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

The founding members were then:

1. Rep. Mary Landrieu (former United States Senator of Louisiana)
2. Rep. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco (former Governor of Louisiana)
4. Rep. Diana Bajoie (later became a state senator and President Pro Tempore of the Louisiana Senate)
History—Firsts for Women in the Louisiana Legislature

1936--Senator Doris Lindsey Holland
- First woman elected to the Louisiana Senate
- Selected by the La. Democratic Executive Committee
- 21st Senatorial District
- Upon husband’s death was selected

1940--Representative Doris Lindsey Holland
- First woman elected to the Louisiana House simultaneously with Rep. Beatrice Hawthorne Moore
- Elected to the House
- Because of small district and less travel
- St. Helena Parish

1940--Representative Beatrice Hawthorne Moore
- First woman elected to the Louisiana House simultaneously with Rep. Doris Lindsey Holland
- Caddo Parish
History—Firsts for Women in the Louisiana Legislature

1971 – Representative Dorothy Mae Taylor
- First African American woman elected to the House of Representatives
- First woman to serve as chairperson of a committee in the Louisiana Legislature
- Orleans Parish

1976 – Senator Diana Bajoie
- First woman elected as President Pro Tempore of the Louisiana Senate
- Woman legislator who served the longest in the Louisiana Legislature from 1976 to 2008
- Orleans Parish
History—Firsts for Women in the Louisiana Legislature

1992 – Senator Sharon Weston Broome
  • First woman elected as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Louisiana House
  • First woman to serve in both positions of Speaker Pro Tempore of the Louisiana House and President Pro Tempore of the Louisiana Senate
  • East Baton Rouge Parish

1992 – Representative Shirley Bowler
  • First Republican woman elected to the Louisiana Legislature
  • Jefferson Parish

2000 – Representative Nita Rusich Hutter
  • First Republican woman to serve as a chairperson of a committee in the Louisiana Legislature along with Rep. Kay Kellogg Katz
  • St. Bernard Parish
History—Firsts for Women in the Louisiana Legislature

2000 – Representative Kay Kellogg Katz
• First Republican woman to serve as a chairperson of a committee in the Louisiana Legislature along with Rep. Nita Rusich Hutter
• Ouachita Parish

2010 – Representative Helena Moreno
• First Hispanic woman elected to the Louisiana Legislature
• Orleans Parish

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

Mission:
Our mission is to: (1) prepare the next generation of women leaders and (2) serve as the premiere voice and leading monitor of issues, legislation and policies, which impact women.
Women’s Caucus Officers 2018-2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Member at Large**
Rep. Barbara Norton
Shreveport, District 3
Women’s Caucus Members

Sen. Yvonne Colomb
Baton Rouge, District 14

Sen. Karen Carter Peterson
New Orleans, District 5

Rep. Paula Davis
Baton Rouge, District 69

Rep. Mary DuBuisson
Slidell, District 90

Rep. Julie Emerson
Carencro, District 39

Rep. Stephanie Hilferty
New Orleans, District 94

Rep. Dorothy Sue Hill
Dry Creek, District 32

Rep. Valarie Hodges
Denham Springs, District 64
Women’s Caucus Members (Continued)

Rep. Dodie Horton
Haughton, District 9

Rep. Nancy Landry
Lafayette, District 31

Rep. Denise Marcelle
Baton Rouge, District 61

Rep. Pat Moore
Monroe, District 17

Rep. Patricia Haynes Smith
Baton Rouge, District 67

Rep. Julie Stokes
Kenner, District 79

Rep. Malinda White
Bogalusa, District 75
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasians</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanics</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Women in the Legislature:</td>
<td></td>
<td>15.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 out of 144</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage in House</td>
<td>18 out of 105</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage in Senate</td>
<td>5 out of 39</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women Serving in the Louisiana Legislature 1981 to Present

Number

Year

Series1
Term-Limited Members 2016-2020

Sen. Yvonne Dorsey Colomb
Baton Rouge, District 14

Rep. Dorothy Sue Hill
Dry Creek, District 32

Rep. Nancy Landry
Lafayette, District 31

Rep. Barbara Norton
Shreveport, District 3

Rep. Patricia Haynes Smith
Baton Rouge, District 67
### Term Limit Data within the Women’s Caucus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasians</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women in the Legislature Term Limited:
5 out of 144 (House-4 and Senate-1)
Initiatives through the Louisiana Legislative Women’s Caucus Foundation:

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

LLWC Foundation Website:
www.llwcf.org
Top Issues of the Women’s Caucus

• Healthcare
• Education
• Economic Development
• Childcare
• Domestic Violence
• Small Business
• Insurance
# Women in Elective Office – Historical Summary

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

Source: Center for American Women in Politics (Rutgers University)
Men in Elective Office – Historical Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US Congress</th>
<th><strong>Corinne “Lindy” Claiborne Boggs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Catherine S. Long</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Boggs won a special election to replace her husband and was then re-elected.**

**Long won a special election to fill a vacancy.**

Source: Center for American Women in Politics (Rutgers University)
## Women in Elective Office – Historical Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide Elective Offices</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Blanco</td>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>2004-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzanne Haik Terrell</td>
<td>Commissioner of Elections</td>
<td>2000-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Blanco</td>
<td>Lieutenant Governor</td>
<td>1996-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melinda Schwegmann</td>
<td>Lieutenant Governor</td>
<td>1992-1995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for American Women in Politics (Rutgers University)
## Women in Elective Office – Historical Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide Elective Offices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mary L. Landrieu</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Treasurer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1987-1995</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Simultaneously won a special election to complete an unexpired term and a regular election.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mary Evelyn Parker</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Treasurer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1968-1987</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Retired in January 1987.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for American Women in Politics (Rutgers University)
### Statewide Elective Offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucille May Grace</td>
<td>Register of State Lands</td>
<td>1931-1951; 1956-1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Was initially appointed to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband. Mrs. Grace died while serving in office in 1957.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Lee Grosjean</td>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
<td>1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appointed to fill a vacancy</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Office Information:
Louisiana Legislative Women’s Caucus
Post Office Box 44188
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4188
Phone: 225.342.0334
Fax: 225.377.2261
Website: llwc.louisiana.gov
E-mail: llwc@legis.la.gov
LLWC Foundation Website: www.llwcf.org