

**SUE SHEAR INSTITUTE** FOR  
**WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE**  
*Encouraging Women's Civic Engagement*

November 5, 2008  
Dayna Stock  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:  
(314) 516-6623

**Director**  
Vivian Eveloff

**RECORD NUMBER OF WOMEN SENATORS ELECTED**

**ST. LOUIS**

**Advisory Board**  
Marion Cairns  
Milly Cohn  
Sheilah Clarke-Ekong  
Nancy Greenwood  
Malaika Horne  
Monica Huddleston  
Jane Klieve  
Julia Muller  
Gerry Welch

**Manager**  
Dayna Stock

A total of 41 women will be sworn into the 95<sup>th</sup> Missouri General Assembly in January 2009; five shy of the record set in 2001, but an increase of one over the last session. Eight of 10 graduates (80%) of the Sue Shear Institute's "Pipeline to Public Office" campaign school won their elections, including three who were elected to the Legislature for the first time.

**KANSAS CITY**

**Advisory Board**  
Marsha Campbell  
Joanne Collins  
Amy Sweeny Davis  
Jenny Erdman  
Esther Giffin  
Sandra Kauffman  
Betty Knight  
Jean Peters-Baker  
Theresa Garza Ruiz

**Managers**  
Julie Warm, PhD  
Cynthia Beckmann

The increase is in the Senate, where the election of Robin Wright Jones (D-St. Louis) and Jane Cunningham (R-Chesterfield) brings the total number of women Senators to eight, an all-time high. Jones and Cunningham both served in the Missouri House before running for the Senate. They will join incumbents Luann Ridgeway (R-Smithville) and Yvonne Wilson (D-Kansas City) who were re-elected, as well as four women Senators who were not on the ballot during this election cycle. Of the eight women in the Senate, five are Democrats and three are Republicans; seven are former House members.

The number of women in the House remains the same at 33: 24 Democrats and nine Republicans. Twenty incumbent women representatives were re-elected and will be joined by 13 newcomers, all elected in open seats.

At the University of Missouri – St. Louis  
One University Blvd. 232 Woods Hall St. Louis, Missouri 63121-4400 • Telephone: 314-516-4727 • Fax: 314-516-6621

At the University of Missouri - Kansas City  
5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2499 • Telephone: 816-235-1409 • Fax: 816-235-1762

Two of the newly-elected women will succeed other women of their party: Jeanie Riddle (R-20) will replace Danie Moore and Mary Wynne Still (D-25) will succeed Judy Baker. Moore and Baker were both unsuccessful in bids for the open seat in the 9th Congressional District. In addition, Jeanne Kirkton (D-Webster Groves) will succeed Rep. Kathlyn Fares (R) in the 91<sup>st</sup>, continuing a tradition of women's leadership in the district that extends back to 1976.

The all-time high of 40 women state representatives was set in 2001, but that number has dipped as low as 31 in 2007.

"It's encouraging to welcome so many new women to the Legislature, including a record number in the Senate." said Dayna Stock, Manager of the Sue Shear Institute.

U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson was re-elected to an eighth term in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and remains the sole woman in Missouri's nine member delegation. Robin Carnahan was re-elected to a 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Secretary of State, receiving the largest number of votes among statewide candidates. However, the number of women holding statewide office in 2009 will shrink from the current three, to two.

A list of women general election winners is posted online at [www.umsl.edu/~iwpl](http://www.umsl.edu/~iwpl). The Institute's next Pipeline program, "Pipeline to Local Office," will be held Jan. 27 & 29 at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. For more information, or to register, call (314) 516-4727.

*The Sue Shear Institute is a non-partisan, educational entity at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. For more information, contact the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life at 314-516-4727 or visit the Institute's web site.*