in 1992.
Appendix A: Statistical History of Women in the General Assembly

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<th>Years</th>
<th>House</th>
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<th>Senate</th>
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Appendix A: Statistical History of Women in the General Assembly (cont’d)

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<th>Senate Republicans</th>
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* For these years, each woman who served in the General Assembly was counted regardless of whether she was elected or appointed. Due to this, in several cases a seat is counted more than once in the same General Assembly.
† As of March 11, 2019.

Sources: Compiled by Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability from House and Senate Journals, *Handbook of the Illinois Legislature*, and *Illinois Blue Book* for various years, and General Assembly Internet site.