Women in Politics and Public Life

Women in the U.S. Senate:
Women hold 24 (24%) of the 100 seats in the U.S. Senate

Women in the U.S. House of Representatives:
Women hold 87 (20%) of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives

Women on the Supreme Court:
3 (33%) of the 9 justices on the U.S. Supreme Court are women

Women Cabinet Members:
7 of 23 (30%) Cabinet members appointed by the President are women

Women Governors:
Women serve as Governor in 6 (12%) of the 50 United States

Women in State Legislatures:
In 2018, 1,875 (25.3%) of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States were women.
Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled
(Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey).

In Missouri:

2 of 8 U.S. Representatives from MO are women:
   Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-Harrisonville, 4th District)
   Rep. Ann Wagner (R-St. Louis, 2nd District)

3 of 7 Missouri Supreme Court Judges are women:
   Judge Laura Denvir Stith
   Judge Mary Rhodes Russell
   Judge Patricia Breckenridge

6 out of 16 Statewide Executive Office Holders
   Chris Chinn, Missouri Director of Agriculture
   Maida Coleman, Missouri Public Service Commission
   Carol Comer, Missouri Director of Natural Resources
   Nicole Galloway, Missouri State Auditor
   Anna Hui, Missouri Director of Labor and Industrial Relations
   Chlora Lindley-Myers, Missouri Director of Insurance

Source: Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life ★ www.umsl.edu/sueshear
In the Missouri Legislature:

Currently, women hold 37 (22.8%) of the 163 seats in the Missouri House of Representatives and 8 (23.5%) of the 34 seats in the Missouri Senate.

In 2018, the Center for American Women in Politics ranked Missouri 32nd among the states in the percentage of women in the state legislature.

In St. Louis-area Local Government:

In 2018 women held 3 (42.9%) of 7 seats on the St. Louis County Council and 0 of 7 seats on the St. Charles County Council. The City of St. Charles elected its first woman mayor in 1987 and a woman had held that leadership position for all but one term since then.

In 2018 women held 13 (46%) of the 28 seats on the St. Louis Board of Aldermen. In 2016, the City of St. Louis elected their first female mayor, Lyda Krewson. In 2018, 36.5% (average) of all St. Louis City board members and mayoral appointments were women.

In 2018 women led 21 (24%) of the 88 municipalities in St. Louis County and 3 (21.4%) of 14 municipalities in St. Charles County. (Source: St. Louis County http://www.stlouisco.com/scripts/communities and the Sue Shear Institute)

Between 1972 and 2001, the number of women in the Missouri House quadrupled and the women in the Senate rose from 1 to 6. Currently, women account for 7 of the 34 state senators (21%), down from an all-time high of 8 in 2010. Prior to a string of resignations in early 2011, a record number 43 women (26%) served in the House of Representatives in 2016. In 2001, Missouri ranked 22nd among the states for the percentage of women in its legislature. Missouri’s legislature is currently ranked 30th for women elected-officials.

Women office holders have increased in the St. Louis County and St. Louis City legislative bodies. The first woman was elected to the 7-member St. Louis County Council in 1974. Following the 2006 election, women became the majority (4/7), but today the current number of Councilwomen serving is 3. The St. Louis Board of Aldermen now has 11 women among the 28 Aldermen. Mayor Lyda Krewson is the highest ranking elected woman in the City of St. Louis.

About Sue Shear:

In 1972, Sue Shear, a Clayton homemaker in her 50s, was persuaded by a group of newly energized young women to run for an open seat in the Missouri legislature. Defying conventional wisdom, she won her election and became one of the 10 women in the House of Representatives in 1973. Some of these pioneering women went on to serve in the Missouri Senate, but Rep. Shear persevered in the House for a record 26 years, retiring in 1998. In recognition of her service, the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri System and the Missouri Legislature voted to name The Institute for Women in Public Life at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in her honor.