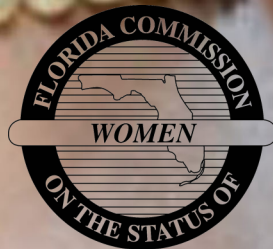




*Political Pearls:  
A Comprehensive Analysis on  
Florida Women in Public Office*

**Florida Commission on  
the Status of Women**

**2010 Annual Report**







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January 2011

Dear Florida Citizen:

Welcome to the Florida Commission on the Status of Women's Report "*Political Pearls: A Comprehensive Analysis on Florida Women in Public Office*". Women in politics have made tremendous achievements and progress over the years, but women continue to face challenges when running as candidates or serving as public officials. Looking at the research provided herein, this issue demands a closer eye in determining what continues to hold more women from running and attaining a seat in Florida's public office. Therefore, it is our sincere desire that this information impacts more women in acting as a catalyst in increasing women's interest and ambition to enter the exciting world of politics. This report highlights the issues and challenges specific to women candidates and women public officials, while also providing information, resources and statistical representation of women currently serving as Florida's public officials.

Pursuant to Section 14.24, Florida Statutes, the Florida Legislature mandates the Commission to study the changing and developing roles of women in American society, including the implementation of recommendations to improve working conditions, financial security, and the legal status of both sexes. Thus, the mission of the Commission is to empower and encourage women from all walks of life, to utilize their capabilities and assume leadership roles. In keeping with these requirements, the Florida Commission on the Status of Women has created this report in hope of bringing the equitable inclusion of women throughout Florida's government.

We hope this report helps inspire more girls and women to participate in Florida's exhilarating government. It is time to recognize that behind every strand of pearls lies a woman that has led and can continue to lead our beautiful sunshine state.

Sincerely,

Susanne Hebert  
FCSW Chair

Nancy C. Acevedo  
Annual Report Committee Chair

## Acknowledgments

***The Florida Commission on the Status of Women, is dedicated to empowering women in achieving their fullest potential, to eliminating barriers to that achievement, and to recognizing women's accomplishments.***

**The Florida Commission on the Status of Women (FCSW)** is grateful to the many individuals whose knowledge and dedication to Florida's women made this report possible.

This document is a compilation of research compiled and edited by FCSW Graduate Intern Veronica Vasquez. Her diligence and dedication to the work of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women made this publication possible. The cover art was beautifully created by Andrea C. Vasquez of Florida State University.

A special note of appreciation goes to the FCSW Annual Report Committee for their input and guidance of this project: Susanne Hebert, Commission Chair; Nancy C. Acevedo, Annual Report Committee Chair; Laura McLeod Laurie Pizzo; and Claudia Kirk Barto.

For their contributions throughout the creation of this report, FCSW employees, Juanita Williams, Kimberly Mehr, Michele S. Manning, and Kelly S. Sciba, APR, are thanked. FCSW would also like to extend our gratitude to Governor Charlie Crist, the Florida Cabinet and Legislature and the Office of the Attorney General for your continued support of the Commission and making this publication possible.

This report is dedicated to all of the women who have dedicated themselves to public service and have emboldened other women to seek public office.

## Executive Summary

Male and female candidates are perceived to bring different personal qualities to the world of politics. The shared perception is that men are natural born leaders, bringing assertiveness and aggressiveness to elected office, while women are considered too soft or too tough and constantly having to prove their ability to lead. With only a small number of women ever considering running for office, the percentage of women serving in elective offices in Florida continues to grow slowly. Women have recently made dramatic gains in electoral politics, however, many overlook what women can bring to public service. With more women elected to public office, Florida can bring real life experiences, unique and different perspective, and finally become equally represented in the political life of our nation.



This report has three goals: 1) to analyze and disseminate information about women's progress in Florida's electoral politics; 2) to identify and measure the remaining barriers; and 3) provide continued monitoring of women's progress in electoral politics. The number of women serving in public office varies tremendously across states. As one of the few states to track women's participation and progress in holding local elected office, this report will focus on Florida and seek to understand why the inclusion of women in government has slowly progressed.

Using data from a wide range of sources, we understand the pathway to politics for women is critical. Given their credentials, women are still less likely to view themselves as Florida's political leaders. Obstacles to advancing women's political empowerment springs from the lack of recruitment and resources women often need in order to run for office. As long as women continue to view politics as a man's domain, women will continue to decide not to run for office simply because they feel they are not ready or do not fit the 'political mold'. Recruitment and resources are important in securing women that they can achieve a position in Florida's government by providing inspiration, encouragement and the right training.

This report will also conduct the state's second comprehensive study of women as elected public officials in Florida's government. *Political Pearls: A Comprehensive Analysis on Florida Women in Public Office* serves as a reminder how far women have come to have their voices heard and how much more women still need to do to reach political parity. With Floridians becoming more and more accepting of the idea of women as politicians, 2012 may be the year we see more strands of pearls in Florida's exciting electoral process.

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# ***PART I: Cracking the Door Open: How Women Entered the Political World***

*"America may be slow to rise to a challenge. But our history has shown that once we make up our minds to really do something, nothing can stand in our way."*



— **Carrie P. Meek**

*First African American Female Elected to the Florida State Senate*



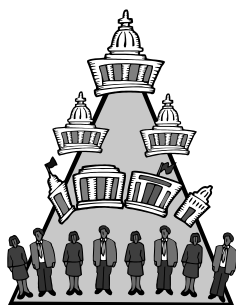
## Introduction

Running for elective office may be daunting, the process complex, and the experience intimidating but one still questions what the true barriers are that make it hard for women and girls to think of themselves as politicians. With only 537,000 elective offices nationwide, only a take on the challenge to run for office. Of those few, only a minuscule number of women ever take on such an arduous task today. While only a small amount of women ever consider running, the growing numbers of women serving public offices continues to gradually grow. The purpose of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women's Report, *Political Pearls: A Comprehensive Analysis on Florida Women in Public Office* is to examine the numerical representation of women in public office in Florida. This report will do the following:

- Briefly examine women's history in Florida and the public attitude women face when running for office.
- Explore women's stereotypes and the structural obstacles women face when seeking public office.
- Analyze the reasons women run and the many roles they play as mother, wife and politician.
- Assess the prognosis of a woman's political identity: political experience, education, age and political ambition.
- Comprehensively review the statistical report on the profiles of women serving in higher offices in Florida.
- Identify and explain the elements that persistently prevent more women from running for office.
- Look at the representation of women in public office across states.
- Illuminate and suggest remedies for discrimination women may face as candidates or in public office.
- Uncover the support Florida has to offer to potential women candidates.
- Provide suggestions for increasing the number of women in public office and propose ideas in an attempt to increase women and girls' interest in elected office.

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By researching the multifaceted issues affecting women's growth in the political world, this report hopes to illuminate and suggest remedies for barriers women may face as candidates or elected public officials. The Florida Commission on the Status of Women created this report not only to highlight the political challenges specific to women, but to also give women some basic tools to overcome these challenges by reaching out to more women in Florida in hope of getting them more involved in elective politics. Therefore, this issue necessitates closer examination in order to recognize that behind every strand of pearls lies a great leader of our state and lies a woman who can lead.

### **Background**

Historically, women have faced significant barriers and disadvantages when running for office. Winning voter approval also presented a challenge, but in recent years women have made enormous strides. Nonetheless, women are still far from enjoying gender equality in the political arena. The need to encourage more women to become candidates continues and although past studies have identified important explanations for women's underrepresentation in elective office, these studies have only partially explained why men still continue to outnumber women as candidates. Unfortunately, this situation is not unique to Florida.

Florida is currently the 4th most populous of states and the fastest growing state. In 1970, 51.7 percent of Florida's population were women. In 2009, according to Florida's census, Florida's population of women comprised of 50.9%. Table 1.1 depicts Florida's statistical demographics of women along with comparing it to that of the United States. Florida is among the few states to track women's participation and progression in elected office.

Women in Florida have historically had to fight their way into elected office. In 1929, Ruth Bryan Owen of Miami became the first woman from Florida to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Owen was also the first woman elected to congress from a southern state. Additionally, in 1980, Paula Hawkins became the first, and still only, woman from Florida

*(Continued on page 9)*

**Table: 1.1 Basic Demographic Statistics for Florida and the United States**

	Florida	United States
<b>Total Population (2009)</b>	18,537,969	307,006,550
<b>Number of Women</b>	9,269,174	152,925,887
<b>Percent of Female Population</b>	50.9%	50.7%
<b>Median Age of All Women</b>	39.7	36.5
<b>Proportion of Women Over Age 65</b>	16.9%	12.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

(Continued from page 8)

elected to the U.S. Senate and also the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate in her own right, without a husband or father preceding her in politics. In view of Florida’s progress, Florida reflects both the advances and limitations achieved by women in government. Florida currently ranks 20th out of the 50 states in total percentages of women in the state legislature. In this election cycle, Florida elected the state’s first African-American female Lieutenant Governor and Florida’s first female Attorney General in 2010. Florida still waits for the state’s first female Governor.

The number of women holding political office in Florida has grown substantially over the years; however, women in the Sunshine State are still not running at the rates one expects, given their credentials. The ratification of the 19th Amendment granting universal suffrage to women, proved women’s ambition and fight. Thus, in order to shed light on why women are slowly entering into politics we must look at Florida’s history.

*In 1929, Ruth Bryan Owen become Florida’s (and the South’s) first woman representative in the United States Congress and later became the first woman to hold a major diplomatic post when she was appointed by President Roosevelt as minister to Denmark in 1933. She held that post until 1936, when her marriage to a Dane and resulting dual citizenship made her ineligible to serve.*



Ruth Bryan Owen  
1885-1954

## The Age of Women

### Brief History of Women Candidates



Since the ratification of the 19th Amendment gave women the right to fully participate in the political system, women have gradually increased their interest in all levels of government. Prior to its passage, this was not the case. History gives bare mention of the progress women made throughout individual states. In Florida, for example, traditional attitudes limited women's opportunities and lists of elected officials included very few women in the earlier years. Likewise, women were considered second-class citizens economically and politically. Women were limited and Florida was among some of the southern states binding women to traditional roles.

Southern states, particularly, were the most resilient to granting women the right to vote and against ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment (Carver 1974). In fact, the 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920 without the support of Florida (Ellis and Hawks 1987). Neither of the chambers of the Florida Legislature voted for the ratification of the 19th amendment (Florida Memory). Florida women worked hard to acquire the right to vote. Another half century passed before Florida took action when on May 13, 1969, the Florida Senate and House of Representative passed the ratification of the 19th Amendment and was approved on May 22 (Florida Memory). With the addition of the 19th amendment to the Constitution, Florida newspapers were divided, some supporting the action and others seeing the ratification as an intrusion into the rights of states (Morris 1985).

The years 1890 to 1920 marked the political awakening of women in Florida. Despite little achievement by women during 1920 to 1960, the first woman, Edna Giles Fuller, was elected to state legislature in 1928, Ruth Bryan Owen served in the House of Representatives from 1929 to 1933 and Mamie Eaton Green was a Railroad Commissioner from 1927 to 1934 (Carver 1974). Three women were elected to the Florida House in the wake of the 1963 reapportionment of the Florida Legislature and for the first time in Florida history, Beth Johnson was elected to the Senate (Carver 1974). Florida women have played important roles as voters and office holders on every political level in Florida and the nation.

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Women, traditionally, have been heavily influenced by how the public views them when stepping outside their gender roles. While women have been outsiders in politics and struggled to gain a seat in public office, women are still being held back by public attitudes. In order to determine the public attitude of today's society, one must understand the attitudes toward women in politics and the attitudes towards the proper role for women. A public that still views a woman's place as outside of politics is unlikely to vote for any women candidates and women and girls find it hard to view themselves as politicians.

### **Public Attitudes on Women in Politics**

The long-held belief that politics is an inappropriate activity for women continues to plague female candidates today. The public attitude of women entering into the inner world of politics is still looked down on simply because politics is inconsistent with the gender roles to which women were assigned. Women interested in politics face numerous barriers, limiting their ambition or the hierarchy of political offices. After many years of progress, the attitudes of the public shows how society is still finding it hard to let go of the norm that politics is a man's domain. However, when it comes to honesty and intelligence, the public believes women have the right characteristics to be political leaders.

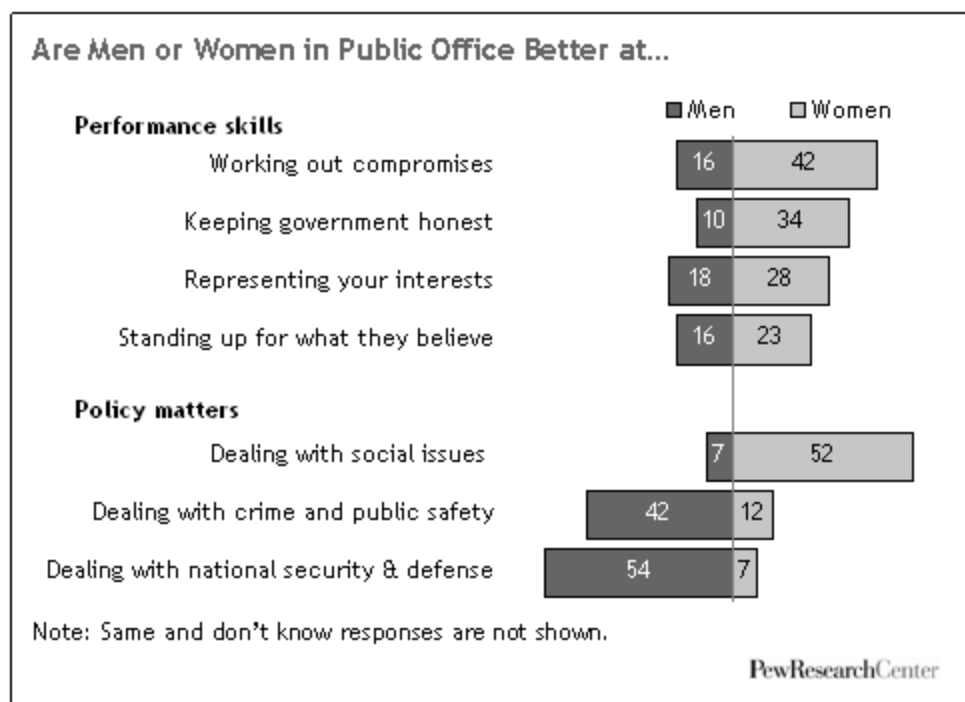
This paradox in public attitudes seems to divide modern society on the subject of gender in electoral politics. What public attitudes are not saying is that while women may have what it takes to be political leaders, they are still not being viewed as politicians. A major reason for this is that traditional family roles have been shown to be impediments to women's advancement in elected office. Alternatively, we should consider how the public views men and women in terms of policy and performance skills. Table 1.2 depicts what men and women are better at according to public attitudes.



*In 1957, Beth Johnson was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. Johnson served as a representative until 1962 and was subsequently elected as the first woman State Senator in Florida, serving until 1967.*

*(Continued on page 12)*

**Table 1.2**



Source: Pew Research Center

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Public attitudes of women in politics continue to be a major roadblock for women who desire to enter into the political arena. On the policy side, women are widely judged to be better than men when dealing with social issues such as health and education. According to Table 1.2, the public views women to generally make better political leaders than men. Despite the research, Florida’s government reveals a completely different story when analyzing the statistical representation of female elected officials. Thus, to determine public attitudes towards women in politics, it is crucial to examine attitudes about stereotypes. Only then can we uncover a layer to the problem on why few female elected officials represent Florida.

**Stereotypes: Common and Contradictory**

Sentiments about women in a political capacity, of course, have undergone an evolution that is still not fully completed. For much of the twentieth century, political lives of women have been relegated to the sidelines and positions of support, by which means, women were not considered to have the right temperament or ability to make important decision required of those with a political role. Long-standing cultural assumptions

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about the roles of women continue to divide the world into a traditionalist and modernist view of women and the potential role of candidate. The public attitude looks at women and men in stereotypical ways, keeping a keen eye on female and male candidates. These stereotyped assessments of political candidates have left many female candidates deciding whether to run their campaign 'as a woman' or choosing to 'appear more masculine' by emphasizing male qualities and incorporating a masculine leadership style. Women's campaign styles suggest that women candidates still have to deal with sex and gender baggage after many years.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Florida was a traditional southern state and women's roles in society were carefully defined. In 1915, Florida Congressman Frank Clark expressed this common attitude: "Let us then leave women where is—the loveliest of all creation, queen of the household" (Ellis and Hawks 1987). As implied, for much of U.S. history, women were assigned the roles of wife, mother, homemaker and caregiver, resulting in the assumption that female candidates typically and instinctively model women characteristics- warm, gentle, kind, and passive- voters will continue to remain reluctant to support female candidates with such qualities. These distinctions between female and male traits conjure up conjecture that running 'as a woman' one is more inclined to be stereotyped as the 'typical woman', emotional, passive, thin-skinned, etc. Female candidates can lose an advantage by running as a 'female' candidate by presenting their interests and abilities as 'feminine issues' and focusing on their appearance, creating negative public perceptions of female candidates as a whole. (Wolbrecht *et al.* 2008).

Women politicians, on the other hand, choosing to run their campaign by burnishing 'masculine traits' are entering into a modernist tradition by displaying a contradictory mixture of feminine and masculine qualities. Despite women's growing divergence into the inner world of politics, female candidates are working harder to win over male voters by displaying a surge of male/masculine traits. With typical 'masculine' characteristics, female candidates gain more advantage from being perceived as tough, aggressive, assertive and independent than appearing too feminine. Consequently, female candidates with typical male personality traits or competence of a typical 'male' will have an



*In 2011, Jennifer Carroll became the First African American and the first woman elected to serve as Lieutenant Governor.*

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Of note:

- *Condoleezza Rice is the First African-American woman appointed Secretary of State*
- *Nikki Haley is the first woman of Indian descent to become elected governor in America*
- *Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, selected by Senator John McCain as his vice presidential running mate, became the first woman on a national GOP ticket.*

electoral advantage when running for office (Huddy and Terkildesen 1993). The adoption of this modernist view has created a divergence by encouraging the public attitude that 'women' are not ready for political spotlight. This implies that female candidates need to acquire more masculine qualities when running. As a result, the vestiges of traditional gender roles and expectations continue to inhibit women from considering whether or not they should seek elective office, creating structural barriers.

### Structural Barriers

Women may find it difficult to break into electoral office because structural barriers form obstacles in achieving a higher numerical representation in elected office. Previous studies have identified structural barriers that partially explain why men continue to outnumber women as candidates. There are three overarching structural barriers that prevent women from achieving success in electoral politics: incumbency, outsider status, and candidate eligibility pool (Sanbonmatsu 2003).

#### Incumbency

The formidable power of incumbency has discouraged women from running for office. Women's likelihood of winning influences whether or not they decide to run, a decision often overlooked by male candidates. Running against an incumbent is a detriment to the likelihood of winning, decreases and discourages potential female candidates from running for office. Incumbency is an important barrier facing women today. Once a candidate wins and becomes an office holder, that candidate becomes an incumbent, having substantial advantages over new candidates. Women, for that matter, have a harder time winning seats due to most incumbents being men. Table 1.3 A & B present the alarming numerical power of incumbency within Florida's Legislature.

It is no surprise that in both legislative houses, most candidates who won their seats did so by winning a seat as an incumbent. Eleven women in the House ran as an incumbent in contested elections while six ran in uncontested elections. In the Senate,

(Continued on page 16)



**Table 1.3 A & B: How Women Got Elected Into the Florida Legislature 2010 Election**

**A. Florida House of Representatives**

<b>Type of Election</b>		<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>
	Contested	42% (11)	45% (42)
<b>Incumbents</b>	Uncontested	23%(6)	21% (20)
<b>New Members</b>	Open Seat	27% (7)	30% (28)
	Defeated Incumbent	8% (2)	4% (4)
	House Total	100% (26)	100% (94)

**B. Florida Senate**

<b>Type of Election</b>		<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>
	Contested	8% (1)	15% (4)
<b>Incumbents</b>	Uncontested	15%(2)	11% (3)
	Not Up for Re-election	23%(3)	30% (8)
<b>New Members</b>	Open Seat	54% (7)	41% (11)
	Defeated Incumbent	0% (0)	0% (0)
	House Total	100% (13)	100% (26)

*Findings are based on uncertified election results from November 2, 2010, Florida Division of Elections.*

(Continued from page 14)



In 1970, Gwen Sawyer Cherry became the First African American woman ever to serve in the Florida House of Representatives.

only one female incumbent ran in a contested election and two ran in uncontested elections. Women, therefore, benefit from term limits because it creates more open seats.

### Outsider Status

The second major barrier to women's political success is 'outsider' status. Outsider status keeps women out of politics because women have been socialized away from entering a male-dominated field. Since, historically, women have been restricted from having a career in politics, women are still finding it hard to think of themselves as politicians simply because they do not depict the experience or backgrounds normally pertaining to the role. Therefore, women believe they are minimally qualified for a political career. Lack of confidence and the belief that men are far more politically prepared than women has removed women from the inner world of politics, leaving them with an outsider status. To understand women's reluctance to run for an electoral campaign, one must understand the perceptual process that women subconsciously go through at the very moment they are faced with the decision of whether or not to seek elective office. The perceptual process of an 'outsider status' follows this sequence:

Following Figure 1.4, it is evident that women believe they lack a greater sense of political efficacy, competence and confidence when thinking of being a political figure. Given the 'outsider'

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### Figure 1.4: Perceptual Process of Entering Political Risks

Socialized and assigned gender roles still inhibits women today (stimulus) → Politics is a "man's game" (belief/perception) → Image of facing numerous barriers (thought) → Disdain, internal conflicts, and failure (feeling) → Refusal and reluctance to run for public office (action).

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status, women who ever consider running are faced with an enormous amount of doubt and in the end abandon the idea of ever considering running for a political office.

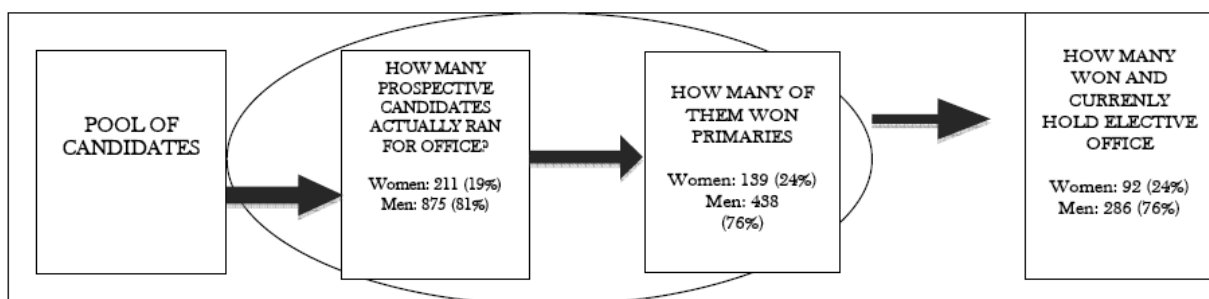


**Candidate Eligibility Pool**

The third major barrier to women’s political success is the candidate eligibility pool. The candidate eligibility pool is one of the major factors that determine the success of candidates that run for office. Thus, the candidate eligibility pool depicts a pool of initial prospective candidates (Lawless and Fox 2010). Figure 1.5 depicts Florida candidates and their progress to elected office. Of the pool of candidates (1st step) on the 2010 ballots, only 211 women considered a candidacy and ran for office (2nd step). The third step of the candidate emergence process is how many women won primaries. One hundred thirty nine women were qualified and won primaries. Of those women, only 92 women won the general election and currently hold office.

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**Figure 1.5: Prospective Candidates on The 2010 Election Ballot In Florida**



Findings are based on uncertified election results from November 2, 2010, Florida Division of Elections.

*(Continued from page 17)*



*Congresswoman Sandra "Sandy" Adams was the first woman to preside over the opening day of Session in Florida House in 2009.*

## **What Makes Women Run**

Attending fundraisers, dealing with party officials, meeting constituents, dealing with the press and engaging in time consuming and combative campaigns sounds rigorous and according to past research, women are less likely to be attracted to this stressful side of politics (Law 2004). While women consider many more factors when thinking about running for office than men, we continue to see more strands of pearls than ever before in Florida's government. Despite the growing number of political optimism, the number of women candidates continues to remain low. To understand women's level of willingness to enter the electoral arena, we seek to understand women's political optimism and what drives women towards elected office in the past and currently.

Historically, women have slowly entered into various elected offices at a local and state level by either the widow tradition or through the sacrificial lamb candidacies. In such a delicate time, when women were starting to see the political door crack open, both forces shaped women's political experiences in running for and serving in elected office. Most of the women that entered the political world in the past, gained their office through the 'widow tradition'. The 'widow tradition' refers to the tradition that a woman, a 'widow' in this case, serve out the term of her husband who had died while holding an elected political position. This of course was accepted by public attitudes because widows would be serving out the term of their late husband's work, not really seeking political power in their own right but rather seeing it through in their husband's name (Dolan 2004). In serving out their term as 'political widows', appointed widows understood that once her term was over, they would not seek reelection in their own right. Thus, serving as a 'political widow' allowed the public to view women as candidates.

Another method of entry for many women into politics has been referred to as the 'sacrificial lamb'. The sacrificial lamb refers to nominating women candidates who have little to no chance of winning political office in order to secure the party's preferred

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candidate to win. Women, in addition, were recruited as sacrificial lambs where the candidate of the opposing party is most certainly to win the general election. Thus, by utilizing women as sacrificial lambs, women pose as pawns to help more male candidates attain winnable seats. Women are nominated not as potential candidates for seats they are to win but rather for seats they do not expect to win. Given these two methods, women today enter into politics differently.

Given the obstacles, some women today run for office because they were either introduced to politics at a young age by their parents being involved or because of some personal experience, often the desire to create change within public policy. Ruth Bryan Owen, Florida's First woman representative in U.S. Congress, is an example of being introduced to politics at a young age. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Florida's youngest elected official, ran for office because of her personal experience with politics, working with a Florida House member while being a graduate student. As a result, women, as you might have already suspected, have this misconception that you have to have credentials or experience to run for office. Therefore, the lack of experience is another reason why few women take the plunge and run for elected office.

*Of the first fourteen women elected to Congress (between 1916 and 1932) six were widows of incumbents, and three were daughters of famous political men.*



*In 1972, Paula Hawkins became the first woman elected to statewide office in Florida by winning a seat on the Florida Public Service Commission, and later became the first woman ever elected to a full term in the Senate without a family connection, in 1980. As of 2011, Hawkins is the only woman elected to the U.S. Senate from Florida.*

## ***PART II: Behind A Woman's Pearls: The Long Road Down A Path Called Politics***

*"I believe that a woman's place is in the home. But I believe that the modern mother considers the world her home. The community in which she lives and the children grow is her home and for that reason she should assure herself of the opportunity of getting good government."*



**– Representative Ruth Bryan Owen**

Florida's First Woman U.S. Representative, 1929–1933

## Mother, Wife, Candidate: A Woman's Political Identity



Politicians with progressive ambition will not hesitate to climb the career ladder by running for more desirable and prestigious offices. When faced with the opportunity to run for higher office, some women will leave the security of their current seat to pursue a higher office. Thus, women who overcome barriers to win an elective seat are just as career driven as their male counterparts. Like men, women are strategic about deciding whether or not to run for higher-level office, often taking into consideration the cost of running, the probability of winning, the value of the level of office and whether or not she is in fact a 'risk taker'. As a result, the analysis in this section is designed to explain the political identity of the few women who currently hold a higher-level elective office and closely look at their political identity in peeling the layers away from some of Florida's ambitious political pearls.

### Modern Family: The Political Mom and Wife

Women political candidates are constantly portrayed in a negative light for juggling too many tasks at once. Many women are reluctant to run for office simply because of the belief that the political woman cannot be a good mom, a good wife or an effective leader without sacrificing one or the other. The accusations many women fear the most is being called and portrayed as a 'bad' mother and/or a 'bad' wife; therefore elective politics is not attractive to many women. While some women shy away from the spotlight, few women take on the challenge to show that political women can have a family, a modern family. The few women currently serving in today's higher-level elected offices prove that there is such a thing as a modern family: the political mom and wife.

Historically, female political spouses have admirably stood at their husbands' sides, but with recent role reversals, more husbands are standing by the sides of their political wives. With these changes, the political wife gets more questions regarding whether or not their husbands mind their juggling act moreso than male candidates get asked about their wives. Table 2.1 depicts the marital status of the female politicians currently

*(Continued on page 22)*

*"Many women are reluctant to run for office simply because of the belief that the political woman cannot be a good mom, a good wife or an effective leader without sacrificing one or the other."*

(Continued from page 21)

serving. Of the forty-seven female politicians currently elected to serve in higher-level office, 31 of these women are political wives.

**Figure 2.1: Prospective Candidates on the 2010 Election Ballot In Florida**

Marital Status	U.S. House	State Executive	State Senate	State House	Total
Married	4	1	8	19	32
Divorced	-	-	1	1	2
Widowed	1	-	1	2	4
Single	1	1	3	5	10
Total	6	2	13	27	48

Findings are based on uncertified election results from November 2, 2010, Florida Division of Elections.

Ten female members are single and four of the 47 women elected this year are widowed. As Table 2.1 reveals, most women in every office are married. It is quite possible that the husbands of those women who do achieve office are encouraging the political aspirations of their wives rather than hindering their political ambition. As a result, whenever the participation of women is examined outside of their political office, the demands of family life are invoked as inhibitors to the political activity of women. Tradition has assigned women to the care of husband, children and household, and the family characteristics of women in office are often brought to light.

Just as the 'typical' political woman is married, she is also a mother. As mothers, women are just as highly scrutinized for not being home with their children as putting their career before their husbands. Women resist the idea of running for office simply because they feel an added responsibility to protect their families from the media and public criticism. The loss of privacy becomes the political mother's concern.

Additionally, women are persistently portrayed in personal terms, presenting a problem for women candidates when their maternal roles are examined, leaving many to fear that the

(Continued on page 23)





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political women may neglect their maternal responsibilities in seeking office. The public is in constant apprehension when concerned of the balancing roles of candidates and mothers when running their campaign. The youngest elected to the Florida Legislature, at the age of twenty-six in 1992, and now the mother of three, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz discovered her role as a mother would be under constant public scrutiny when running for elected office:

*Sometime ago, I did have a Republican woman opponent who had no chance of winning, but the whole theme of her campaign was that I was a bad mother. She had it on TV and in commentaries, saying that she was fifty-eight and I was thirty-seven years young and that I had twins and an infant, and she would spit out that there was no way that I could be a good member of Congress and a good mother. At candidate forums, I had one audience member say, "How are you going to do it, Debbie?" I have been doing it. My twins were born in 1999 when I was in the State House, and I was nine months pregnant on the last day of the legislative session when Shelby was born. So I said, Let me tell you how I am going to answer that question if you would tell that it was OK to ask a man with young children the same question when he was a candidate for Congress. I think it is really important that policy makers be living with the same situations as the constituents they represent.*

Male candidates, as Congresswoman Schultz points out, do not have to deal with voter concerns regarding neglecting his family responsibilities when running. In widespread fear of being questioned of whether or not political women can be good mothers while seeking high-powered careers, women are reluctant to run for office and in the end refuse to do so. Nevertheless, the few women who currently hold elected office have shown that female candidates can 'do it all', simply combining career and family. The political woman has learned to juggle being a mom, a wife, and a devoted leader. Despite the



*In 1992, at the age of 26, Debbie Wasserman Schultz became the youngest female legislator in the state's history and the first female to lead the Democratic National Committee.*

(Continued on page 24)

(Continued from page 23)

public's interest on the marital status and the motherhood of women in office, their varied lifestyle strikingly resembles that of the Florida's population of women. Thus, political women can and have successfully shown that the modern family does exist and can help better serve our state and nation in the end.



Seminole County Commissioner Brenda K. Carey was the first woman elected to serve in the new millennium in the county.

### Political Experience and Nature of Office Holding

Table 2.2 Political Experience of Women Elected to Public Office 2011

	Number of Women
U.S. Congress	
Prior Elective Office Experience	
Elected to Local office	1
Elected to State House of Representatives	1
Elected to State Senate	4
Elected to Statewide office	-
*Lateral Entry	
No Prior Elective Office Experience	-
Statewide Elective Executives	
Prior Elective Office Experience	
Elected to Local office	-
Elected to State House of Representatives	1
Elected to State Senate	-
Elected to Statewide office	-
*Lateral Entry	
No Prior Elective Office Experience	1
State Legislature	
Prior Elective Office Experience	
Elected to Local office	8
Elected to State House of Representatives	10
Elected to State Senate	-
Elected to Statewide office	-
Other Political Experience	
Served in Party Organization	7
*Lateral Entry	
No Prior Elective Office Experience	15

Source: Project Vote Smart-American Government, Elections Candidates

As seen in Table 2.2, of the 48 women who hold higher elected seat, only one woman stepped up to the challenge, in the 2010 election, to run with no prior experience for statewide elective executives; Pam Bondi. Hence, a woman who does not think she is qualified to run for offices is most likely consumed with doubt and therefore has a higher chance of not even considering running for office.

(Continued on page 25)

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**Education**

Officeholders have few requirements and restrictions to which education is not a part. Many women believe that in order to be considered a 'qualified' political candidate one must either have a law degree or a PhD. This fact is best represented in today's wide range of educational backgrounds from women in all levels of office, as shown in Table 2.3.

For example, a woman in Florida's House was elected with only a high school diploma. However, it is not surprising that a total of 13 women have law degrees, while 10 women have a Master's degree. It is perceived that women in office are better educated, and are only elected if they have a higher education. Table 2.3 confirms that a law degree or a higher degree is a prerequisite in order to run for office.

**Table 2.3 Education of Elected Officials In Higher-Level Office in Florida 2011**

Education	U.S House	State Executive	State Senate	State House	Total	%
High School Graduate	-	-	-	1	1	2
Attended College/ University*	-	-	3	4	7	15
B.A	1	-	1	4	6	13
B.S	-	-	-	2	2	4
M.A.	3	1	2	4	10	21
M.S.	-	-	1	1	2	4
M.B.A.	-	-	-	3	3	6
LL.M	-	-	-	1	1	2
B.S.C.E.	-	-	-	1	1	2
Ed.D.	-	-	1	-	1	2
Ph.D.	1	-	-	-	1	2
J.D	1	1	5	6	13	27
Total	6	2	13	27	48	100


Source: Project Vote Smart-American Government, Elections Candidates

\*Believed to have attended some years in college or University with no mention of a degree


## Age of Women Elected in Office

The emphasis on the age of women candidates constantly receives attention by the general public. The age of women creates a particular double bind that seems to capture voters' attention. The problem with the focus of female candidate's age is that time is spent asking all the wrong questions about candidates.

For example, time is spent discussing the age of women rather than discussing issues of substance. If a woman's campaign is constantly trivialized by focusing on the age of the female candidate rather than focusing on her ideas and successes, voters will pay less attention to her achievement and less inclined to take her campaign seriously, reverting back to traditional stereotypes. It is then harder for women to get their message across if it is buried beneath all the comments and criticisms regarding their age. Age becomes a double bind, as discussed below; women are trivialized for being too young and criticized for being too old.



*"While young men are perceived as ambitious when running for office, young women candidates are perceived as inexperienced and unviable, and given their youth, expected to be at home raising children."*



While young men are perceived as ambitious when running for office, young women candidates are perceived as inexperienced and unviable, and given their youth, expected to be at home raising children. The double-bind seems to constantly hold young women back from running. Faced with numerous questions about their commitment and their personal life, women often not only have to defend their competence and commitment but they also have to defend their family decisions. For instance, younger candidates face questions about who would look after their children if they were elected into office; questions men never get asked.

If not married or without children, their gender comes into question. Given their young age, young women often face public scrutiny. Women's lack of personal privacy only makes it harder for women to allow society into their personal life in order to run for public office. Therefore, women's underrepresentation can be because women are not encouraged or recruited to run because of fear of a young, married elected leader having children, thereby neglecting her constituents and abandoning her role as mother, wife and politician in front of the public eye. This reasoning best explains why the average age among Florida's elected public officials is over the age of 50. Women in public office are relatively older, and only one woman in the House is under the age of 30, as shown in Table 2.4.

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Women tend to be older than men when they first run for office because women usually wait until their children are grown before they run for office. Older women who are no longer busy with the responsibilities of motherhood and family, are faced with new negative perceptions. Older women are perceived as

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**Table 2.4**

Age of Mother and Number of Children	U.S.	U.S.	State	State	Total
25-34 years	0				-
No Children				1	1
One Child					-
Two Children					-
Three or More Children					-
35-49 years	0				-
No Children				2	2
One Child			2		2
Two Children		1		3	4
Three or More Children		1	1	2	4
50-59 years	0				-
No Children			1	1	2
One Child				1	1
Two Children				2	2
Three or More Children		2	1	7	10
60-69 years	0				-
No Children			1		1
One Child		1		1	2
Two Children			1		1
Three or More Children		1	3	5	9
70- + years	0				-
No Children					-
One Child					-
Two Children			1	1	2
Three or more Children			2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>46</b>

Source: Project Vote Smart-American Government, Elections Candidates

*(Continued from page 27)*

unattractive, menopausal, weak and past their prime (Murray 2010). Older women face being called, 'grandmothers' and skepticism circles around older women because with age comes illness. While older women make up most of the elected seats in Florida, as depicted in Table 2.4, it is no surprise that women in office are older than their male colleagues. Older women candidates have delayed political activity because of their traditional domestic and family responsibilities. Clearly the window of opportunity to which a female politician can build a political career is so narrowly defined for women in an attempt to prevent most women from stepping foot on Florida's political steps.

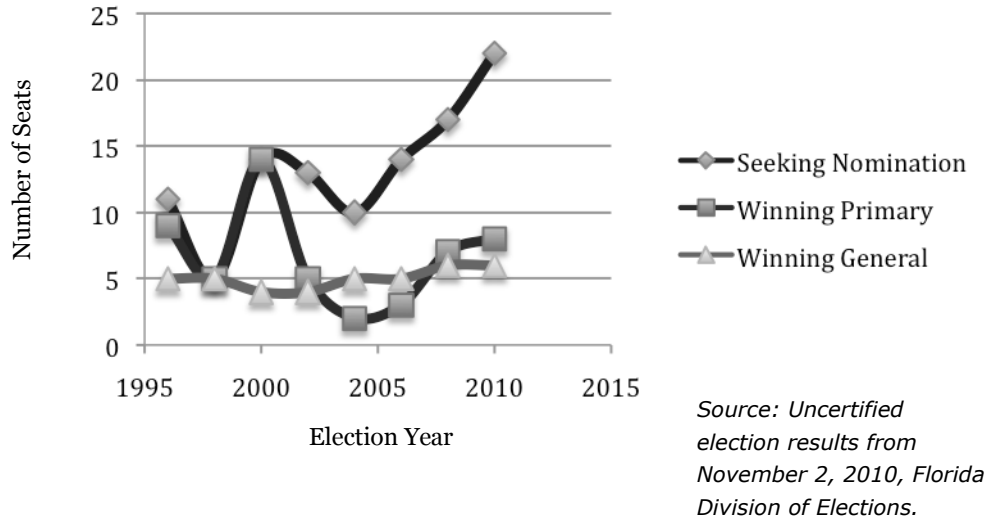
### **Political Ambition of Women in Office**

Campaigns are grueling, often public and tiring. The best explanation as to why any individual would succumb to the unknown aspect of candidacy can best be explained with this saying, 'ambition lies at the heart of politics'. Only those who are willing to enter politics in a very public manner have the ambition to gain political office. While women have generally been found to be less politically ambitious than their male colleagues, women lack ambition because they do not perceive themselves as potential candidates in all levels of public office. Looking back at the women who seek nomination, the women who won the primary and the total women who won the general election in 2010, one can clearly see that political women still lack political ambition. Women still fall short when attempting to climb the political ladder to higher office. Case in point: Figure 2.5 depicts the political ambition of women in the U.S. Congress through the years.

Leaving the security of their seat to run for higher office is a product of ambition and according to Schlesinger's *Ambition and Politics*, in order to explore the political ambitions of women candidates, we must first understand the three types of ambition: discrete, static and progressive (Palmer and Simon 2008). Discrete ambition is referred to an elected public official who only briefly serves and then steps down (Schlesinger 1966). Case in point: two women in Florida's State legislature did not

*(Continued on page 29)*

**Figure: 2.5 Total Numbers of Women In the U.S. Congress, 2011**



(Continued from page 28)

seek reelection, briefly serving and then stepping down. Static ambition, on the other hand, refers to those who are elected to an office and then strive to remain in that position for as long as possible (Schlesinger 1966). For example, 17 women were reelected in Florida’s Legislature. Those 17 women’s ambition can be referred to as static. Progressive ambition, on the other hand, refers to a politician who, after elected to one office, seeks to advance upward in the hierarchy and run for an office perceived as more attractive and prestigious (Schlesinger 1966). For instance, in the U.S. House two women moved up from state legislature into the U.S. House. While the Senate may be more attractive to ambitious politicians, winning a seat is far more difficult for women.

## Women of Color In Public Office



*In 1982, Carrie Meek is the first African American woman elected to the Florida State Senate.*

With the rapid and ongoing expansion of cultural diversity in Florida, the analysis of racial diversity of women currently serving in Florida's public office deserves much attention. Women's overall low representation in politics is not only a dilemma but Florida's low numerical inclusion of women of color is also a pressing problem. We shall then investigate the relationship between race and Florida's electoral politics in this section.

The term 'women of color' was attributed synonymously with black women because of their pioneering and leadership role in expanding the concept of feminist ideology beyond white women. Today, the term is meant to be inclusive, describing and including all women who are not white. Therefore, due to no preferable inclusive term, for the purpose of this report, the usage of 'women of color' is used to refer to African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Caribbean American, Latina/Hispanic, and Native America women as a group. Although the term, 'minority' has been used to include different people of racial differences in the past and still currently used, the term itself is problematic due the growth in diversity of Florida. Florida is a melting pot of various cultures and races, has attracted a number of people born in another country, especially various women from diverse backgrounds.

Being the fourth most populated state, behind California, Texas and New York, Florida is considered among the nation's fastest growing state. In terms of race and ethnicity, the state continues to welcome racial diversity and we continue to see more women of color in our state of Florida. The significance of 'women of color' when compared to Florida and the United States is evident in Table 2.6:

U.S women who are African American accounted for no more than 12.9% while they accounted for 16.1% in Florida. With Spanish being Florida's second most spoken language, it is to no surprise that the second highest racial diversity of women in Florida is Hispanic. With 21.5% representation of Hispanic

*(Continued on page 31)*



**Table: 5.1: Race and Ethnicity in Florida and the United States**

<b>Race And Ethnicity</b>		
<b>All Women</b>	<b>Florida</b>	<b>United States</b>
	50.8%	50.7%
<b>White</b>	79.4%	79.6%
<b>African American</b>	16.1%	12.9%
<b>Hispanic</b>	21.5%	15.8%
<b>Asian American</b>	2.4%	4.6%
<b>Native American</b>	0.5%	1.0%
<b>Other/ Two or More</b>	1.6%	1.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

(Continued from page 30)

women in Florida, the United States accounts for only 15.8% of Hispanic women. Falling behind are, Asian American and Native Americans with a low numerical representation of 2.4% in Florida and 4.6 in the United States for Asian Americans and a even lower account of .5% Native Americans in Florida and 1.0% in the United States.

For political analysis, the difference between women of color elected officials in Florida and the numerical representation of women of color elected officials in the United States is crucial, therefore efforts to distinguish Florida’s racial inequality in politics is vital to understanding the racial imparity of women currently holding elected office in Florida. Table 2.7 on page 32 explores Florida’s current representation of racial imparity in politics by examining the number of ‘women of color’ elected to office in Florida.

Jennifer Carroll is Florida’s first and only ‘women of color’ currently serving in statewide elective office. Of the 6 women representing Florida and serving in the 112<sup>th</sup> U.S Congress, only 3 currently hold a seat in U.S. House that are ‘woman of color’; two African American women and one Latina. Of the 40 women

(Continued on page 32)

**Table: 2.7 Women of Color in Elected Office in Florida and The United States, 2011**

<b>Number of Color Women in Elected Office</b>	<b>Florida</b>	<b>United States</b>
<b>Number of Women in Statewide Executive Elected Office</b>	2	69
<b>Women of Color</b>	1	11
<b>Number of Women in the U.S. Congress:</b>	6	89
<b>U.S. Senate</b>	0 of 2	17 of 100
<b>Women of Color</b>	0	2
<b>U.S. House</b>	6 of 25	72 of 435
<b>Women of Color</b>	3	24
<b>Percent of State Legislators who are women</b>	25.0%	23.6%
<b>Senate</b>	13 of 40	425 of 1,971
<b>Women of Color</b>	3	98
<b>House/ Assembly</b>	27 of 120	1,313 of 5,411
<b>Women of Color</b>	11	250
<b>Total # of Women of Color</b>	18 out of 48	383 out of 1,896
<b>Total % Women of Color</b>	37.5%	20.2%

*Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University*

*(Continued from page 31)*

that currently hold seats in Florida’s Legislature, only 11 are women of color; they include 3 senators and 11 representatives. With much astonishment, only 18, or 37.5% are women of color currently serving in Florida’s government.

While we are aware of the limitations all women generally face in Florida politics, women of color face unique limitations. Women of color face subordination because of cultural patterns of hierarchy, domination, and oppression based on race, class, and gender built into the structure of their society. In spite of these obstacles, women of color are less likely to see themselves as elected officials simply because women of color, for the past

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years, have remained invisible. Little to no literature documents the political path few women of color take to hold elective office. Below is the list of the few women of color that currently hold elected office.

Years have passed since the story of Mrs. Parks giving up her seat and setting in motion the Montgomery bus boycotts, granting her the title 'the first lady of civil rights' by the U.S. Congress. Mrs. Parks had no idea of the role she would play and little did she know of the affect she would have on U.S. history. Her determination, leadership and firm belief not only served as a foundation for her arrest and incarceration, but also gave her a place in American history. Today we still struggle to see more women of color take on such leadership roles. Below you will find the few African American women who have risen to the challenge and currently hold a seat in Florida's government:

**African American (13) -**

Jennifer Carroll	Lieutenant Governor
Rep. Corrine Brown	Congresswomen
Rep. Frederica Wilson	Congresswomen
Senator Arthenia L. Joyner	State Senator
Senator Larcenia J. Bullard	State Senator
Rep. Mia Jones	State Representative
Rep. Geraldine F. Thompson	State Representative
Rep. Betty Reed	State Representative
Rep. Gwendolen Clarke-Reed	State Representative
Rep. Hazelle Rogers	State Representative
Rep. Barbara Watson	State Representative
Rep. Daphne D. Campbell	State Representative
Rep. Cynthia Stafford	State Representative

Following the Census Bureau of Florida's population estimate for 2010, it comes to no surprise that Florida's population of Hispanics continues to grow. Given the continuing growth and diversity of Hispanics in the state of Florida, we continue to see a rather low representation of Hispanic women in Florida's electoral politics. So far, politically, only five Hispanic women

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have taken the challenge representing in one of Florida's public office. With the Hispanic community's continual growth in the state of Florida, Hispanic women continue to fall behind, hardly sending political leaders to represent their unique issues in Florida's local, state and national politics. Below are the few that currently represent the Hispanic community:

<b>Latin American (5) -</b>	
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	Congresswomen
Rep. Anitere Flores	State Senator
Rep. Janet Cruz	State Representative
Rep. Jeanette Nunez	State Representative
Rep. Ana Rivas Logan	State Representative

In essence, the pressing issue for many years has been getting more women in office with little to no mention of women of color representation in Florida's political government. In examining the politics of women of color, it is rather clear of the dire need of this emerging theme in the field of women in politics. Few scholars have been exploring the theme of women of color and their political path to office. Some scholars have suggested that African American and Latina women, in particular come to their candidacies and elected office with a deep root and focus on community, gaining much political skills through their community organizations. With this being said, the focus should not only be on getting more women into politics but also a shared focus on getting more women of color into office in order to gain a political representation of Florida's diverse population.



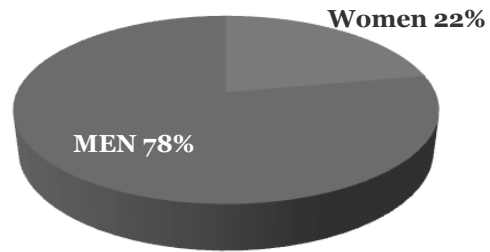
In 1989, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Florida Republican, became the first Hispanic woman and first Cuban American to be elected to Congress. She was elected in August 1989 in a special election and continues to serve.

# Florida Women Candidates

## U.S. Congress

Women currently hold 6 (22 %) of the 27 seats in the 111th U.S. Congress- 0 of the 2 seats in the Senate and 6 seats of the 25 seats in the House of Representatives. Following the November election, no women have held a Senate seat since Paula Hawkins in 1987. The total number of women in the U.S. House of Representatives has meekly dropped by one, with a re-election withdrawal. On a high note, in recent news, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz is considered the first woman elected to lead the Democratic National Committee (DNC) by President Obama. Two women have previously served as chair of the DNC, but both were appointed rather than elected. Florida continues to struggle to see more women enter higher-level offices.

Figure 2.8: U.S. Congress 2011



Source:  
Uncertified  
election results  
from November  
2, 2010, Florida  
Division of  
Elections.

## Florida Women in Congress Throughout The Years

Candidate	Office	Elected
Paula F. Hawkins <sup>1</sup>	Senator	1981-1987
Sandra Adams	Representative	2011-Present
Frederica Wilson	Representative	2011-Present
Kathy Castor	Representative	2007-Present
Debbie Wasserman Shultz	Representative	2007-Present
Corrine Brown	Representative	1993-Present
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen <sup>2</sup>	Representative	1989-Present
Suzanne Kosmas	Representative	2009-2011
Ginny Brown-Waite	Representative	2003-2011
Katherine Harris	Representative	2003-2007
Karen Thurman	Representative	1993-2003
Carrie Meek	Representative	1993-2003
Tillie Fowler	Representative	1993-2001
Ruth Bryan Owen	Representative	1929-1933

<sup>1</sup> Hawkins won a general election and was then appointed to fill a brief vacancy caused by the resignation of her predecessor.

<sup>2</sup> Ros-Lehtinen initially won a special election to fill a vacancy and was subsequently re-elected. She is the first Cuban-American elected to Congress and the first Hispanic woman to serve there.



*First elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1974, she was re-elected three times before being elected to the Senate in 1980. In 1990, Senator Margolis was named President of the Florida Senate, becoming the first woman in the United States to serve as president of any Senate.*

## SENATE

No women were elected to serve in the U.S. Senate for 2011. Five women out of 43 were seeking nominations:

- 3 women seeking nomination were eliminated at the general elections.
- 1 woman seeking nomination in hope of being Florida's first female African American elected to the United States Congress redrew her nomination on October 2009, in order to seek re-election in the House of Representatives.
- 1 woman did not qualify

The only female Floridian Congresswoman to ever be elected to the United States Congress was Paula F. Hawkins. As the first woman ever elected to serve full term in the Senate from 1981-1987:

- She lost her first bid for the U.S. Senate in 1976.
- Hawkins, in 1980, won the general election without inheriting a seat from a father or husband.

## HOUSE

Women were elected to serve in 6 (24 %) of the 25 Seats in the U.S. House for 2011, losing a seat since 2009. While the overall number of House women has slightly decreased, 2 new women were elected to the U.S. House:

- 1 woman left the Florida Senate to seek higher office, winning her the title of U.S. House of Representatives from Florida's 17th district after running in a contested open election.
- 1 woman left the Florida House to seek higher office, winning her a seat in district 24 of the U.S. House of Representatives after running against an incumbent woman.

Among the 7 members of the House seats held by women in the prior (2008-2010) U.S. Congress:

- 4 women were re-elected in contested elections.
- 1 woman withdrew her re-election nomination.
- 2 women moved up the hierarchy of elected offices.

As a result, the overall number of seats held by women in the U.S. House of Representatives has dropped by one since 2009.

## Stateside Elective Executive Office

Florida women currently hold some of the state's most visible public offices, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. In 2011, only two women hold statewide elective executive offices. Welcoming Florida's first female African American Lieutenant Governor, Jennifer Carroll and the state's first female Attorney General, Pam Bondi—a notable gain in recent years for Florida's political women. We find, however, that despite Florida's slow progression, women are still reluctant to hold high-level office. Thus, throughout the history of women Governors, thirty-four women have served as governors in 26 states. Florida still has yet to elect a woman Governor.

Statewide elective executive women were elected to two of the five positions in statewide elective executive offices in 2011. Seven women out of 61 were seeking nomination:

### Governor

- 1 woman seeking nomination for Governor did not qualify
- 1 woman seeking nomination for Governor was defeated at the general elections

### Lieutenant Governor

- 1 woman did not chose to seek re-election as Florida House of Representative in order to seek higher office, becoming Florida's first female African American Lieutenant Governor

### Attorney General

- 1 woman seeking nomination was eliminated at the primaries
- 1 woman became Florida's first female Attorney General

### Chief Financial Officer

- 1 woman was defeated at the general election

### Commission of Agriculture

- 1 woman withdrew her nomination



*Toni Jennings was the first Republican woman Senate President, serving two successive terms. She was the 16th Lieutenant Governor of Florida. She was nominated to the office by Governor Jeb Bush in February 2003.*

**Florida Women in Statewide Elective Office Throughout The Years**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Jennifer Carroll</b>	<b>Lieutenant Governor</b>	<b>2011-Present</b>
<b>Pam Bondi</b>	<b>Attorney General</b>	<b>2011-Present</b>
<b>Alex Sink</b>	<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>	<b>2007-2011</b>
<b>Toni Jennings</b>	<b>Lieutenant Governor</b>	<b>2003-2007</b>
<b>Katherine Harris</b>	<b>Secretary of State</b>	<b>1999-2003</b>
<b>Sandra B. Mortham</b>	<b>Secretary of State</b>	<b>1999-2003</b>
<b>Betty Castor</b>	<b>Comm. of Education</b>	<b>1987-1993</b>
<b>Paula F. Hawkins<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Public Service Comm.</b>	<b>1973-1979</b>
<b>Mamie Eaton Greene<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Railroad Comm.</b>	<b>1927-1934</b>

*1.Hawkins resigned in March 1979.*

*2.Greene was initially appointed to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband; She was subsequently elected.*

*Women Hold Two in Five Statewide Elective Executive Seats in Florida*





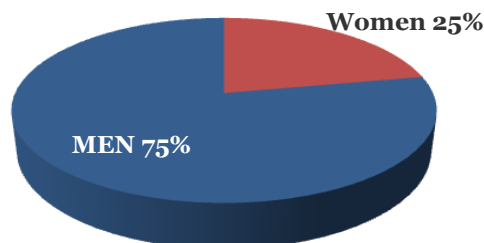
## State Legislature

The number of women in the Florida State Legislature increased following the highly anticipated November 2010 general election, from 38 in 2009 to 40 in 2011. In recent years, the total percentage of seats held by women in the Florida Legislature modestly increased after a continual 23.1% from 2007 to 2009 (see Table 2.7). In 2011, the total percentage of seats held by women is a surprising 25%.

Women gained 4 seats in the Senate, losing a seat in the House. Two women unseated incumbents to gain seats in the House and one woman returns to the Senate after not seeking reelection after her term ended in 2008.

Among incumbent legislators (Senate and House), 12 women ran in contested elections, of which 10 (83%) were re-elected to their seats.

**Figure 2.9: U.S. Congress 2011**



*Source:  
Uncertified  
election results  
from November  
2, 2010, Florida  
Division of  
Elections.*

### Women in the Florida State Legislature, 1975-2011

Year	Senate	House	Total
1975	1	12	13
1977	2	16	18
1979	3	15	18
1981	4	13	17
1983	9	19	28
1985	9	22	31
1987	10	23	33
1989	10	16	26
1991	10	20	30
1993	6	22	28
1995	6	25	31
1997	6	32	38
1999	7	31	38
2001	7	31	38
2003	10	29	39
2005	9	30	39
2007	10	27	37
2009	9	28	38
2011	13	27	40

*There are a total  
of 160 seats in  
the State  
Legislature (40  
Senate & 120  
Assembly).  
Source for  
historical figures:  
Center for  
American Women  
and Politics*

## SENATE



Women were elected to serve in 13 (33%) of the 40 Seats in the Florida State Senate for 2011, up from 9 seats in 2009. Three new women and a returning Senator were elected to the Senate:

- 3 women ran in contested open seat elections, including the returning Senator (see below).
- 1 woman ran in an uncontested election.

Among the 9 female members of the prior (2008-2010) Senate, 3 seats were on the November 2nd ballot:

- 2 women's progressive ambition granted them a seat at the Senate by choosing to not seek reelection as state representatives, in turn running for higher office.
- 1 woman, previously a member of the Florida Senate from 2003-2008, reenters the Florida Senate after not being elected as Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser in 2008.

As a result, the overall number of the seats in the Senate held by women increased by four-- from 9 to 13.

## HOUSE

Women were elected to serve in 27 (22.5%) of the 120 Seats in the Florida State House for 2011, losing a seat since 2009. While the overall number of House women has slightly decreased, 10 new women were elected to the House:

- 5 women ran in contested open seat elections
- 2 women ran in uncontested elections
- 2 women ran in contested elections defeating incumbents.
- 1 woman ran in a contested special legislative election.

Among the 27 House seats held by women in the prior (2008-2010) Legislature:

- 11 women were re-elected in contested elections.
- 6 women were re-elected in uncontested elections.
- 5 women left the House to seek higher office, (one gained seat as Lieutenant Governor and 3 gained State Senate Seats), 3 of the 5 seats were filled by men.
- 5 women could not run for re-election due to Florida term limits, 4 of these 5 seats were filled by men.

As a result, the overall number of seats held by women in the House has dropped by one since 2009.

## Judiciary

Women hold two in seven judicial seats in the Florida Supreme Court:

- Justice Barbara Pariente serves on the 4th district. Justice Pariente is the second woman to hold the position of Chief Justice and she has served on the court since 1997.
- Justice Peggy A. Quince serves on the 2nd district. Justice Quince was the second African American and the third woman to serve as Chief Justice.

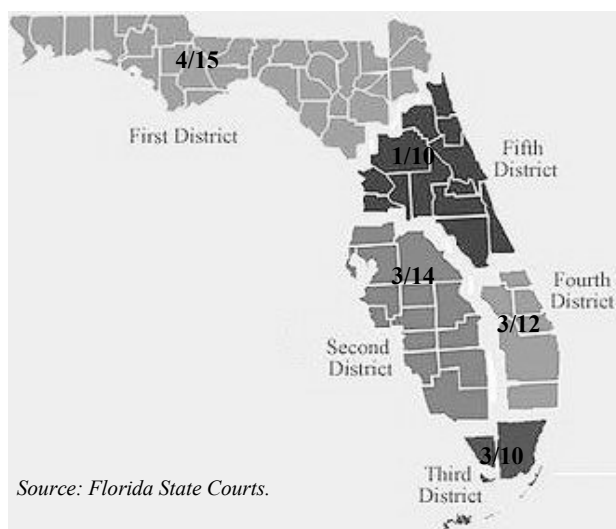
Women hold a total of 23% of judicial seats, while men make up a total of 77% percent of Florida’s District Court.

- In Florida’s District Court, the total number of female judges is 16 while there are 47 male judges.
- The district with the highest female judges is the 3rd district. The third district has 30% female judges serving.
- The district with the lowest female judges is the 5th district. The 5th district has only 10%, only one female judge out of 10 currently serve in that district.
- The Circuit with the highest number of women is the 17th Circuit. In this Circuit women surpass the representation of their male colleagues. In this Circuit there are 44 women and 41 male judges.
- The Circuit with the lowest number of women is the 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit. In this Circuit there is currently no female judges.



*In 1998, Justice Peggy Ann Quince became Florida’s First African-American woman appointed to the Florida Supreme Court, by Governor Jeb Bush and the late Governor Lawton Chiles. Quince was also the first African-American Female to be appointed to one of the District Courts of appeal in 1993 by Governor Lawton Chiles, to the Second District Court of Appeal.*

### Florida’s District Courts



Source: Florida State Courts.

### District Court Ranking

Rank	Women In Office	% of Female
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	3/10	30%
1 <sup>st</sup> District	4/15	27%
4 <sup>th</sup> District	3/12	25%
2 <sup>nd</sup> District	3/14	21%
5 <sup>th</sup> District	1/10	10%

The Circuit with the highest number of women is the 17th Circuit.

In this Circuit women surpass the representation of their male colleagues. In this Circuit there are 44 women and 41 male judges.

The Circuit with the lowest number of women is the 16th Circuit. In this Circuit there is currently no female judges.

### Circuit and County Court Map



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**First Circuit** - Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton

**Second Circuit** - Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla

**Third Circuit** - Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor

**Fourth Circuit** - Clay, Duval and Nassau

**Fifth Circuit** - Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion and Sumter

**Sixth Circuit** - Pasco and Pinellas

**Seventh Circuit** - Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia,

**Eighth Circuit** - Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union

**Ninth Circuit** - Orange and Osceola

**Tenth Circuit** - Hardee, Highlands, and Polk

**Eleventh Circuit** - Dade

**Twelfth Circuit** - DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota

**Thirteenth Circuit** - Hillsborough

**Fourteenth Circuit** - Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson and Washington

**Fifteenth Circuit** - Palm Beach

**Sixteenth Circuit** - Monroe

**Seventeenth Circuit** - Broward

**Eighteenth Circuit** - Brevard and Seminole

**Nineteenth Circuit** - Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie

**Twentieth Circuit** - Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee

## ***PART III: The Missing Piece: Women And Public Office***

*"Women share with men the need for personal success, even the taste of power, and no longer are we willing to satisfy those needs through the achievements of surrogates, whether husbands, children, or merely role models."*



— **Senator Elizabeth Dole**

North Carolina's 1st U.S. female Senator 2003-2009

## **Pearls, Politics, and Political Pins**

### **Why Women Are Still Absent From Political Roles**

In *Political Woman*, written in 1974, Kirkpatrick posed an interesting question, which still serves to be unanswered:

Why, when women in increasing numbers are asserting themselves, training themselves, seeking equal rights, equal opportunities and equal responsibilities in every aspect of American life, have so few [entered] the political arena? (Kirkpatrick 1974).

It is difficult to imagine now, after so many years, how few women are still being nominated and elected to serve in Florida's Government. When Jeane Kirkpatrick conducted his ground-breaking research on female State Legislators back in 1974, little did he know we would still be trying to understand women's slow progression into politics. Despite the great advancement, since Kirkpatrick's revolutionary research, we have had women in the cabinet, women in the Senate, women serving as governors of major states, women serving as city mayors, and women in top leadership roles of major political parties, but how specific does this hold to Florida's elected officials? Florida continues to wait for a woman to serve as Florida's governor and we currently have no women in the U.S. Senate. Indeed, Kirkpatrick would be impressed with the meek improvement over the years, but little can be praised about when you take the many years that has passed since women's right to vote into consideration.

Florida still remains as a state with poor history of electing women in a very male-dominated political establishment. Florida continues to struggle with traditional attitudes that have limited women's entrance into government. Women's involvement in the political life of the state continues to gradually grow by more women running for office and fewer getting elected. The prospect for women's full inclusion in Florida's political system, surprisingly, still looks bleak because public attitudes regarding electing women continue to pose as barriers for women in Florida. Gender socialization, for the most part, continues to play the biggest role in whether or not women self-identified with politics and express ambition to seek elected office (Law & Fox 2010).

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Women are still absent from political roles because for women to get elected into public office, they need to first pass three crucial obstacles: first, they need to convince themselves they are qualified enough to run for office and select themselves to partake in campaigns. Given the fact that women tend to run for office as a result of recruitment, women, normally, reach the steps of the capitol with the support of their political parties. Thus, women need to get selected as a candidate by a political party that will provide party support, which brings us to the second obstacle. Last but not least, women need to get selected by voters. Voters play a huge part in women's advancement into public office. A woman's assessment of whether or not to run for office lies with how friendly the political environment will be to her candidacy and how welcoming her voters will be.

### **Elements that Affect Women Candidates**

Despite recent progress, the prospect for women's full inclusion in Florida's political system seems distant. Unlike men, women have a harder time entering into the inner world of politics simply because of deeply embedded elements such as the media, perceptions of qualifications, and gender gap in political recruitment. These elements affect women candidates making politics a path less likely for women in Florida.

#### *Media*

The primary element that paralyzes women from thinking of themselves as politicians is the images and messages often depicted by the media. Media coverage suggests important implications for female candidates because they have to portray their strengths and effectiveness in 30-and 60-second television spots, often having to convince voters they are just as competent as their male colleagues and having to defend their use of personal biography in their campaigns. Likewise, women candidates must avoid appearing too feminine. Despite the increasing presence of women in public office, level of office or political experience, women will always be viewed by the media as sophomoric. Thus, female candidates, as well as female incumbents, are perceived by the media as remaining novelties despite progression or advancement. Moreover, a female candidate's gender serves as an open target for potential



*In 1985, Florida's first female cabinet member, Betty Castor, became president pro tempore in the Senate from 1985-1986.*

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opponents. Male candidates typically see a woman's gender as a form of attack, often formulating their campaign strategies to target woman voters and women's issues.

### *Recruitment*

A second element that may possibly explain the low numbers of women in public office is that women simply lack political ambition. Women, typically more likely than men, run for office because they were recruited. Therefore, an element that holds women back from running is that women are not being asked to run for office as often as men are. As a result, it is important to recruit women simply because women are still unconsciously being held back from cultural and psychological barriers that keep women from seeing themselves just as competent, if not more, than their male colleagues. Women, given their historical silence, for the most part have not been a part of the entire political process; therefore, they may doubt their abilities and need additional encouragement to enter the political world at a faster rate. Consequently, women need to be encouraged to run for office, since women do not usually plan to run for office on their own.

### *Perceptions of Qualifications*

A third element is that women fall under the false impression that they need to have a longstanding plan for a political career or have had to follow a set of carefully calculated steps in order to reach their desired elected office. Likewise, women fear that not holding a lower level office or having prior political experience will hold them back from being elected. Consequently, women fall under this false notion, simply because the public compare women with their male colleagues in making their decisions on who is more qualified to seek office. Women need to understand that there are no prerequisites for running for office. To reach an elected office, one can successfully do so without prior office-holding experience.

### **How Women Compare Across States**

Women's level of elected representation varies widely across the United States and in some states women have a higher percentage rate, while in other states, they lack women's unique experiences and shared concerns. Thus, by examining the variations in women's levels of elected representation across the

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50 states, we begin to see the differences among the states in women’s elected representation. This analysis assesses the offices held by women at three levels: Congress, Governors and State Legislature.

**Congress**

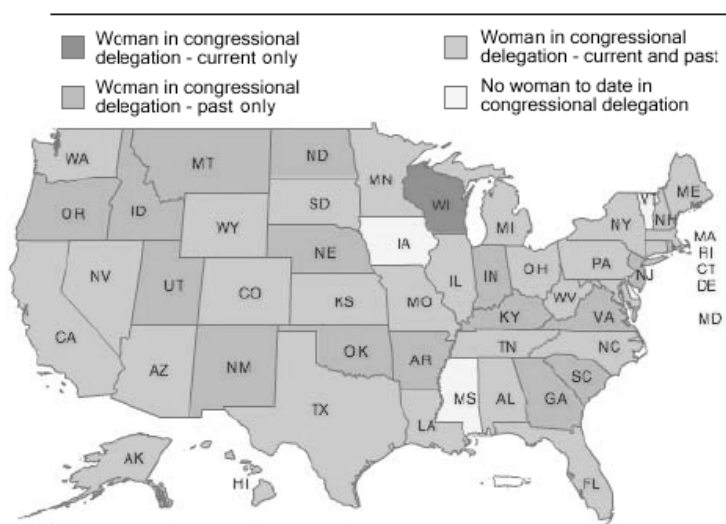
Women currently hold 88 (16.4 %) of the 535 seats in the 112th U.S. Congress. Currently serving in the Senate are 17 women out of 100 seats across the U.S. Out of 435 serving in the U.S. House, Seventy-one women are currently serving as Congressional representatives from 27 States. Figure 3.1 shows the Congressional representation of women across states. Surprisingly, four states (Delaware, Iowa, Mississippi and Vermont) have never sent a woman to either congressional house. California has sent more women to Congress than any other state to this very day. Wisconsin is the only state that has currently elected their first woman in congress.

**Governor**

In 2011, six women serve as governors across the United States. Currently, Arizona, North Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Washington have elected women governors to represent their state. Washington and Arizona are

(Continued on page 48)

**Figure 3.1 Women in Congressional Delegations**



Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

(Continued from page 47)

the only two states that currently have an elected female governor serving their state and have elected a female governor in the past. There appears to be more states with no female governors than states with female governors. In Maine, the elected seat of governor is the only statewide executive elected seat and no woman has ever served as governor there. Florida is among the many states that still awaits a woman governor. New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and North Carolina have recently elected their first woman governor.

### State Legislature

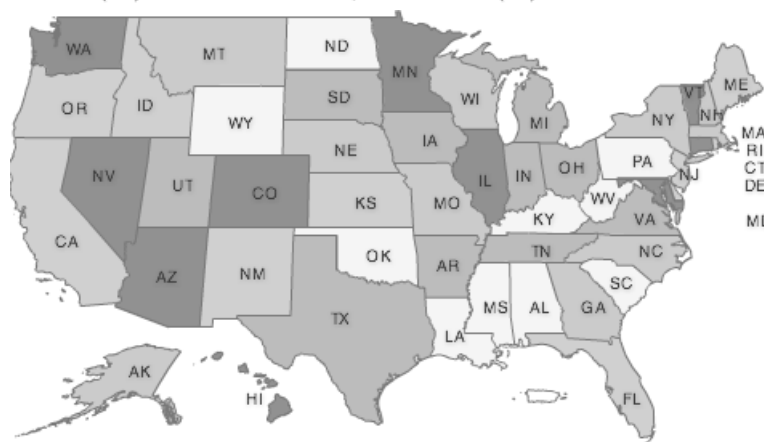
In 2011, 1,730 (23.4%) of the 7,382 state legislators in the United States are women. Among the State Legislatures across states, women currently hold 422 (21.4%) of the 1,971 state senate seats while 1,308 (24.2%) of the 5,411 state assembly seats. The states with the highest percentages of women in state legislature are the following: Colorado 41.0%, Vermont 37.8%, Arizona 34.4%, Hawaii 34.2%, and Minnesota with 31.8%. States with the lowest percentages among state legislatures are the following: South Carolina 9.4%, Oklahoma 12.8%, Alabama 13.6%, Mississippi 14.4% and North Dakota with 14.9%. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.

### Women in State Legislature Across States

Ranking among state legislatures for the proportion of women:

■ 1-10   ■ 11-20   ■ 21-30   ■ 31-40   ■ 41-50

Colorado (CO) is ranked 1st with 40.0%; South Carolina (SC) is 50th with 9.4%.



Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

## Creating New Traditions: Bringing More Women Into Office

### Support For Florida Women Candidates

When Secretary Clinton ended her candidacy for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, she thanked her supporters and said:

*Although we weren't able to shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling this time, thanks to you, it's got about 18 million cracks in it. And the light is shining through like never before, filling us all with the hope and the sure knowledge that the path will be a little easier next time.*

Secretary Clinton shares the hope that many women share, the hope that we will see more women elected to office. The pool of women candidates continues to grow but in the end, only a handful of women are elected. As a consequence, resource is a powerful motivating tool women lack in Florida when running for public office. Thus, women need encouragement and support, not only to persuade them to run for elected office but to also dissuade any efforts aimed at deterring them from running.

Women's decisions to run for elected office lies within the resources. Hence, women who run for office are doing so simply because resources are becoming available to them. Likewise, recruitment and encouragement lead many potential female candidates to run for public office. It is important to know what resources are provided in the state of Florida for potential women candidates. The following are resources that can provide support and information for women considering running for elective office in Florida:

#### **Campaign Trainings: Campaign Skills Seminars**

The Miami-Dade Ethics Commission provides training sessions for declared candidates or those working on campaigns, addressing the Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance, campaign contributions, post-election audits, prohibited uses of public funds, and other requirements related to expanding public funds.

#### **Front Line Leaders Academy**

Sponsored by the Young Elected Officials Network and Young People For, the Front Line Leaders Academy is an annual



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*In 2011, Florida welcomed Pam Bondi as the state's first female Attorney General.*

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*(Continued on page 50)*

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campaign leadership development program for prospective progressive candidates and campaign leaders. This eight-month program consists of four conferences on five topics: candidacy, campaign management, funding, communications and field.

### **The Tillie Fowler Series**

The Tillie Fowler series is an expansion program of the Richard C. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series, founded in 1989 to encourage, mentor, and prepare selected Republican women leaders to seek new levels of involvement in government and politics. Selected applicants participate in five two-to-three day sessions by key government leaders and prepared to assume key roles in public office.

### **The 2012 Project in Florida**

The 2012 Project is a national, non-partisan campaign to increase the number of women in Congress and state legislatures. The mission of The 2012 Project in Florida is to increase the number of women in politics by taking advantage of the once-in-a-decade opportunities of 2012 with a coalition of Florida-based partners who are dedicated to women's advancement in government, industries, and communities throughout the state.

### **Leadership Florida**

Founded in 1982, Leadership Florida is a non-partisan organization addressing statewide topics of concern and encouraging interaction among the state's leadership. Each year, participants are chosen for an eight-month Annual Class Program, where they learn about the issues most important to Florida and develop skills to prepare them for leadership roles in the public and private sectors. Program sessions are held in six different Florida cities. Leadership Florida also offers leadership programs for young people, executives, and officeholders.

### **Emerge Tampa Bay**

Sponsored by Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Emerge Tampa Bay is a leadership program of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce designed for emerging leaders ages 21 to 35. The program concentrates on four main segments: voice, connect, grow, and interact. Members are educated about issues important to the region, participate in community service and non-profit leadership, and engage in professional development

*(Continued on page 51)*

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while learning from area leaders and receiving mentorship from them.

### **Leadership Jacksonville**

Leadership Jacksonville is a year-long program that explores the dynamics of an urban society, analyzes major areas of community concern, facilitates the development of leadership capacities and promotes a network of community trustees. Approximately 50 leaders from throughout the community are selected to participate in nine day-long programs and two retreats throughout the year, coming from and contributing to public and private sectors in the Jacksonville community.

### **Leadership St. Pete**

Sponsored by the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Leadership St. Pete (LSP) is a six-month experience designed to promote and enhance community leadership through an in-depth introduction to social, economic, business and political issues in the St. Petersburg area. LSP class members interact with diverse, high-level community leaders and decision-makers by organizing and attending a series of seminars and retreats in fields including business, government, education, media, social services, criminal justice, diversity, the arts and more. Participants will learn from leaders from all branches of state government during a two-day government seminar in Tallahassee.

### **Leadership Tallahassee**

Sponsored by the Leadership Institute established in 1983, Leadership Tallahassee is a year-long educational program for adults designed to educate and engage community leaders. Twenty-five to 30 selected applicants meet in monthly day-long sessions to learn about key issues affecting political, business, human service and cultural activities in Tallahassee and to encourage and facilitate positive change in the community through volunteer involvement.

### **Leadership Tampa**

Sponsored by the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Tampa is a nine-month program developing participants' community awareness and leadership skills. Fifty to sixty class members are chosen annually to meet every other week for briefings, tours, seminars and hands-on learning. Topics covered include health sciences, law enforcement,

*(Continued on page 52)*

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education, redevelopment, tourism, government and other important community issues. Members of Leadership Tampa are business/professional people who hold mid-to-upper level management positions within their companies or organizations and have demonstrated a concern for community issues and volunteered their time with service organizations.

### **Helping Women Get Elected**

Even though more and more women run for and hold elective office today, women are still underrepresented in Florida. Little has been done to encourage women in Florida to become politically active and aware. Given that women are less likely to think of themselves as qualified and more likely to feel uncomfortable with the idea of their own candidacy, in order to help more women get elected we need to create a new wave of women candidates. Likewise, women need to have a new perceptual process when considering running for office. Thus, a big step in helping women get elected is having women start thinking of themselves differently, more along the lines of thinking of themselves as competitors. The 'new' perceptual process women need to take follows this sequence:

*(Continued on page 53)*

**Figure 6.4: Perceptual Process of Entering With Political Courage**

Women are making great strides in politics (stimulus) → Politics is a “woman’s game too” (belief/perception) → Women can win and successfully lead (thought) → Achievement, accomplishment and victory (feeling) → Eagerness and enthusiasm to run for public office (action).

*(Continued from page 52)*

Women, therefore, need to be socialized to believe that political interest and activity are in fact appropriate for females. In an effort to help more women get elected, we need to psychologically get them politically involved and promote a surge of women in political leadership, the following are recommendations in helping women get elected:

- Encouraging more women to run for office.
- Holding conferences across Florida aimed at nudging women toward political office.
- “Planting the seed” of political leadership in the minds of women, especially young girls.
- Creating a new wave of women candidates in Florida by improving girls’ experience in education
- Implementing programs that teach girls about politics and the campaign process.
- Increasing training, support and recruitment of women interested in running for office
- Encouraging Florida’s female politicians to act as mentors and role models by making themselves available to girls and women organizations.
- Implementing programs that teach girls about politics, and allow them to meet women politicians and other public officials that may encourage more young girls to be involved.

Women continue to have a difficult time winning political seats in Florida. As a result, women need to find an interest in politics, as well as a sense of empowerment. Women and girls have come a long way since women were given the right to vote. Thus, there is an undoubtedly immense amount of benefits to be gained from having an increased number of women in Florida’s inner world of politics. Ultimately, the amount of female candidates will not increase if women do not run. Accordingly, with Floridians becoming more and more acceptable to the idea of women as politicians, Florida needs to bring more women into government.

## Summary

*Political Pearls: A Comprehensive Analysis on Florida Women in Public Office* provides the second comprehensive assessment to date of the issues on women's low representation in politics. It recognizes that across states women continue to face negative implications when running for office or serving as public officials. It also stresses Florida's gender imbalance and how critical it is to address the flagging number of women in Florida's elective office. By learning from the experiences, backgrounds, and political makeup of the women currently serving in Florida's office, the false notion that the vast majority of women who are elected to office are elected based on a mold is none other than proven to be fictitious. Most women fall under the misconception that you have to be older, have an advanced degree, or have an extensive political background in order to be seen as a competitive candidate and be elected to office. This false notion is what keeps women from seeing themselves as politicians and choosing to run for office.

### Key Findings



**Thumbs Up** The number of women serving in statewide elective executives increased by one since Alex Sink, Chief Financial Officer. In 2011, Florida welcomed Florida's first female African American Lieutenant Governor, Jennifer Carroll and the state's first female Attorney General, Pam Bondi.



**Thumbs Up** The number of women serving in Florida's Legislative office increased following the highly anticipated November 2010 general election, from 38 in 2009 to 40 in 2011.



**Thumbs Down** Women currently hold 6 (22 %) of the 25 seats in the U.S. House. No female elected official currently holds a seat in the U.S. Senate.



**Thumbs Down** Of the 120 seats in the State House Assembly, 27 of those seats are held by women while only 13 women currently hold a seat in Florida's Senate.

*(Continued on page 55)*



(Continued from page 54)



Thumbs Down Women hold two of the seven Judicial Seats in the Florida Supreme Court.



Thumbs Down Women hold a total of 23% of Judicial Seats, while Men make up a total of 77% percent in Florida District Courts.



Thumbs Down Only 18, or 37.5% currently serving in Florida's government are women of color.

### Summary

Seats Held by Women	2011	
	Seats Held by Women	Total Seats
U.S. Congress (FL Delegation)	6	27
FL Statewide Offices	2	5
FL State Legislators	40	160
FL Supreme Court	2	7
FL Judiciary	303	931
<b>Total</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>1,130</b>

In order to understand how more women in Florida can be elected to office, we studied the brief history of women, the public attitudes, the stereotypes, the political identity of today's female politicians, and women's overall progress in Florida's electoral politics. With the disappointing 2010 election, 2012 brings in hope and major changes to Florida's political system. Addressing the low number of women serving in Florida's government now, will better prepare us for the future and the future of our elected youth. The moment in time is near for the surge of more women to show Florida that women can juggle work and family while seeking the political life. It is finally time to encourage, empower, and elect more political pearls into our Florida government.

## Test Your Knowledge

### Women Making History

Test your knowledge of politics and women's history by taking this fun quiz!!

1. Who is the highest ranking elected woman in U.S history?
  - A. Condoleezza Rice
  - B. Hillary Clinton
  - C. Ruth Bader Ginsburg
  - D. Nancy Pelosi
  
2. Who was the first woman seated on the U.S. Supreme Court?
  - A. Margaret Sanger
  - B. Ruth Bader Ginsburg
  - C. Sandra Day O'Connor
  - D. Judy Sheindlin ("Judge Judy")
  
3. Who was the first woman to run for the U.S. House of Representatives, even though she was not even eligible to vote?
  - A. Martha Hughes Cannon
  - B. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
  - C. Deborah Sampson
  - D. Betsey Ross
  
4. Who are the first sisters to serve in the U.S. Congress together?
  - A. Kathryn McCarthy and Carolyn McCarthy
  - B. Loretta Sanchez and Linda Sanchez
  - C. Betty Castor and Kathy Castor
  - D. Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein
  
5. Hilary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) has won more primary votes than any other woman in a presidential primary. How many women have been on a ballot for U.S. president (including Clinton)?
  - A. 7
  - B. 12
  - C. 22
  - D. 33

*(Continued on page 57)*

6. What country has the highest percentage of seats held by women in parliament or federal government?

- A. U.S.
- B. Canada
- C. Rwanda
- D. Sweden

7. Who was the first woman of color to be elected to the U.S. Congress?

- A. Carol Moseley Braun
- B. Patsy Mink
- C. Dolores Huerta
- D. Barbara Jordon

8. How many women are currently serving as U.S. Governors in 2011?

- A. 11
- B. 6
- C. 2
- D. 20

9. Who was the first woman of color to run for the presidential nomination of a major political party?

- A. Patricia Roberts Harris
- B. Barbara Jordan
- C. Sojourner Truth
- D. Shirley Chisholm

10. Who was Florida's first woman representative in the United States Congress?

- A. Beth Johnson
- B. Paula Hawkins
- C. Ruth Bryan Owen
- D. Carrie Meek

6. C 7. B 8. B 9. D 10. C

1. D 2. C 3. B 4. C 5. C

Answers:

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## *Part IV:*



# *Florida Commission on the Status of Women 2010 Annual Report*

# The Florida Commission on the Status of Women



## Mission

**The Florida Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated to empowering women in achieving their fullest potential, to eliminating barriers to that achievement, and to recognizing women's accomplishments.**

## About the Commission

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women (FCSW) is established in the office of the Florida Attorney General, and consists of 22 members. The Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the Senate, Attorney General and Commissioner of Agriculture each appoint members to the Commission. Each member serves for a term of four years. No member may serve more than eight consecutive years.



## Our Mandate

As required by Section 14.24, Florida Statutes, the Commission is mandated to study and make recommendations to the Governor, Cabinet and Legislature on issues affecting women. These recommendations are presented in the form of an annual report, which is distributed during the first quarter of each year. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- socioeconomic factors influencing the status of women;
- the development of individual potential;
- the encouragement of women to utilize their capabilities and assume leadership roles;
- the coordination of efforts of numerous organizations interested in the welfare of women;

- the identification and recognition of contributions made by women to the community, state and nation; and
- the implementation of recommendations to improve working conditions, financial security, and legal status of both sexes.

### **Commission Priorities**

The Commission studies and makes recommendations on various issues including domestic violence, employment and education, family, welfare reform, gender equity, health care, and the judicial system.

### **Publications**

- 1992 Annual Report "Women in the Workplace"
- 1993 Annual Report "Women's Health Care"
- 1994 Annual Report "Justice and Human Rights; How They Apply to Women"
- 1995 Annual Report "Welfare Reform in Florida"
- 1996 Annual Report Benchmark Study
- 1996 Publication "Women and Health, A Status Report"
- 1997 Annual Report "Women and Economic Development"
- 1998 Annual Report "A Definitive Study on Young Women Ages 12-18 in Florida"
- 1999 Annual Report "Reflections and Projections: Women in Florida"
- 2000 Annual Report "A Study of Women's History Education in Florida's Public Schools"
- 2001 Annual Report "Prevention by Intervention: Girls in Florida's Juvenile Justice System"
- 2002 Publication "Creating Change Challenging Tradition: Florida Women Public Officials"
- 2002 Annual Report "A Passion to Play! 30 Years of Women's Athletics in Florida"
- 2003 Annual Report "Women and Money: Practical Money Skills for Women"
- 2004 Annual Report "Legally Yours: A Guide for Florida Women"
- 2005 Annual Report "Florida Women Mean Business"
- 2006 Annual Report "Life Issues of Florida Women: Mid-life and Beyond"
- 2007 Annual Report "Smart Surfing: Protecting You and Your Family from Cyber-crime"



- 2008 Annual Report “Good Health for a Lifetime”
- 2009 Annual Report “Thriving in Tough Economic Times”
- 2005–2010 “Summary of Florida Laws Affecting Women”
- 1999, 2000, and 2004 FCSW Calendar
- 2001, 2002 and 2003 Women’s History Calendar
- Women’s Hall of Fame Brochure

## History of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women



**1961**

President John F. Kennedy created the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW).



**1964**

Florida Governor Farris Bryant created the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) to study laws and regulations pertaining to women in Florida and make recommendations to the legislature based on their findings.



**1966**

The Commission presented its first report to Governor Farris Bryant.



**1967**

Florida Governor Claude Kirk announced the appointment of 14 new members to the COSW, bringing the total number of commissioners to 24.



**1971**

Governor Reubin Askew reestablished the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women by executive order.

Governor Reubin Askew appointed an executive director to help coordinate the Commission's activities.

**1974**

The Commission's budget is cut and its fate between 1977 and 1978 are not known.

**1977**



Governor Bob Graham reactivated the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women (still referred to as the COSW) by means of Executive Order 79-60.

**1979**



The first Florida Women's Hall of Fame ceremony and reception was held by the Commission at the Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee in May of 1982.

**1982**

Governor Lawton Chiles lobbied the Florida Legislature to statutorily create the Florida Commission on the Status of Women after he took office in 1991. The leading sponsor in the House of Representatives for CS/CS/HB 109 was Representative Elaine Gordon, while Senator Carrie Meek sponsored the companion bill, SB 1324. The Commission's legislative authority now exists in Section 14.24, Florida Statutes. Since 1991, the Florida Commission on the Status of Women has been fully supported by the Governor, the Cabinet and the Florida Legislature.

**1991**



## 2010 FCSW Year in Review

**This section briefly highlights the work and accomplishments of the Commission in 2010.**

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women engages in numerous activities each year in order to empower women of the State of Florida to achieve their fullest potential. Much of the work of the Commission takes place through its committees. The standing committees of the Commission include: Annual Report, Bylaws, Finance & Budget, Legislative Advocacy, and the Women's Hall of Fame/Women's History Committee. In addition, the Commission established several ad-hoc committees to work on special projects, including the Awards & Recognition Task Force and the Public Outreach Task Force. Committees meet on a regular schedule by teleconference to coordinate the work of the Commission.

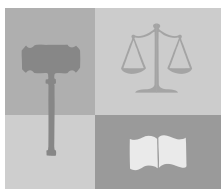
Following is a diary highlighting many of the Commission events and accomplishments.



Deputy Attorney General Joe Jacquot inducts the following members to serve as officers for 2010-2011: Susanne Hebert, Vice-Chair; Laura McLeod, Secretary; Laurie Pizzo, Treasurer; Amy Kryak Lee, Member at Large; and Lourdes Castillo de la Pena, Member at Large.

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women held a successful and productive 1st Quarterly meeting on March 24, 2010, at the Tallahassee Community College Main Campus. The election of FCSW Officers occurred and we were honored to be welcomed by Tallahassee Community College, President, Dr. Bill Law. The Florida Commission on the Status of Women (FCSW) elected the following members to serve as officers for 2010/201 FCSW Officers: Amy Kryak and Lourdes Castillo de la Pena – Member at Large; Laurie Pizzo – Treasurer; Laura McLeod – Secretary; Nancy Acevedo – Vice Chair and Susanne Hebert – Chair. The new officers were sworn in during a ceremony at the first quarterly meeting of the Commission in Tallahassee on March 24, 2010.

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women had the honor of participating in a number of exciting and informative conferences this spring, including the *Women's Leadership Conference at the University of Florida*, the *Women's History Month Celebration* at Tallahassee Community College and *Behind Closed Doors* sponsored by the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. These conferences offer not only a wealth of new information, but an opportunity to educate the public and inform them about the important work of the Commission.



The 2010 Summary of Florida Laws Affecting Women and Families, was published by the FCSW Legislative Committee. This report is an annual publication designed to encourage women from across the state to become educated about the legislative process and new laws that affect Florida's families as reported by Committee Chair Nancy Acevedo. The 2010 Summary of Florida Laws Affecting Women and Families is available on the Commission's website, [www.fcsw.net](http://www.fcsw.net).

Women's Equality Day was celebrated on August 21, 2010 at the Sarasota-Manatee Regional Women's Equality Day Celebration in Sarasota, FL. Commissioner Mona Jain represented the Commission, along with FCSW Staff Michele Manning.



*Women's History Month Celebration at Tallahassee Community College.*

FCSW Chair Susanne Hebert, appointed Commissioner Lourdes Castillo de la Pena to lead the newly created Mentoring Task Force. The Task Force's mission is to determine ways in which the Commission can serve and mentor young women and girls in the State. The Committee held a special mentoring session, "Learn, Lead, Succeed: Young Women's Leadership Forum" on Tuesday, August 31, 2010 at the University of Florida. Special guest speaker Florida Representative Jennifer Carroll encouraged and inspired the young women in attendance with her own story of perseverance.



*Commission Chair Susanne Hebert Addresses the Audience at Gender Bias in the Media Event*

The Commission hosted its third Gender Bias in the Media Roundtable discussion on August 31, 2010 at the Bob Graham Center for Public Service at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. The Roundtable participants included elected officials and community leaders and representatives from the media, academia, local women's groups and students. They shared their perspectives and experiences in dealing with gender bias or stereotyping in the media, particularly political coverage. The Roundtable participants discussed whether women have been portrayed with bias in the media and political coverage; the impact of such bias or misrepresentation on women; the need to initiate changes in various

sectors (including roles that different parties could play); how to tackle the problem while balancing the right to freedom of the press and expression; and effective ways to promote gender awareness in the media. More than 130 people were in attendance.

The Commission honored Judy Burnett of Jacksonville, Jean Dutton of Ft. Walton Beach, Virginia G. Goren of Orlando, Dorothy Wilkins Middleton of Bradenton, Linda O. Simmons of Temple Terrace, Marijo Strauss of Shalimar, Michelle Sawyer Cogswell of Sarasota, and Katherine Marie Stone of Ft. Walton Beach with a FCSW Florida Achievement Award for their work in improving the lives of women and families in their communities. They received recognition in a special afternoon ceremony during the third quarterly meeting of the Commission on Saturday, September 25, 2010, at the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. In addition to the Achievement Award from the Commission, each will receive a congratulatory letter from Governor Charlie Crist. The awards ceremony concluded with a very special Keynote addressed by Susan B. Anthony, women's rights campaigner and activist, as portrayed by Ms. Barbara Rowe.



*Susan B. Anthony*

## **Florida Women's Hall of Fame**



The Florida Women's Hall of Fame began in 1982 under the aegis of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. A total of 27 women were selected as members of the Hall in 1982, 1984 and 1986. In 1992, legislation was passed that created a permanent Florida Women's Hall of Fame. Since 1993, up to three women have been inducted into the Hall annually pursuant to Section 265.001, Florida Statutes. Nominations to the Hall may be made between April 1 and July 15 of each year.

To obtain a nomination form or review member biographies, visit the Commissions' web site at [www.fcs.w.net](http://www.fcs.w.net) or contact the office at 850-414-3300. The Commission appreciates the public input that assists in honoring meritorious women and in educating citizens on the significant and varied accomplishments of women in Florida's history.

### **2009/2010 Florida Women's Hall of Fame Inductees**



**Dr. Eugenie Clark**  
1922—



**Claudine Dianne Ryce**  
1943 - 2009



**Dara Grace Torres**  
1967 —

**The Hall of Fame recognizes and honors women who, through their works and lives, have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and for all citizens of the state of Florida.**

## Florida Women's Hall of Fame Members 1982—2009

### 2008/2009 Inductees

Louise H. Courtelis  
Senator Gwen Margolis  
Betty Schlesinger Sembler

### 2007/2008 Inductees

Justice Barbara J. Pariente  
Dr. Pallavi Patel  
Congresswoman Ileana Ros-  
Lehtinen

### 2006/2007 Inductees

Maryly VanLeer Peck  
Peggy A. Quince

### 2005/2006 Inductees

Caridad Asensio  
Tillie Kidd Fowler  
Lucy W. Morgan

### 2004/2005 Inductees

Shirley D. Coletti  
Marion P. Hammer  
Judith Kersey

### 2003 Inductees

Sarah Ann Blocker  
Gloria Estefan  
Mary R. Grizzle

### 2002 Inductees

Victoria Joyce Ely, R.N.  
Senator Toni Jennings  
Frances Langford Stuart

### 2001 Inductees

Jessie Ball DuPont  
Lenore Carrero Nesbitt  
Lynda Keever

### 2000 Inductees

Chris Evert  
Paula Fickes Hawkins  
MG Marianne Mathewson-Chapman,  
Ph.D.

### 1999 Inductees

Althea Gibson  
Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, OP, Ph.D.  
Dessie Smith Prescott

### 1998 Inductees

Helen Gordon Davis  
Mattie Belle Davis  
Christine Fulwylie-Bankston

### 1997 Inductees

Alicia Baro  
Carita Doggett Corse  
M. Athalie Range

### 1996 Inductees

Marjorie Harris Carr  
Betty Castor  
Ivy Julia Cromartie Stranahan

### 1995 Inductees

Evelyn Stocking Crosslin, M.D.  
JoAnn Hardin Morgan  
Sarah 'Aunt Frances' Brooks Pryor

### 1994 Inductees

Nikki Beare  
Betty Mae Jumper  
Gladys Nichols Milton

### 1993 Inductees

Betty Skelton Frankman  
Paulina Pedroso  
Janet Reno

### 1992 Inductees

Jacqueline Cochran  
Carrie P. Meek  
Ruth Bryan Owen

### 1986 Inductees

Annie Ackerman  
Rosemary Barkett  
Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry

### 1986 Inductees

Dorothy Dodd  
Marjory Stoneman Douglas  
Elsie Jones Hare  
Elizabeth McCullough Johnson  
Frances Bartlett Kinne  
Arva Moore Parks  
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings  
Florence Barbara Seibert  
Marilyn K. Smith  
Eartha Mary Magdalene  
White

### 1984 Inductees

Roxcy O'Neal Bolton  
Barbara Landstreet Frye  
Lena B. Smithers Hughes  
Zora Neale Hurston  
Sybil Collins Mobley  
Helen Muir  
Gladys Pumariega Soler  
Julia DeForest Sturtevant Tuttle

### 1982 Inductees

Mary McLeod Bethune  
Helene S. Coleman  
Elaine Gordon  
Wilhelmina Celeste  
Goehring Harvey  
Paula Mae Milton  
Barbara Jo Palmer



## **2010 FCSW Commissioners**

### **NANCY C. ACEVEDO**



Commissioner Nancy C. Acevedo of Winter Springs was last appointed to the Commission in 2008 by former Speaker of the House Marco Rubio. Commissioner Acevedo is currently an Intelligence Analyst with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office/ Domestic Security Unit. She is a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico and the Inter-American University, and holds a Ph.D. in Education. In 2007 she graduated from the SCSO Community Law Enforcement Academy and in 2009 was re-appointed to the Seminole County Sheriff Citizens Advisory Council for the Response to Resistance Council. She is the President of the Florida Crime Intelligence Analyst Association (FCIAA), an active member of the International Association of Crime Analysts (IACA) and the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts (IALEIA). Commissioner Acevedo currently serves as Diplomat to the Florida International Business Council and as a political activist in the Central Florida area. In 2004 she was appointed by the former Governor Jeb Bush to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council., and in 2006 she received a Presidential appointment to the U.S. Small Business Administration National Advisory Board.

### **CLAUDIA KIRK BARTO**



Commissioner Claudia Kirk Barto currently serves as the President & CEO of Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches. Commissioner Barto has numerous years of non-profit leadership experience, most recently Executive Director of the Lupus Foundation of America Southeast Florida Chapter. She has also served at the Palm Beach Office of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Palm Beach Area Chapter, and United Way of Palm Beach County. Commissioner Barto grew up in Palm Beach where philanthropy is a way of life. She currently serves on Florida Atlantic University's Women's Studies Advisory Board.

She received her degree in communications from Florida State University. In April 2000, she was appointed to the Florida Commission on the Status of Women by Comptroller Bob Milligan and recently reappointed by Commissioner of Agriculture Charles Bronson. Commissioner Barto lives in West Palm Beach with her two sons, Wen and Kirk, and daughter Marina.



### **DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL**

Commissioner Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall of Miami was appointed to the Commission in 2008 by Speaker of the House Marco Rubio. She is a former classroom teacher, principal and current adult education administrator. After graduating from Miami Northwestern Senior High School, she matriculated at Tuskegee (Alabama) Institute, Nova University, Barry University and Florida International University, completing Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and several Master-level certifications. Commissioner Bendross-Mindingall is a former State Representative for District 109. She has previously served as the first chairperson of the Governor's Commission on African American Affairs. Commissioner Bendross-Mindingall recently opened a learning center within a Miami-Dade housing project, designed to get even more parents off welfare, and armed with the skills needed to stay focused and productive.



### **BERTICA CABRERA-MORRIS**

Commissioner Bertica Cabrera-Morris of Orlando was appointed to the Commission in 2007 by Speaker of the House Marco Rubio. In 1993 she started Bertica Cabrera Consulting Firm - a public relations, marketing and governmental affairs consulting firm of which she is the principal and sole proprietor. Commissioner Cabrera-Morris attended the UCLA Banking Academy of Los Angeles and made the transition to the financial world through employment with the First Interstate Bank of Los Angeles, followed by employment with the Independence Bank of Encino.

Currently, she is an active member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and also serves on the Arts Council for Central Florida. Commissioner Cabrera-Morris was appointed to the Board of Trustees for Valencia Community College in 2005 and was re-appointed in 2007 for a 4 year term.





## LOURDES CASTILLO DE LA PEÑA

Commissioner Lourdes Castillo de la Peña was appointed in 2008 by Attorney General Bill McCollum. Commissioner Castillo de la Peña was born in New Jersey and moved to South Florida at the age of five. She graduated from St. Thomas University in 1991, and studied at the Universidad de Maria Cristina in El Escorial, Spain. Commissioner Castillo de la Peña married Leoncio E. de la Peña, a prominent international banking attorney, in 1997, and has three daughters and one son. Commissioner Castillo de la Peña founded the boutique public relations firm LMC Communications in 1994 as the first of its kind in South Florida with a unique specialization in the Latin American market. She has represented a highly sought-after client roster including Paramount Pictures, Bausch & Lomb, Toy Manufacturer of America, People en Español, BMI, Fashion Week of the Americas, and Fisher Island Club & Resort. She is also owner & publisher of *Nuestros Hijos*, Latin America's premier parenting magazine.

Commissioner Castillo de la Peña also serves numerous charitable organizations. When Castillo de la Peña's father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, she worked tirelessly to raise awareness among the Hispanic Community. Her significant contributions in this area were recognized by Governor Jeb Bush, who appointed her to the State of Florida Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Board in September 2001. In 2005, she was honored with the Mercy Ambassador Award for all her efforts.

Since becoming a mother of four, Commissioner Castillo de la Peña has been focused on children's issues. She founded the Miami Children's Hospital XOXO (Hugs and Kisses), a group consisting of young professionals, parents and local leaders raising considerable amount of money to support the functions of the Hospital. She is currently serving on the Board of Friends of the Orphans, the U.S. component of *Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos*. She has served on several other Boards, such as The National Alzheimer's Association, The Republican National Senatorial Committee, and on the advisory board for Miami Children's Hospital, Spectrum Committee of the American Red Cross, Fisher Island Philanthropic Fund, Miami City Ballet and Angels of Mercy. From 2002-2004 she served on the Board of Miami-Dade County Historical Advisory Board.

### SHARON DAY

Commissioner Sharon Day of Fort Lauderdale was appointed to the Commission in 2008 by Governor Charlie Crist. Sharon is a retired executive with marketing, group health insurance and re-insurance experience. She is an entrepreneur who has built and sold numerous businesses and is a strong supporter of small business. Commissioner Day serves on the Broward County Housing Authority as Chairman of the Commission and is Broward County's State Committeewoman and Florida's Republican National Committeewoman. In 2000, she was appointed to serve on the Committee for Election Reform for the State of Florida by Governor Bush. In 2006, she was appointed to act as Florida's representative on the 2008 Republican Convention Committee on Arrangements and was selected to be Chairman of the 2008 Republican Convention's Special Events.



### ANASTASIA GARCIA, ESQ.

Commissioner Anastasia Garcia, Esq. of Coral Gables was appointed to the Commission in 2004 by Commissioner of Agriculture Charles Bronson. Commissioner Garcia is an attorney practicing in the area of Matrimonial Law. She is also a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator. Commissioner Garcia earned her J.D. in 1992 from the George Washington University National Law Center. Commissioner Garcia has served on various boards including the Cuba Museum, where she currently serves as secretary. Commissioner Garcia is the owner of the Law Offices of Anastasia M. Garcia, she is a partner in Lakes Title Services LLC and she is a shareholder and corporate counsel for Dade Steel Sales Corporation.





### **R. JAI GILLUM**

Commissioner R. Jai Gillum is the Director of Appointments for the Office of Boards, Commissions and Residual Markets for Florida CFO Alex Sink. Originally from Montgomery, Alabama, R. Jai attended Florida A&M University and received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master of Public Health (MPH). Commissioner Gillum lives in Tallahassee with her husband, Tallahassee City Commissioner Andrew Gillum. Commissioner Gillum is very involved in the Tallahassee community and currently serves as a board member for the Friends of the Leon County Public Library, the Brokaw-McDougall House, Junior League of Tallahassee and the National Selective Service System. Additionally, she is the Chair of the BE\$T Project Leadership Team for the United Way of the Big Bend and is a member of both Leadership Tallahassee and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Recently, Commissioner Gillum was named one of the "25 Women You Need to Know" by the *Tallahassee Democrat* (March 2010).

### **SUSANNE HEBERT**



Commissioner Susanne Hebert of Clearwater received her first appointment in November of 2003 to the Commission by Senate President Jim King. A graduate of the University of Florida in Ornamental Horticulture, Commissioner Hebert previously served as both an interior horticultural designer and exterior landscape planner for Burdines and subsequent to that was an executive with Macys. In addition, she was formerly president of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Florida Nurserymen and Grower's Association. Commissioner Hebert has been instrumental, through Macys, for charitable contributions to organizations which include, The Boley Centers, The Kids Wish Network, The Lowry Park Zoo and The Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Outside of her professional duties, Commissioner Hebert serves as a board member of the Feather Sound Municipal Taxing District and rehearsal manager for the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts Youth Symphony, where she enjoys helping talented young musicians realize their dreams.

**MONA JAIN , M.D., PH.D.**

Commissioner Mona Jain of Bradenton received her first appointment in 1991 and the second appointment in 1993 to the Commission by the Late Governor Lawton Chiles and subsequently her third appointment in 2002 and fourth appointment in 2006 by Senate Presidents John McKay and Tom Lee. Commissioner Jain has had a lifelong focus on education and health and is a former Fulbright Scholar and National Science Foundation Scholar. Since 1961, she has been an educator and administrator in American, British and Indian education systems, has worked for educational opportunities for all students (pre-K to University), especially continuing education for non-traditional, mature students. Dr. Jain also served as Adjunct Professor and Director of Children and Families Health Services for Manatee County Head Start program. Now retired after 45 years as an educator and health professional, she actively continues to volunteer as a professional.



Commissioner Jain is actively involved in numerous local, state, national and international community, civic and professional organizations/associations. Throughout her career she has been recognized for outstanding professional and community involvements including: Community Service Award from the American Medical Women's Association; the 2001 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of South Florida; recognition from the United Negro College Fund for her distinguished career in education; received a Proclamation and recognition from the Sarasota County Commission and City of Bradenton; and Leadership and Professional Awards from the American Association of University Women and Delta Kappa Gamma International. Dr. Jain has also been honored by placement in American and International "Who's Who". Recognition of her commitment and dedication is not limited to the United States, during her visit to India, her country of birth, she was granted a private audience with the International Humanitarian Mother Teresa.

**DEBORAH JALLAD**

Commissioner Deborah Jallad of Winter Park was appointed to the Commission in 2007 by Attorney General Bill McCollum. She is the President/Chairman of Accredited Holding Corporation and Accredited Surety and Casualty Company., Inc. – a Florida-based insurance company holding system specializing in the underwriting of non-contract surety bonds that was founded in 1959. With more than 40 years experience in non-contract surety bonds, Commissioner Jallad has been actively involved in developing industry standards and lobbying for reform. She works closely with Accredited's political consultants, state and national bail associations, and legislatures to increase safety for bail agents and the public. Accredited is the nation's only insurance company owned by women that specializes in bail bond underwriting. Commissioner Jallad has earned numerous awards for both her community service and professional expertise.



## GLORIOUS JOHNSON



Commissioner Glorious Johnson of Jacksonville was appointed to the Commission in 2008 by Governor Charlie Crist. She has been an elected official since 2003. Prior to becoming an elected official, Commissioner Johnson was an educator, in which she taught music in the public school system. Later, she became an instructor at the college level, teaching business courses. She received her Bachelor Degree from Jacksonville University in Music as a concert pianist, her first Master Degree was from Nova Southeastern University (Ft. Lauderdale, FL.), in School Administration and Supervision; and her second Master Degree came from Teachers College/Columbia University (New York City), majoring in Educational Administration/Organizational Leadership.

## JODY JOHNSTON



Commissioner Jody Johnston has been CEO of Girl Scouts of West Central Florida since its inception on October 1, 2007. The council serves nearly 30,000 girls and 10,000 adult volunteers in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sumter counties. She was previously CEO of councils in Florida, Ohio and Alabama. Commissioner Johnston is a lifetime member of the Association of Girl Scout Executive Staff (AGSES), the national professional development and advocacy organization for employed Girl Scout staff. She recently completed a term as president of the board and was previously a member at large; in 2008 she was inducted into the AGSES Hall of Fame. As president she moved the organization forward with a strategy to develop its members to meet and lead the future of Girl Scouting. Jody was named among "Who's Who in Tampa Bay Business" (Non-profits category) by the Tampa Bay Business Journal and was a finalist in its "Business Woman of the Year" recognition. In 2009 she was named Executive Woman of the Year by the Network of Executive Women. She completed two years as a Denali Fellow in its Social Entrepreneurship program, and participates in several executive development groups, including the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay's CEO Leadership Program. Commissioner Johnston will retire from Girl Scouts at the end of 2009 and will work as a consultant/owner of JKJ Consulting Services, LLC, specializing in consulting and coaching for nonprofit agencies.

### AMY KRYAK

Commissioner Amy Kryak of Port St. Lucie was appointed to the Commission in 2008 by Senate President Ken Pruitt. She is president and creative director of Lost Art Advertising in Port St. Lucie, Florida. An entrepreneur and business owner since 1986, Commissioner Kryak has won more than 200 awards for creative excellence in advertising, along with the prestigious ANGEL award for public service. She was Soroptimist Business Woman of the Year in 2002 for St. Lucie County; she has served as president of the Port St. Lucie Business Women and is a former board member of the Treasure Coast Advertising Federation. Commissioner Kryak is a former Assistant Dean at Indian River State College and former Director of the college's Small Business Development Center; she currently serves as an adjunct instructor at Florida Atlantic University and Keiser University. In addition to her successful business career, Commissioner Kryak and her husband are co-founders of Never Leave a Child Unattended®, a public education campaign founded in 1993 to help prevent injury and drowning of children which results from children not being supervised.



### CARRIE ESTEVEZ LEE

Commissioner Caridad Lee of Gainesville was last appointed to the Commission in 2005 by Governor Jeb Bush and served as the 2005 - 2006 Commission Chair. Commissioner Lee has worked along with her husband in the Real Estate field for over 25 years and is also a Real Estate Broker. She graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary English and a Masters in Education in Reading and Middle School Education. She has taught in both public and parochial schools. Commissioner Lee has been involved in many community organizations and is a 2005 Honorary member of Florida Blue Key. She currently is a Board Member of the University of Florida Museum of Science and Natural History, and serves as Board Chair of Gainesville Catholic Charities as well as being a member of the St. Augustine Diocesan Catholic Charities Board.



### **SHELLIE SACHS LEVIN**



Commissioner Shellie Sachs Levin of Miami was appointed to the Commission in 2008 by Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink. She is a licensed Florida attorney who practiced law in Miami-Dade County for 25 years. In 1997, she left the practice of law to co-organize community initiatives and to help elect Democratic candidates to local, state and federal office. For the past 10 years Commissioner Levin has worked for EMILY's List, the largest independent political action committee in the country. She currently directs the EMILY's List Majority Council programs in the Southeastern United States and portions of the Midwest. In addition to her work with EMILY's List, Commissioner Levin has served on the National Women's Reproductive Healthcare Advisory Board and is a former Board member of the Women's Chamber of Commerce for Miami-Dade County. She served on the Miami-Dade County Commission on the Status of Women, as a Board member of the Women's Emergency Network, as Public Policy Chair for AAUW Miami and on the State Public Policy Committee for AAUW Florida.



### **ALCI MALDINADO**

Commissioner Alci Maldonado of Lakeland was first appointed to the Commission in 2008 by Governor Charlie Crist. She is an Interior Designer but dedicates much of her time to charity. She is a long time volunteer of the United Methodist Church, especially with its Music Ministries to Children. Commissioner Maldonado has also volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America, has served as the Lakeland Senior High School Band Parents Head Chaperone and was a Board member of the Florida State University Parents Association. A veteran Republican activist, she has served on political campaigns at all level of politics. She has volunteered, worked with, advised or has been the manager of political campaigns for over thirty years in Florida and has also worked with the Massachusetts Republican Party as a volunteer.



## JOANNE MCCALL

Commissioner Joanne McCall was appointed to the Commission in 2010 by CFO Alex Sink. Hard work, determination and teamwork play a fundamental part in Joanne McCall's role as Vice President of the Florida Education Association (FEA). She believes those values have motivated her as a leader, as a mom, and as a teacher. Her role as Vice President is focused on making FEA the best it can be by activating and increasing the membership base.



During Joanne's tenure as FEA Vice President, she's helped establish financial stability, membership growth, and groundbreaking bipartisan partnerships with political forces in Florida. The accomplishments are many, but the successes she's most proud of have made an impact in the classrooms around Florida. Joanne's career in education began as a speech language pathologist at North Sumter Primary School in Sumter County. While in that role, she also managed many responsibilities with her local FEA affiliate.

Joanne balances her role as Vice President of FEA with her responsibilities as mom to sons, Spencer and Trevor, and pet Labradors, Cash and Gator. Her boys are avid motocross racers, so Joanne and her husband Robin, split their free time between the race track and following the Florida Gators.

## NANCY PEEK MCGOWN

Commissioner Nancy Peek McGowan of Jacksonville, was appointed to the Commission in 2008 by Attorney General Bill McCollum. A conservative activist since 1990, she has a passion for public policy. Married to P. Ted McGowan, and mother of 5 children, Commissioner McGowan began her career in the United States Senate as a legislative intern while attending the University of Florida, where she obtained a B.A. in Political Science in 1982. She's served on P.T.A. boards, a twice commissioned Respect Life Coordinator for the Diocese of St. Augustine, a 25 year lector at her church, President of San Jose Country Club Swim Team 2006, she serves on the Executive Board of the Justice Coalition, a victims' rights organization in Jacksonville. Commissioner McGowan is currently the Legislative Chairman and Second Vice President of the Republican Women's Club of Duval Federated, a member of the Republican Executive Committee of Duval County, 2008 Duval Co-Chair Women for Mitt Romney for President, and 2010 Duval County Co-Chair Women for Marco Rubio for the U.S. Senate.



Commissioner McGowan was recognized with an award from the Justice Coalition, along with bill sponsors Sen. Steve Wise and State Rep. Dick Kravitz for her role in moving the Final Closing Arguments legislation out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. She delivered the pro-side of the argument against former Judiciary Senate Chairman, John Grant. This bill came out of committee 8-0, and gave the State of Florida Final Closing Arguments in a jury trial for the first time in 150 years. H.B. 147 was signed into law by Gov. Jeb Bush on June 7th, 2006.

### LAURA MCLEOD



Commissioner Laura McLeod of Tallahassee was last appointed to the Commission in 2006 by Commissioner of Agriculture Charles Bronson. Commissioner McLeod, a native of Orlando, Florida, began her professional career in the field of health prevention, education and treatment. This encompassed her career for over a decade, as well as opening her first business in management consulting and personnel placement in health care. Commissioner McLeod then entered association management for a statewide, not-for-profit association where she implemented a statewide drug prevention/education program for which she won a national education award. Commissioner McLeod most recently was a governmental consultant for fifteen years and is now Executive Director for the Florida Association of DUI Programs.

### RAMOLA MOTWANI

Commissioner Ramola Motwani was appointed to the Commission in 2010 by CFO Alex Sink. She is the Chairwoman and CEO of Merrimac Ventures, a real estate management, investment and development company with interests all over the U.S. and India. Current projects include the Trump International Hotel and Tower on the Fort Lauderdale Beach.



Commissioner Motwani began her career in the U.S. with an import/export business she started with her late husband Bob Motwani in St. Charles, MO. In the mid-1980's, they expanded the business into hotels by purchasing numerous properties on the Fort Lauderdale Beach. They owned and operated (among others) the Merrimac and Gold Coast Beach Resort Hotels on the Fort Lauderdale Beach from December 1986-October 2004, at which point she partnered with Donald Trump to make way for the five-star Trump International Hotel and Tower on the Fort Lauderdale Beach (currently under construction). As a Development Partner in the 298 – unit condominium hotel, Ramola handled the acquisition, design and entitlement process, and is currently active in managing local representation and public relations.

Commissioner Motwani is very active in the Fort Lauderdale community and has been a major component in beach development and re-development issues. She was instrumental in securing major sponsors to assist with the cost of updating the wave-wall fiber optic lights, secured funding for fireworks on the beach and spearheads the annual holiday lights on the beach effort.

She currently sits on the Advisory Committee for the Business Improvement District on the Fort Lauderdale Beach, is an appointed member of the Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board which advises the Fort Lauderdale City Commission, and is the Former Chair of the Beach Council, a group she has actively participated in as a Chamber of Commerce Trustee for over 20 years.

Her civic-minded affiliations include being a volunteer with the Citizens Volunteer Corps, Trustee of the South Florida Hindu Temple for 12 years, Vice President of the India – U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and past president of the Sindhi Association of S. Florida. Ramola was born and raised in India and received her law degree from the Government Law College located in Mumbai, India. She recently won the 2006 Chamber Women's Circle of Excellence Award for Hospitality and the 2007 Salute to Business Award.

### **LAURIE PIZZO**

Commissioner Laurie Pizzo of Spring Hill was appointed to the Commission by Attorney General Bill McCollum in 2007. Commissioner Pizzo has been a Multi-Million \$\$ Producer with CENTURY21® Alliance Realty since 2004. Laurie has completed her GREEN and GRI designations. She is an appointed member to several committees for the Florida REALTORS that deal with Public Policy and REALTOR Political issues. She is very involved with Governmental Affairs both with the Hernando County Association of REALTORS and the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Pizzo is an elected member to the Board of the American Cancer Society Hernando County Unit Board and the Community Advisory Council for HCA Oak Hill Hospital. She was a 2007 recipient of the Tillie Fowler Excellence in Public Service Series Scholarship, a statewide leadership training program for women. She was one of six highly qualified women selected for the scholarship-based program supported by the Republican National Committee. Commissioner Pizzo is also a 2007 graduate of Leadership Hernando for the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce and a 2007 graduate of Hernando County Association of Realtors Leadership Development Program.



### **MONICA RUSSO**

Commissioner Monica Russo of Miami was appointed to the Commission in 2008 by Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink. Commissioner Russo is president of SEIU Healthcare Florida, the largest union of health care workers in the state of Florida and the South, representing more than 16,000 nurses, hospital and nursing home workers at 100 facilities across the state. Commissioner Russo serves on numerous Boards including South Florida Workforce Investment Board, the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Florida International University's Research Institute for Social and Economic Policy, Congressman Kendrick Meek's Haitian Advisory Task Force, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz's Healthcare Working Group, Miami-Dade Branch NAACP Executive Committee and Labor Committee Co-Chair, and the United Way.





### **ANNE VOSS**

Commissioner Anne Voss of Tampa was appointed in January 2006 to the FCSW by former Senate President Tom Lee. She was born in Houston, Texas and graduated from Occidental College in Los Angeles with a BA in Political Science and was chosen to attend American University for an honor's study program. She is the Vice President of Strategic Solutions of Tampa, a political consulting firm and Senior Vice President of the Women's Political Network. Prior to her husband's retirement from the U.S. Army, Commissioner Voss was Coordinator for the U.S. Army Child Development Services at Picatinny Arsenal, N. J. and an Assistant Station Manager for the American Red Cross in Pirmasens, Germany. Commissioner Voss is currently President of the Florida Republican Women's Network and serves on the Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church. Commissioner Voss's awards include: Department of Army, Commander's Award for Civilian Service; Department of Army, Achievement Medal for Civilian Service; Department of Army, Commendation and Red Cross Certificate of Recognition for 16 years of volunteer service.



### **BARBARA WALL**

Barbara Wall has lived in Okaloosa County since 1992. After moving to Florida, she became actively involved in politics. She is past President of the Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated, Silver Sands Republican Women and the Florida Federation of Republican Women.

Barbara works within the community as a Director in the Northwest Florida State College Institute for Senior Professionals, The Youth Village and is currently the Chairman of the Okaloosa County Republican Executive Committee. In 2007, she was inducted into the Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women Hall of Fame.

### **COMMISSION STAFF**

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Michele S. Manning, Assistant Director  
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