



RESEARCH RESPONSE

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ILLINOIS WOMEN IN CONGRESS AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Overview

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

Of 22 Illinois women who have served in Congress since 1922, seven currently serve there: Representatives Jan Schakowsky, Robin Kelly, Lauren Underwood, Mary Miller, Delia Ramirez, and Nikki Budzinski, and Senator Tammy Duckworth. Representatives Schakowsky, Kelly, and Ramirez also served in the Illinois House of Representatives.

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

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

Table 1: Number of Women and Their Percentage of All Members, 85th to 92nd General Assemblies (1987-2002)

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

Table 2 shows the number of women who were originally seated in the 93rd through 103rd General Assemblies (2003-2023), based on information from the General Assembly website. It also shows the percentage that those originally seated women were of the members of each General Assembly.

Table 2: Number of Women Originally Seated and Their Percentage of All Members, 93rd to 103rd General Assemblies (2003-2023)

<i>General Assembly</i>	<i>Women originally seated*</i>	<i>% of members</i>
93rd	49	27.7%
94th	49	27.7
95th	49	27.7
96th	48	27.1
97th	52	29.4
98th	57	32.2
99th	55	31.1
100th	64	36.2
101st	64	36.2
102nd	70	39.5
103rd	73	41.2

* If an elected member resigned before being seated, her replacement is treated as having been originally seated.

The General Assembly website includes member lists showing the total number of legislators who served at any time during a given General Assembly. Table 3 on the next page counts all women who served due to either election or appointment. Thus, in several cases a seat is represented in Table 3 more than once. For example, if a woman resigned and was replaced by a woman, the count in Table 3 includes both women. However, if one woman moved between the House and the Senate during a General Assembly, she is counted only once in Table 3.

Table 3: Total Women Serving in 93rd to 103rd General Assemblies (2003-2023)

<i>General Assembly</i>	<i>Total women serving</i>
93rd	55
94th	54
95th	53
96th	56
97th	58
98th	62
99th	60
100th	72
101st	75
102nd	78
103rd*	73

* Through January 2023.

The current partisan division of women in the General Assembly is 62 Democrats and 11 Republicans. The Senate has 25 women (42.4% of its membership). The House has 48 (40.7%). The 103rd General Assembly has 14 African American women, 11 Latina women, and 6 Asian American women.

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

**Women in
Congress**

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

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

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

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

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

SIMPSON, EDNA OAKES (1959-61). Republican from Carrollton; served in House. She was the widow of Sidney E. Simpson, who served as a U.S. Representative from 1943 to 1958.

REID, CHARLOTTE T. (1963-71). Republican from Aurora; served in House. She attended Illinois College, and received honorary degrees from Aurora University, Illinois College, and John Marshall Law School. A professional singer, she was the featured vocalist on the "Don McNeal's Breakfast Club" radio program. She left the House when she was appointed to the Federal Communications Commission, the second woman in that post. She later served on both the Board of Defense Advisory Committee

on Women in the Services and the Presidential Task Force on International Private Enterprises. Her daughter, State Representative Patricia Reid Lindner, served in the General Assembly from 1993 to 2009.

COLLINS, CARDISS (1973-96). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a degree from Northwestern University of Illinois' business school. She was elected at a special election in 1973 to the seat vacated by her husband Congressman George Collins, who was killed in an airplane crash in 1972; she was re-elected to each succeeding Congress until her retirement in 1996. She was the first African American Congresswoman from Illinois and the first African American person and woman to hold the leadership position of Whip at Large in the U.S. House of Representatives. She chaired the Congressional Black Caucus in the 96th Congress, and chaired Members of Congress for Peace Through Law.

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

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

BIGGERT, JUDY (1999-2013) (also in General Assembly 1993-98). Republican from Hinsdale; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree in international relations from Stanford University, and a J.D. from Northwestern University. She was a law clerk to Judge Luther M. Swygert of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, and later worked as a lawyer specializing in real estate, estate planning, and probate.

SCHAKOWSKY, JANICE D. "Jan" (1999-) (also in General Assembly 1991-98). Democrat from Evanston; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Illinois. Before serving in the General Assembly, she was program director of Illinois Public Action from 1976 to 1985 and director of the Illinois State Council of Senior Citizens from 1985 to 1990. In Congress, she currently serves on the House Democratic Leadership Team as Senior Chief Deputy Whip.

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

HALVORSON, DEBORAH DeFRANCESCO "Debbie" (2009-11) (also in General Assembly 1997-2009). Democrat from Crete; served in House. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in communications from Governors State University. She was Crete township clerk. In the Illinois Senate she served as the first female Majority Leader, and also served as Majority Caucus Chair and Minority Caucus Whip.

BUSTOS, CHERI (2013-23). Democrat from East Moline; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Maryland, and a master's degree in public affairs reporting from the University of Illinois at Springfield. She was an investigative reporter and East Moline City Council member.

DUCKWORTH, TAMMY (2013-). Democrat from Hoffman Estates; served in House from 2013 to 2017 and currently serves in Senate. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii and received a master's degree in international affairs from George Washington University, and a Ph.D. in human services from Capella University. While serving in Iraq with the Illinois Army National Guard in 2004, she received severe combat wounds and earned a Purple Heart. She was the director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, and later assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

KELLY, ROBIN (2013-) (also in General Assembly 2003-07). Democrat from Matteson; serves in House. She received bachelor's and master's degrees from Bradley University, and a Ph.D. in political science from Northern Illinois University. She resigned from the General Assembly and became the first African American woman to serve as chief of staff to an elected statewide officeholder (State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias). She also was the Chief Administrative Officer of Cook County. In 2021, she was elected chairperson of the Illinois Democratic Party, the first African American woman to serve in that position.

UNDERWOOD, LAUREN (2019-). Democrat from Naperville; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. She is a registered nurse and formerly served as a senior advisor at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. At the time of her election, she was the youngest African American woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

MILLER, MARY (2021-). Republican from Oakland; serves in House. She earned a bachelor's degree in business management from Eastern Illinois University, and completed graduate coursework in education. She is a

certified teacher and a business manager, and has run the family farm with her husband, Chris (a representative in the Illinois General Assembly).

NEWMAN, MARIE (2021-23). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree in business and journalism from the University of Wisconsin. She worked as a partner in a large advertising agency, and later started her own firm. She also co-founded the nonprofit Team Up to Stop Bullying.

BUDZINKSI, NIKKI (2023-). Democrat from Peoria; serves in House. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she studied political science and history. She has been an intern with former Congressman Dick Gephardt and former Senator Paul Simon, as well as Planned Parenthood. She was a part of Governor J.B. Pritzker's office as a Senior Advisor on Labor Issues, and chaired the Broadband Advisory Council.

RAMIREZ, DELIA C. (2023-) (also in General Assembly 2018-22). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University. She is the founding executive director of the Center for Changing Lives and a former board chair of the Latin United Community Housing Association and the Logan Square Neighborhood Association. She was the first Guatemalan-American to serve in the Illinois General Assembly, and is the first Latina to represent Illinois in Congress. While in the Illinois House, she served as an Assistant Majority Leader.

**Women in
the General
Assembly**

ALEXANDER, ETHEL SKYLES (1979-93). Democrat from Chicago; served four terms in House, then was appointed and later elected to Senate. She served more than 34 years in the Criminal Division of the Cook County Circuit Court, and was the first African American woman appointed as assistant chief deputy clerk. Before her election to the General Assembly, she was a 20th Ward Regular Democratic Organization precinct captain for 28 years and committeewoman for 24 years. She was a member of the National Conference of Black Legislators, and secretary of the Illinois Black Legislative Caucus from 1983 to 1987.

ALTHOFF, PAMELA J. (2003-18). Republican from McHenry; appointed to Senate in 2003 and later elected. She received a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and a master's from Northeastern Illinois University—both in education. Before serving in the General Assembly, she was a teacher, city clerk and mayor of McHenry City, and administrator at the McHenry County Chamber of Commerce. Since retiring from the General Assembly, she has served as a McHenry County Board member and executive director of the Cannabis Business Association of Illinois.

AMMONS, CAROL (2015-). Democrat from Champaign; serves in House. She is a former member of the Urbana City Council and the Champaign County Board. She has been a staff member for Catholic Charities, the Boys and Girls Club, and the R.E.A.D.Y. Program through the local Regional Office of Education. She previously was the Majority Conference Chairperson.

AVELAR, DAGMARA “DEE” (2021-). Democrat from Bolingbrook; appointed, and later elected, to House. She received a bachelor’s degree in justice studies with a minor in political science from Northeastern Illinois University, and has completed work toward a master’s degree in urban planning and policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She was born in Ecuador and came to Illinois at age 12. She was the Director of Programs at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, where she led a large naturalization and language access program; she also has participated in youth leadership opportunities, and worked as a community organizer.

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

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

BALANOFF, MIRIAM (1979-83). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree and J.D. from the University of Chicago, and practiced law in the Chicago area for a number of years. She taught real estate, business, commercial, and tax law, and was a member of the Chicago Council of Lawyers. After leaving the General Assembly, she served as a circuit judge in Cook County.

BARNES, JANE M. (1975-93). Republican from Palos Park; served in House, where she was Minority Whip. She was the first woman to chair the Midwestern Conference of the Council of State Governments, and charter president of Illinois Women in Government. She also chaired the Arts and Tourism Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures’ Assembly on the Legislature. She was the first woman to serve as assistant chief deputy sheriff in Cook County, and was a licensed real estate broker.

BARNES, LIZZIE (1939-41). Democrat from Carmi; served in House. She was born in Kentucky in 1892 but was raised in White County, Illinois. She served as city treasurer of Carmi from 1949-1957, and was a director of the Carmi First National Bank for over 30 years.

BASSI, SUZANNE “Suzie” (1999-2011). Republican from Palatine; served in House. She received a B.A. from Rosary College (now Dominican University) and an M.A.T. degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and served as a high school teacher and school board member.

BELLOCK, PATRICIA R. “Patti” (1999-2018). Republican from Hinsdale; served in House where she was Deputy Minority Leader. She received a bachelor’s degree in history and American government from St. Norbert College. She formerly was a teacher and businesswoman. After leaving the General Assembly, she served as the director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

BENNETT, STACY M. (2022-2023). Democrat from Champaign; served in Senate, to which she was appointed in December 2022 to fill the vacancy due to the death of her husband, Sen. Scott M. Bennett. She received a B.S. in political science, geography, and environmental science from Kansas State University, an MPP in public policy from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. in higher education policy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a Teaching Assistant Professor and Research Associate with the Office of Community College Research and Leadership (both at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). She previously was Assistant Director of Admissions and Recruiting at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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

BERTINO-TARRANT, JENNIFER (2013-20). Democrat from Plainfield; served in Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree from Illinois State University, a master’s in curriculum and instruction from the University of St. Francis, and an Ed. D. from Loyola University. She has been a teacher, assistant principal, and principal. She also served two terms as the Will County Regional School Superintendent. She also was president of Vista Learning, which provides refurbished computers to students in Will County. In 2020 she was elected Will County Executive—the first woman to hold that office.

BIGGERT, JUDY. See Women in Congress.

BLAIR-SHERLOCK, DIANE (2022-). Democrat from Villa Park; serves in House. She obtained an associate degree from the College of DuPage, a bachelor’s degree from Northern Illinois University, and a J.D. from John Marshall Law School, and has engaged in the private practice of law. She was elected in November 2022, and appointed the next month to fill the vacancy in the seat after Representative Deb Conroy resigned to chair the DuPage County Board.

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

BOURNE, AVERY (2015-23). Republican from Litchfield; appointed and then elected to House, where she was an Assistant Republican Leader. She received a bachelor’s degree in American studies from Columbia College. Before serving in the House, she worked in the offices of a Missouri state senator and two members of Congress. She ran for Lieutenant Governor in 2022.

BOWLES, EVELYN M. (1994-2002). Democrat from Edwardsville; appointed and then elected to Senate, where she was Deputy Minority Caucus Chair. She attended several educational institutions, including Illinois State

University, Greenville College, and Southern Illinois University. Before her Senate service, she served in the U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve Intelligence Division, and as Madison County Clerk.

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

BRISTOW, MONICA (2017-21). Democrat from Godfrey; appointed to House in 2017 and elected in 2018. She received a bachelor's degree from Lindenwood University. She is a former president of the RiverBend Growth Association, and has served on the boards of several charitable organizations including the American Cancer Society and United Way Southwestern Illinois Auxiliary.

BRYANT, TERRI (2015-). Republican from Murphysboro; served in House 2015-2020 and was then elected to the Senate, where she serves as Assistant Republican Leader. She previously managed the dietary departments at the Pinckneyville Correctional Center and the Du Quoin Impact Incarceration Program. She is a former president of the governing board of the Illinois Lincoln Excellence in Public Service Series; vice-chairperson of the Jackson County Republican Party; vice-president of the Jackson County Republican Women's Organization; and coordinator of Coalitions for the Illinois Republican Party.

BURKE, KELLY M. (2011-). Democrat from Evergreen Park; serves in House, where she is an Assistant Majority Leader. She received a B.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a J.D. from John Marshall Law School. She formerly was legal counsel to Saint Xavier University. She is a past president of the Evergreen Park Public Library board; a youth sports coach; and a founder of a mock trial program for junior high students.

BUSH, MELINDA (2013-23). Democrat from Grayslake; served in Senate. Before serving in the Senate, she was a small business owner, Grayslake village trustee, and Lake County Board member. She also served as a Lake County Forest Preserve commissioner, and started the effort to create the Rollins Savanna forest preserve.

CANTY, MARY BETH (2023-). Democrat from Arlington Heights; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from William and Mary College and a law degree from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. She has worked for a number of firms, most recently as an associate for Litchfield Cavo LLP. She was a director of the Regional Transportation Authority, and is currently an Arlington Heights village trustee.

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

CASSIDY, KELLY M. (2011-). Democrat from Chicago; serves in the House, where she is the only serving openly gay female legislator. She is a former legislative director for the National Organization for Women and a former legislative aide to state Senator John Cullerton. Before her appointment to the House, she was deputy director of Intergovernmental Affairs and director of programs and development in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

CASTRO, CRISTINA (2017-). Democrat from Elgin; serves in Senate, where she is Majority Caucus Whip. She received a bachelor's degree and an M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University. She is a former member of the Kane County Board, and of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

CATANIA, SUSAN (1973-83). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She received a B.A. in chemistry from St. Xavier College, and did graduate work at Northwestern University. She worked as a technical writer, editor, and market researcher. She chaired the Commission on the Status of Women and the Illinois Women's Political Caucus. She was a delegate to Republican National Conventions in 1976, 1980, and 1984. (A history of her General Assembly service was made by the Oral History Office of Sangamon State University—now the University of Illinois at Springfield—for the Legislative Research Unit, now a part of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability).

CHAPA LaVIA, LINDA (2003-19). Democrat from Aurora; served in House. She received a B.A. in political science from the University of Illinois at Chicago; served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army; and is a real estate broker. She served as the Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs from 2019 to 2021.

CHAPMAN, EUGENIA S. (1965-83). Democrat from Arlington Heights; served in House, where she was Democratic Whip from 1981 to 1983. She was a member of the Northwest Suburban High School District 214 board from 1961 to 1964, and chief of the Division of Senior Citizen Advocacy and coordinator for Community Education in the Attorney General's office from 1983 to 1989.

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

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

CHUNG, SHARON (2023-). Democrat from Bloomington; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Illinois Wesleyan University and a graduate degree from Northwestern University. A professional violist and violinist, she is an adjunct faculty member at the Millikin University School of Music, and performed with the "Antiviral Musicians' Collective" during the pandemic lockdowns in various outdoor venues around Illinois.

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

CLAYTON, VERNA L. (1993-99). Republican from Buffalo Grove; served in House. She served as Buffalo Grove village clerk from 1971 to 1979, and village president from 1979 to 1991. She chaired the Council of Mayors for the Chicago Area Transportation Study, and the National League of Cities Transportation Committee; was president of the Illinois Municipal League; and served on Governor Edgar's transition team.

CLEMENTS, FLOY (1959-61). Democrat from Chicago; served as the first African American woman in the House. She received a bachelor's degree in social sciences and languages from Wilberforce University. She was a precinct captain in the 4th Ward Regular Democratic Organization for over 20 years, and committeewoman for many years. She also was active in numerous social, civic, and educational groups.

CLOONEN, KATHERINE "Kate" (2013-17). Democrat from Kankakee; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Ball State University and a master's degree in education from the National College of Education (now National Louis University). She taught for 16 years, and later founded a steel erection and rebar installation company.

COLE, SANDY (2007-13). Republican from Grayslake; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Rockford College. She served as a Lake County Board and Forest Preserve commissioner for 10 years. She also is a former director of the Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District.

COLLINS, ANNAZETTE R. (2001-13). Democrat from Chicago; served in House from 2001 to 2011, and in Senate from 2011 to 2013. She received a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in criminal justice. Before serving in the General Assembly, she was an administrator for the Chicago school board; a prison correctional officer; and an employee of the Department of Children and Family Services.

COLLINS, EARLEAN (1977-98). Democrat from Chicago; served in Senate. She received a B.A. in sociology from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Before her election to the Senate, she worked in real estate and as a child welfare executive in the Department of Children and Family Services. She was the first African American woman to serve in the Illinois Senate, and the first woman to serve in the Senate as an Assistant Majority Leader. When

she ran for Comptroller in 1994, she became the first African American woman to win the nomination for statewide office. She left the Senate to serve as a Cook County commissioner.

COLLINS, JACQUELINE Y. (200323). Democrat from Chicago; served in Senate, where she was an Assistant Majority Leader. She received a journalism degree from Northwestern University and master's degrees from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and Divinity School; she also earned a J.D. from Loyola University. Before serving in the Senate, she was a legislative fellow for Senator Hillary Clinton, press secretary to Congressman Gus Savage, and an Emmy award-nominated news editor at CBS-TV. She ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in 2022.

COLLINS, LAKESIA (2020-). Democrat from Chicago; appointed, and later elected, to House. She graduated from Proviso East High School; served as a Certified Nursing Assistant in nursing homes; and was a healthcare worker and union organizer for SEIU Healthcare Illinois, where she organized nursing home workers. She is also a founder of Future Fighters, focusing on young workers.

CONROY, DEBORAH "Deb" (201322). Democrat from Villa Park; served in House, where she chaired the Democratic Women's Caucus. She is a former community volunteer and member of the District 205 school board, and has coordinated an annual fundraiser for sick and disabled children for the Elmhurst Children's Assistance Foundation. She helped create the York Student Enrichment Team, which helps pay school fees for families in financial difficulty. She now serves as chairwoman of the DuPage County Board.

CONYEARS-ERVIN, MELISSA (2017-19). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University and an M.B.A. from Roosevelt University. She worked in the insurance industry for 15 years before being elected to the General Assembly. She resigned from the House in 2019 when she was elected Chicago treasurer.

COSTA HOWARD, TERRA (2019-). Democrat from Glen Ellyn; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a J.D. from DePaul University. In her legal practice, she served as a court-appointed guardian ad litem for vulnerable children, seniors, and people with disabilities. She served two terms on the Glen Ellyn School District Board (including 2 years as president), and has been on the Glen Ellyn Plan Commission.

COULSON, ELIZABETH (1997-2011). Republican from Glenview; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Kansas, an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Business Management, and an advanced certificate in physical therapy from Northwestern University Medical School. A licensed physical therapist, she taught physical therapy, health policy, and ethics at the Chicago Medical School. In 2021 she was appointed to serve on the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

COWLISHAW, MARY LOU (1983-2003). Republican from Naperville; served in House, where she was Assistant Minority Leader. She received a B.S. in journalism from the University of Illinois, and was a member

of the *Naperville Sun* editorial staff. She also was a member of the District 203 Board of Education.

CROKE, MARGARET (2021-). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House. She earned a B.A. in political science and communications from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Before being elected, she served as the Deputy Chief of Staff of Legislative Affairs for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Broadband Advisory Council. She previously worked for Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

CROTTY, M. MAGGIE (1997-2013). Democrat from Oak Forest; served in House from 1997 to 2002 and in Senate from 2003 to 2013. Before being elected to the General Assembly, she served on and was president of the School District 145 board. She served as Assistant Majority Leader in the Senate. After leaving the General Assembly, she served as Bremen Township supervisor.

CROWE, RACHELLE (2019-2022). Democrat from Glen Carbon; served in Senate. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri at St. Louis, and a J.D. from Saint Louis University. She is a former criminal prosecutor in the Madison County State's Attorney's Office, and now serves as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois.

CURRIE, BARBARA FLYNN (1979-2019). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She was the House Majority Leader—the first woman to hold that post. She received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Chicago. A political scientist, she taught at DePaul University and directed a National Opinion Research Center study on women, politics, and Chicago community organizations. Since retiring from the General Assembly, she has chaired the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

CURRY, JULIE A. (1995-2003). Democrat from Mount Zion; served in House. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from Eastern Illinois University. Before serving in the General Assembly, she was Macon County treasurer. She served on the boards of directors of the United Way of Macon County, Decatur YWCA, and Communities in Partnership, and also was a member of the Government Finance Officers' Association and the Mid-Illinois Treasury Management Association.

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

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

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

DELGADO, EVA-DINA (2019-). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House and then elected. She received a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Wellesley College and a J.D. from DePaul University. She has been an Executive at People's Gas and a member of the Chicago Police Board. She formerly worked for the City of Chicago and the Chicago Transportation Authority, becoming its first female director of Governmental and Public Affairs.

DEMUZIO, DEANNA (2004-11). Democrat from Carlinville; served in Senate, where she was Majority Caucus Whip in 2010-11. She was appointed to the Senate in May 2004 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, Vince Demuzio. She was a past small business owner and education curriculum planner. She has also served as mayor of Carlinville.

DEUCHLER, SUZANNE L. "Sue" (1981-99). Republican from Aurora; served in House. She received a B.A. from the University of Illinois. She served on the Kane County Board, and held leadership positions in the League of Women Voters and American Association of University Women. She was a legislative co-founder of the Illinois Math and Science Academy, and was active in the PTA and the Department of Public Aid's Welfare Services Committee. She also co-chaired the Conference of Women Legislators.

DIDRICKSON, LOLETA A. (1983-91). Republican from Flossmoor; served in House. She received a B.A. in communications from Governors State University. Before serving in the House, she was an aide to Senator Aldo DeAngelis. In 1991 she was appointed director of the Department of Employment Security. She resigned in October 1993 to run for Comptroller, and served as Illinois Comptroller from 1995 to 1999. She also ran for the U.S. Senate in 1998.

DOEDERLEIN, DELORIS (1987-93). Republican from East Dundee; served in House. She received a B.A. from Valparaiso University and an M.S. from the National College of Education at Evanston (now National Louis University). Before serving in the General Assembly, she was a teacher and co-owner of a lumber yard. She was a member of the National Education Task Force of the American Legislative Exchange Council, and a member of the Kane County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency Board. She also was a member of the McHenry County and Illinois State Federation of Republican Women's Clubs.

DONAHUE, LAURA KENT (1981-2003). Republican from Quincy; appointed to Senate in 1981 to fill the vacancy due to the death of her mother, Mary Lou Kent, and later elected. She received a B.S. from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. She had worked in merchandising and bookkeeping,

and was in business as an instructor, choreographer, and musical theater consultant. In the Senate, she served as Majority Caucus Chair (1993-97) and Assistant Majority Leader (1997-2003). In 2019 she was appointed to the State Board of Elections.

DU BUCLET, KIMBERLY (2011-13). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Illinois, and a master's of business administration in marketing from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. In 2018 she was elected as a commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

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

DYER, GOUDYLOCH E. "Giddy" (1969-81). Republican from Hinsdale; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Agnes Scott College. She was the first woman elected to the DuPage County Board of Supervisors, serving two terms. She also was a director of the Illinois and National Council of Republican Workshops, and a member of the Public Health Council of DuPage County.

EDLY-ALLEN, MARY (2019-21; 2023-). Democrat from Libertyville; elected to House in 2018 and to Senate in 2022. She received a bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University and a master's degree from National Louis University. She is a former elementary school teacher with bilingual certification. She also co-founded Foundation46, an educational nonprofit.

ELIK, AMY (2021-). Republican from Fosterburg; serves in House. She received a B.S. in accountancy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is a licensed CPA. She worked in public accounting for 20 years before becoming Chief Financial Officer for a long-term-care management company. She also served as a Foster township trustee and St. Mary's Catholic School board member.

ELLMAN, LAURA (2019-). Democrat from Naperville; serves in Senate. She received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Grinnell College and a master's degree in applied statistics from the University of Iowa. She is a former quality engineer at 3M and an assessor at Argonne National Laboratory.

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

ERWIN, JUDY (1993-2003). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin and an M.A. from the National College of Education at Evanston (now National Louis University), both in education. She worked as a public relations executive, management consultant, and Illinois Senate staff director. Since serving in the

General Assembly, she has served on multiple boards, and was executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education from 2005 to 2010.

FANTIN, ARLINE M. (1995-99). Democrat from Calumet City; served in House. She graduated from the American Floral Art School. She served as Thornton Township assessor, and as South Suburban College job developer.

FAVER DIAS, LAURA (2023-). Democrat from Grayslake; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Indiana University and a master's degree in bicultural education from Wayne State University. She is a former high school social studies teacher and a current small business owner. She has served on the Grayslake Economic Development Commission and is a Grayslake Village Trustee. She is involved with her local church and school district, and was the founder of the first 501(c)(3) parent-teacher organization in her sons' school.

FAWELL, BEVERLY (1981-2000). Republican from Glen Ellyn; elected to House in 1980 and to Senate in 1982. She received a B.A. in elementary education and business administration from Elmhurst College. She was a member of several DuPage County clubs, including the DuPage Federation of Republican Women's Club.

FEIGENHOLTZ, SARA (1995-). Democrat from Chicago; served in House 1995-2020, and was later appointed and then elected to the Senate. She received a bachelor's degree in political science, speech, and performing arts from Northeastern Illinois University. She was an Assistant Majority Leader in the House in the 98th to 100th General Assemblies. She participated in both the Illinois Public Health Leadership Institute Fellowship and Harvard Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives programs.

FINE, LAURA (2013-). Democrat from Glenview; served in House 2013-19 and was elected to the Senate in 2018. She received a B.A. in telecommunications from Indiana University and an M.A. in political science from Northeastern Illinois University, and is a graduate of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership and the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development. She is a former journalist, Northfield Township clerk, and political science instructor at Northeastern Illinois University. She has served on the board of Angles (formerly Links North Shore Youth Health Service).

FINNIE, NATALIE PHELPS (2017-19). Democrat from Elizabethtown; appointed to House. She was a family nurse practitioner at Gallatin County Wellness Center before serving in the House. She is also a member of the gospel trio "The Phelps Sisters." In 2023, she was appointed director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

FLOWERS, MARY E. (1985-). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House where she is Deputy Majority Leader. She was educated at Kennedy-King College and the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is the longest serving African American legislator in the Illinois General Assembly.

FREDERICK, VIRGINIA F. (1979-95). Republican from Lake Forest; served in House, where she was an Assistant Minority Leader. She received a B.A. from the University of Iowa. She was the first woman alderman

in Lake Forest, and a co-chairperson of the Citizens' Council on Children. She served on the coordinating committee for the 1976 International Women's Year and the Illinois International Women's Year Task Force, and was a delegate to the 1974 World Food Conference in Rome.

GABEL, ROBYN (2010-). Democrat from Evanston; serves in House, where she is Majority Leader. She received a B.A. from Beloit College, an M.S.P.H. from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, and an M.J. in health law from Loyola University of Chicago. She was executive director of the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition from 1988 to 2010.

GARRETT, SUSAN (1999-2013). Democrat from Lake Forest; served in House from 1998 to 2002, and in Senate from 2003 to 2013. In the Senate she served as Majority Whip. She received a bachelor's degree from Lake Forest College. She founded a marketing firm and worked as a marketing and advertising executive for Illinois banks. She now serves on the Lake Forest College board of trustees.

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

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

GILLESPIE, ANN (2019-). Democrat from Arlington Heights; serves in Senate. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a J.D. from DePaul University. She has worked in health care as a lawyer, consultant, and executive. She also tutored at the La Rabida Children's Hospital.

GIOLITTO, BARBARA A. (1993-95). Democrat from Rockford; served in House. She received a B.S. in sociology and psychology from Rockford College. Before serving in the House, she worked as an insurance agent and sales representative.

GLOWIAK HILTON, SUZANNE "Suzy" (2019-). Democrat from Western Springs; serves in Senate. She received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and a master's degree in manufacturing engineering from Northwestern University. She is a former Western Springs village trustee, and has served as a consultant investigating accidents.

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

GONG-GERSHOWITZ, JENNIFER (2019-). Democrat from Glenview; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Indiana University, a J.D. from Loyola University Chicago, and an LL.M. from Northwestern University. She was the first director of an immigration law practice at the Highland Park-Highwood Legal Aid Clinic, and a founding member of the Illinois Unaccompanied Children's Task Force.

GOODE, KATHERINE HANCOCK (1925-28). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She also was a delegate to the 1922 Republican State Convention, and to the 1924 Seventh District Supreme Court Convention. She died in 1928 while still in office.

GORDON, CAREEN M. (2003-11). Democrat from Coal City; served in House. She received a B.A. in political science and English from the University of Illinois, and a J.D. from John Marshall Law School. She formerly served in several state's attorneys' offices and in the Illinois Attorney General's criminal division.

GORDON-BOOTH, JEHAN (2009-). Democrat from Peoria; serves in House, where she was Deputy Majority Leader and now serves as Speaker Pro Tempore. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She worked at Bradley University's Small Business Development Center, and as a coordinator of retention efforts at Illinois Central College. She also chaired Peoria's Promise, and was a member of the Pleasant Hill school board.

GRAHAM, DEBORAH L. (2003-10). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Robert Morris University. Before serving in the General Assembly, she worked as a coordinator for special projects in the Chicago Department of Planning, and as a Shelter Plus Care housing program manager. She resigned from the General Assembly to accept an appointment to Chicago City Council.

GRANT, AMY L. (2019-). Republican from Wheaton; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and attended graduate studies in art history from Northern Illinois University. She is a former teacher in Pittsburgh public schools, and was a retail merchandise buyer at Ralph Lauren. She also served on the DuPage County Board from 2012 to 2018.

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

GREEN, MADGE MILLER (1963-65). Republican from Palestine; appointed and then elected to the Senate, and later served as Senate postmistress. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Indiana

State College. She was a teacher and author of the textbook *Through the Years in Indiana* used in Indiana schools. She was the widow of Herschel S. Green, who served in the House from 1947 to 1957 and in the Senate from 1957 to 1963.

GREENWOOD, LATOYA (2017-23). Democrat from East St. Louis; served in House, where she was Majority Conference Chair. She received a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a master's degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. She formerly was a member of the East St. Louis City Council and the director of human resources for East St. Louis School District 189.

GROW, DORAH (1965-67). Democrat from Quincy; served in House. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in business from North-eastern State University at Tahlequah and taught at several high schools and colleges. She was Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Chief Clerk of the County Election Board in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She became the personnel administrator for J. Paul Getty (reputed to be the world's richest man at the time).

GUERRERO-CUELLAR, ANGELICA (2021-). Democrat from Chicago; appointed and then elected to House. She earned a B.A. in international relations from Roosevelt University. She has worked as a manager for Envision Community Services, which provides COVID-19 contact tracing among other services. She is the first Latina to represent her district, and the daughter of Mexican immigrants.

HAAS, JACKIE (2020-). Republican from Bourbonnais; serves in House as an Assistant Republican Leader. She received a bachelor's degree in social work from Valparaiso University, and a master's degree in social work with a specialization in mental health from the University of Illinois at Chicago's Jane Addams College of Social Work. She has been a licensed clinical social worker since 1992, and the CEO of the nonprofit Helen Wheeler Center for over 20 years. She has also served on the Kankakee County Board.

HALL, TERRY (2023). Democrat from Gurnee; served in Senate. She received a B.A. in accounting and business in 1984, and has been a CPA since 1985. She served on the Woodland District 50 Board of Education for 12 years. She was appointed to bridge the gap between Senators Melinda Bush and Mary Edly-Allen due to a redistricting issue, and served for 9 days.

HALLSTROM, MARY JEANNE "Dolly" (1979-83). Republican from Evanston; served in House. She chaired the State Advisory Council on Education of Handicapped Children for 13 years, and was a member of the Illinois Commission on Children for 15 years and a member of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. She was instrumental in organizing the Fund for Perceptually Handicapped Children. She received numerous awards for work on behalf of children with learning disabilities and persons with physical disabilities; was a legislative resource coordinator for Equip for Equality, Inc. (a nonprofit organization providing services and advocacy for people with disabilities); and was elected to the Chicago Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 1990.

HALVORSON, DEBORAH DeFRANCESCO “Debbie”. See Women in Congress.

HAMILTON, SANDRA (2021-2023). Republican from Springfield; served in House. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has been a real estate broker specializing in residential and commercial real estate. She is a former member of the Board of Directors, Finance Committee, and Executive Board of Capital Area Realtors. She served as President of the Commercial Real Estate Network. She has been a women’s volleyball coach for over 30 years at high school and junior college levels.

HAMMOND, NORINE (2010-). Republican from Macomb; serves in House, where she has served as an Assistant Republican Leader and now serves as Deputy Republican Leader. She attended Western Illinois University. She formerly served on the Macomb City Planning Commission and as a township trustee and supervisor.

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

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

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

HARPER, SONYA M. (2015-). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House and then elected. She received a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has been the executive director of Grow Greater Englewood and owner of Sharper PR Communications. In the House, she is the first African American woman to chair the Agriculture & Conservation Committee.

HARRISS, ERICA (2023-). Republican from Highland; serves in Senate. She received a bachelor’s degree in speech communication/public relations from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. She is a small business owner and has done marketing and human resources for former St. Louis Cardinal Ozzie Smith; staffed newsrooms for KSDK-TV in St. Louis and WLBT-TV in Jackson, Mississippi; and was Director of Communications for the National Children’s Cancer Society. She has been a member of the Madison County Board and chaired its personnel committee.

HASARA, KAREN (1986-95). Republican from Springfield; appointed and then elected to House, and in 1992 elected to Senate. She received bachelor's and master's degrees from Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield). She was a member of the Sangamon County Board from 1975 to 1980; a member of the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission from 1978 to 1981; and Sangamon County Circuit Clerk from 1980 to 1985. She was also a state board member of the Illinois Federation of Republican Women. After leaving the Senate, she was mayor of Springfield until 2002.

HATCHER, KAY (2009-15). Republican from Yorkville; served in House. She received corporate communications training at Boston College's Carroll School of Management. Before serving in the House, she was a member of the Oswego school board and the Kendall County Board, and president of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District. She was the founder of Reputation Management, Inc.

HERNANDEZ, BARBARA (2019-). Democrat from Aurora; appointed and then elected to House, where she served as Deputy Majority Leader and is now an Assistant Majority Leader. She received a bachelor's degree in political science from Aurora University. She has been a residential counselor at the Illinois Math and Science Academy, Kane County Board member, and assistant chief of staff to then-state Representative Linda Chapa LaVia. She also is the founder of the Aurora Youth Summit.

HERNANDEZ, ELIZABETH "Lisa" (2007-). Democrat from Cicero; serves in House, where she is now Deputy Majority Leader. She received an associate's degree from Morton College and a bachelor's degree in public administration from Northeastern University. She formerly was employed by Cicero Public School District 99 and as a senior policy advisor to then-Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn.

HERNANDEZ, NORMA (2023-). Democrat from Melrose Park; serves in House. She received an associate's degree from Triton Community College, a bachelor's degree in social work from Aurora University, and a master's degree in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She was the Community Development Planner at the University of Illinois at Chicago Great Cities Institute, and served as President of the UIC Latino Planning Organization for Development, Education, and Regeneration. She was the first Latina elected as a Triton Community College trustee.

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

HIRSCHAUER, MAURA (2021-). Democrat from Batavia; serves in House. She received a B.A. in English from Colby College, and did graduate work in elementary education at the University of Colorado at Denver. She formerly worked as a teacher with experience in early childhood, elementary, and adult English as a second language classrooms. She is a founding

member and legislative lead of the Kane and Kendall County Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Safety in America.

HOLMBERG, JOYCE (1983-93). Democrat from Rockford; served in Senate. She received a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University and a master's degree in counseling psychology from the Alfred Adler Institute. She formerly was an instructor at Rock Valley College.

HOLMES, LINDA (2007-). Democrat from Aurora; serves in Senate, where she is an Assistant Majority Leader. She received a bachelor's degree in business from the National College of Education (now National Louis University). She owned a remodeling company and was the first woman president of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. She is a former Kane County Board member and Kane County Forest Preserve commissioner.

HOWARD, CONSTANCE A. "Connie" (1995-2012). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received B.A. and M.S. degrees from Chicago State University. She was an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984 and 1988, and a member of the Democratic state committee in Illinois' 1st Congressional District.

HOXSEY, BETTY J. (1977-83). Republican from Ottawa; served in House. She participated in state and Congressional election campaigns, and in public- and private-sector business activities. After leaving the General Assembly, she served as manager of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs' civic center support program.

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

HUNTER, MATTIE (2003-). Democrat from Chicago; appointed and then elected to Senate, where she served as Majority Caucus Chair and is now an Assistant Majority Leader. She received a B.A. in government from Monmouth College and an M.A. in sociology from Jackson State University, and is a certified drug and alcohol counselor and prevention specialist.

HURLEY, FRANCES A. (2013-). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House. She is a graduate of Saint Xavier University, and has been an aide to two Chicago aldermen. She has also been a director of the Saint Christina Manna Program.

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

Codename: Scarlet, Life on the Campaign Trail by the Wife of a Presidential Candidate.

HUTCHINSON, TOI W. (2009-2019). Democrat from Olympia Fields; served in Senate. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a J.D. from Northern Illinois University, and attended the Executive Management Program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She formerly was Olympia Fields village clerk and chief of staff to Senator Debbie Halvorson. Since leaving the Senate, she has served as the Governor's senior advisor for cannabis control.

ICKES, ANNA WILMARTH (1929-35). Republican from Winnetka; served in House. She was educated at the University of Chicago, and was a trustee of the University of Illinois. She was active in many clubs and civic organizations.

IVES, JEANNE (2013-19). Republican from Wheaton; served in House. She received a B.S. in economics from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and has served as an Army officer, most recently as an ROTC instructor at Wheaton College. She also worked as a tax consultant and was a member of the Wheaton City Council. She ran in the 2018 Republican primary against then-Governor Bruce Rauner, and ran for Congress in 2020.

JAKOBSSON, NAOMI D. (2003-15). Democrat from Urbana; served in House. She received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois. She formerly was executive director of Champaign's University YWCA, and was Champaign County Recorder of Deeds.

JEFFERIES, ELGA L. (2006-09). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House in 2006 and elected later that year. In 2002 she completed the term of Senator Margaret Smith after her retirement. She is a former deputy mayor of Bronzeville and involved in several community organizations.

JESIEL, SHERI L. (2014-19). Republican from Gurnee; appointed to House in 2014 and elected later that year. She received a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting from Carthage College. She became a CPA and worked as a business manager and accountant.

JIMÉNEZ, LILIAN (2022-). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House. She received a B.A. in Latin American and Latino studies and political science from DePaul University, and a J.D. from DePaul University College of Law. She has held positions including administrator of the Illinois Office of Welcoming Centers for Refugee and Immigrant Services, Director of the Fair Labor Standards Division of the Illinois Department of Labor, and Civil Rights investigator for the US Department of Health and Human Services, and was Chief of Staff and Policy Director for then-Cook County Commissioner Jesús "Chuy" Garcia. She was elected in November 2022, and was appointed to the seat in the 102nd General Assembly after Representative Delia Ramirez resigned to take a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

JIMENEZ, SARA WOJCICKI (2015-19). Republican from Leland Grove; appointed and then elected to House. She received a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and a master's degree from

the University of Illinois at Springfield. She was press spokesperson for the House Republican Leader, and later Chief of Staff for then-First Lady of Illinois Diana Rauner. After leaving the General Assembly, she served as director of marketing and communications for the HSHS Central Illinois Division hospitals. She is now the owner of KIND Consulting, LLC.

JOHNSON, ADRIANE (2020-). Democrat from Buffalo Grove; appointed and then elected to the Senate. She received a bachelor's degree from Columbia College, and a Master of Jurisprudence from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She has served on the Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners, and has chaired the board of trustees of the Illinois Association of Park Districts.

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

JONES, LOVANA S. "Lou" (1987-2006). Democrat from Chicago; served in House, where she was an Assistant Majority Leader. She studied business administration at Ohio State University.

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

JONES, SHIRLEY M. (1988-2002). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House in September 1988 and elected later that year. She attended George Williams College, and was an administrator in the Chicago Park District.

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

KARMAZYN, LILLIAN K. (1969-73). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She was a registered beauty culturist and taught beauty culture. She also served as a precinct captain of the 22nd Ward Republican Organization.

KARPIEL, DORIS C. (1979-2003). Republican from Carol Stream; appointed to House in 1979 and elected in 1980, then elected to Senate in 1984. She received a B.A. in political science from Northern Illinois University. She was Majority Caucus Chair in the Senate. She earlier served as a Bloomingdale Township supervisor and trustee, and chaired the Bloomingdale Township Republican Central Committee.

KASZAK, NANCY (1993-97). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Elmhurst College, an M.P.A. from Roosevelt University, and a J.D. from Northern Illinois University. She was the general attorney for the Chicago Park District from 1987 to 1992. She taught at Illinois Benedictine College, and was a legislative analyst for the

Illinois House Democratic Staff. She also served as a commissioner of the City Landmarks Commission; president of the Landmarks Preservation Council; and vice-president of the Chicago Council of Lawyers. In 1996 she ran for Congress in the 5th Congressional District.

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

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

KENT, LAURA. See DONAHUE, LAURA KENT.

KENT, MARY LOU (1973-81). Republican from Quincy; elected to House in 1972 and to Senate in 1980, but died in 1981. She studied at the National College of Education (now National Louis University), University of Colorado, and Michigan State University. Before becoming a legislator, she was an administrative assistant for the Quincy Chamber of Commerce for 13 years. Her interests included community and industrial development, tourism, and highways. She was the first woman appointed to the House Appropriations Committee.

KIFOWIT, STEPHANIE (2013-). Democrat from Aurora; serves in House. She received a B.S. in political science and an M.P.A. from Northern Illinois University. She is a Marine Corps veteran and a member of several veterans' organizations. She is a former substitute teacher, registered financial advisor, and Aurora alderman.

KLINGLER, GWENN (1995-2003). Republican from Springfield; served in House. She received a B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University, an M.A. from the University of Michigan, and a J.D. from George Washington University. She worked for the Illinois Attorney General from 1981 to 1984 and the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor from 1984 to 1991. She also was a partner in a Springfield law firm; president of the Springfield District 186 school board; and a Springfield alderman.

KOEHLER, JUDY (1981-87). Republican from Henry; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University, and a law degree from Loyola University of Chicago. She had been a teacher, social worker for the blind and aged, and buyer for major department stores. After her legislative service, she served as director of legislative affairs for the American Lung Association of Illinois; an assistant state's attorney in DuPage County; and a judge in the Third District of the Illinois Appellate Court.

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

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

KRUPA, JOAN G. (2009). Republican from Peoria; served in House. She received bachelor's and master's degrees from Bradley University, and was a teacher and elementary guidance counselor. She was the Assistant Dean of Women at Bradley after obtaining her master's degree, and also served two terms on the Peoria County Board. She was the Executive Director and CEO of Heartland Community Health Care before running for the House. She lost the election but was appointed to the 92nd House District on January 5, 2009 to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Representative Aaron Schock after his election to Congress, serving until her opponent, Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth (D), took office on January 14, 2009.

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

LADISCH-DOUGLASS, JENN (2023-). Democrat from Elmhurst; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree and a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. She was a partner at Timmons, Warnes & Ladisch and practiced in the Chicago office of Sidley Austin before founding her own firm, Douglass, PC.

LAPOINTE, LINDSEY (2019-). Democrat from Chicago; appointed and then elected to the House. She has a bachelor's degree from Grinnell College and a master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois at Chicago's Jane Addams School of Social Work. She was a project manager of justice reform at Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, and a program manager for Adult Redeploy Illinois at the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

LIGHTFORD, KIMBERLY A. (1998-). Democrat from Maywood; serves in Senate, where she is Majority Leader. She has a B.A. in public communications and human relations from Western Illinois University, and a master's in public administration from the University of Illinois at Springfield. She is a former Maywood village trustee, and was employed by several state agencies, including the Secretary of State's office and the Department of Corrections.

LILLY, CAMILLE Y. (2010-). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Drake University and a master's degree in health administration from Oklahoma University, and an executive MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. She is a former vice-president for External Affairs and Development at Loretto Hospital, and has been vice-president of BethAnneLife Centre at Bethel New Life, and executive director of the Austin Chamber of Commerce.

LINDNER, PATRICIA REID (1993-2009). Republican from Aurora; served in House, where she was Assistant Republican Leader. She received a B.S. from Northwestern University, an M.A. from the University of Colorado, and a J.D. from Northern Illinois University. She practiced family law at the Law Offices of Patricia Reid Lindner starting in 1986.

LOUGHRAN CAPPEL, MEG (2020-). Democrat from Shorewood; serves in Senate. She earned a degree in special education from Benedictine University, and a master's degree in leadership from Lewis University. She has been a small business owner; special education teacher; union representative; and member of the Joliet Township High School Board. In 2019 she co-founded a local driving school.

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

MACDONALD, VIRGINIA B. (1973-93). Republican from Arlington Heights. She served four House terms, then was elected in 1982 to the Senate. She attended the University of New Mexico. She was a delegate to the 6th Illinois Constitutional Convention (1969-70), and secretary of the House Republican Caucus from 1972 to 1982. She co-chaired the Citizens' Council on Women; served as assistant to the director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; and was an officer in several Republican organizations.

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

MAH, THERESA (2017-). Democrat from Chicago; serves in the House as Democratic Conference Chair. She received a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and spent much of her career as a college professor. She is a daughter of immigrant parents, and the first Asian American to serve in the Illinois House of Representatives. She formerly served as a senior policy advisor and director of Asian-American outreach under then-Governor Pat Quinn.

MANLEY, NATALIE (2013-). Democrat from Joliet; serves in House, where she is an Assistant Majority Leader. She received a B.A. in business administration from the University of St. Francis and an M.A.O.L.-P.A. from Lewis University. She is a certified public accountant, and has been a senior staff accountant at Wermer, Rogers, Doran and Ruzon LLC. She was a committee member for the Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living and a local radio show co-host.

MARKETTE, SHARON G. (1983-85). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House. She was appointed after the resignation of Representative Ozie Hutchins. She received a B.S. in criminal justice from Chicago State University.

MARTIN, LYNN M. See Women in Congress.

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

MARTINEZ, IRIS Y. (2003-20). Democrat from Chicago; served in Senate, where she was an Assistant Majority Leader. She received a bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University. She has been the Senate co-chair of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus, and a past president of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators. In 2020 she was elected Cook County Circuit Clerk—the first Latina to hold that office.

MASON, JOYCE (2019-). Democrat from Gurnee; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago and an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management. She formerly was the vice-president of the Woodland Community School District Board of Education, and worked as a human resources consultant.

MAY, KAREN (2001-13). Democrat from Highland Park; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She was a founder and president of a public relations advertising agency, and active in many organizations in Lake County.

MAYFIELD, RITA (2010-). Democrat from Waukegan; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree in computer science from Columbia College, and a master's degree in management and organization behavior and an M.B.A. from Benedictine University. She formerly was the vice-president of the Waukegan school board and a member of the Waukegan Schools Foundation Board. She also was a workforce development manager. She is the first African American woman elected to the 60th House district.

MAZZOCHI, DEANNE M. (201823). Republican from Elmhurst; appointed to House in 2018 and elected later that year. She served as an Assistant Republican Leader. She received a bachelor's degree in political science and chemistry from Boston University, and a J.D. from George Washington University. She was a founding member of a law firm specializing in patent and life sciences law and chaired the College of DuPage Board of Trustees.

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

McASEY, EMILY (2009-17). Democrat from Lockport; served in House. She is a graduate of the College of William and Mary and of Loyola University of Chicago School of Law. Before becoming a lawyer, she taught

8th grade social studies. She formerly was a criminal prosecutor in the Will County State's Attorney's Office.

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

McCOMBIE, TONY (2017-). Republican from Savanna; serves in House and was elected House Republican Leader in 2023. She received a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University. She is a former Savanna mayor and councilwoman. She also is a small business owner who operates Blue Appraisals, and a real estate broker with Mel Foster Company.

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

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

McDERMED, MARGO (2015-21). Republican from Mokena; served in House. She received a J.D. from DePaul University, and practiced law with Amoco and BP for 30 years. She has served as the Frankfort Township Collector, Trustee, and Clerk, and been a member of the Will County Board. She founded the Mokena Educational Foundation.

MEANY, MARY K. (1964-69). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She was a graduate of Northwestern University. She was a high school teacher and past president of both the Chicago regional PTA and the 3rd Congressional District Women's Republican Club. She was the widow of Robert E. Meany, a Wrigley Company executive.

MELL, DEBORAH (2009-13). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Cornell College, and studied at the California Culinary Academy. In 2013 she left the General Assembly after being appointed as Chicago's 33rd Ward alderman following her father's retirement.

MENDOZA, SUSANA A. (2001-11). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a B.A. from Northeast Missouri State University. She was elected as Chicago City Clerk in 2011, and as Illinois Comptroller in 2016 (special election) and again at the 2018 and 2022 general elections. She also sought the Democratic nomination for Chicago mayor in 2019.

MEYERS-MARTIN, DEBBIE (2019-). Democrat from Olympia Fields; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from the University

of Illinois at Chicago. She has been village president and a trustee of Olympia Fields, and was the former community affairs marketing specialist for the State Treasurer. She also has been the president of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, and a member of the Prairie State College's President's Advisory Committee.

MOELLER, ANNA (2014-). Democrat from Elgin; appointed to House in 2014 and elected later that year. She received a B.A. in history and an M.P.A. from Northern Illinois University, and was a member of the first class of the Edgar Fellows Program at the University of Illinois. She was executive director of the McHenry County Council of Governments, and a member of the Elgin City Council.

MOORE, ANDREA S. (1993-2002). Republican from Libertyville; served in House. She attended Drake University. She served as president of the Lake County Forest Preserve; a Lake County commissioner; and a member of the Condell Medical Center board. She also served on the Illinois Supreme Court Advisory Committee, the Governor's Task Force for Flood Control, and the Governor's Committee for the Future of Illinois; as a village trustee of Libertyville; and on the boards of the David Adler Cultural Center of Libertyville and the National Association of County Organizations. She was appointed assistant director of the Department of Natural Resources in 2002.

MOORE, KATHLEEN C. (2010-2011). Democrat from Chicago; served in the House. She was appointed in December 2010 to fill a vacancy in the 11th House district created by Rep. John A. Fritchey's resignation.

MORRISON, JULIE A. (2013-). Democrat from Deerfield; serves in Senate, where she is Majority Caucus Whip. She received a B.A. in political science from Knox College. She served as West Deerfield Township Supervisor and as road commissioner. Her other past positions include working as a federal energy regulation analyst with Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America, and serving on the Governor's Statewide Advisory Council to the Department of Children and Family Services.

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

MOSELEY-BRAUN, CAROL. See Women in Congress.

MULLIGAN, ROSEMARY (1993-2013). Republican from Des Plaines; served in House. She studied at Illinois State University and William Rainey Harper College, and worked for a number of years as a paralegal before beginning her legislative service.

MUNIZZI, PAMELA A. (1989-93). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House in 1989 and elected in 1990, and then appointed to the Senate in 1992. She received a B.A. from the University of Illinois at Chicago,

and did graduate work at DePaul University and the Illinois Institute of Technology. She was employed by the Committee on Local Transportation of the Chicago City Council, and as victim-witness coordinator in the Cook County state's attorney's office. She also was active on the boards of Mercy Hospital Women's Board, Valentine Boys and Girls Club, and Benton House Community Center.

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

MURPHY, LAURA M. (2015-). Democrat from Des Plaines; appointed and then elected to Senate, where she serves as Deputy Majority Leader. She received a bachelor's degree in political science from Illinois State University. She is a former Des Plaines alderman.

MURPHY, MAUREEN (1993-97). Republican from Evergreen Park; served in House. She attended Moraine Valley Community College. She was Worth Township Clerk from 1985 to 1989, and has been a broker-associate with R.B. Konie and Co., Realtors. She also was vice-president and area leader for the Worth Township Regular Republican Organization, and president of the Evergreen Park Regular Republican Organization.

MUSSMAN, MICHELLE (2011-). Democrat from Schaumburg; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree in design from the University of Cincinnati. She served as local PTA president and treasurer, and has been active in the Schaumburg Township Council of PTAs. She is a member of the leadership board of the Women In Need Growing Stronger (WINGS), and of the Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County.

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

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

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

NESS, SUZANNE (2021-). Democrat from Crystal Lake; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree in communications with a minor in

women's studies from Arizona State University, and a master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix. She is a small business owner; recently served 2 years on the McHenry County Board; and has served on the board of the Northern Kane County Chamber of Commerce. She founded an organization offering leadership skills to underserved communities in the 66th District, and continues to coach and train leaders in a variety of fields.

NETSCH, DAWN CLARK (1973-91). Democrat from Chicago; served in Senate. She received B.A. and J.D. degrees from Northwestern University. She was administrator and legal aide to Governor Otto Kerner from 1960 to 1965. She became the first woman law professor at Northwestern University Law School in 1965, and was a delegate to the 6th Illinois Constitutional Convention (1969-70), vice-chairing its Committee on Revenue and Finance. She served as State Comptroller from 1991 to 1995, and was the first woman to win the Democratic nomination for Governor in 1994 (losing to incumbent Jim Edgar). She also co-authored *State and Local Government in a Federal System*.

OBLINGER, JOSEPHINE K. (1979-87). Republican from Williamsville; served in House. She received a B.S. in education from the University of Illinois, and a law degree from the University of Detroit Law School, where she was the only female student. She was the Governor's director of senior involvement from 1987 to 1992; a board member of the Illinois Humanities Council and the Federal Council on Aging; a board member and honorary chairperson of the Governor's Office of Volunteerism; and president of the Illinois Association of County Clerks and Recordors, Illinois Federation of Republican Women, Sangamon County Republican Women's Club, and Illinois Federation of Teachers. She also chaired the Sangamon County Republican Central Committee.

O'BRIEN, MARY K. (1997-2003). Democrat from Coal City; served in House. She received a B.S. from Western Illinois University and a J.D. from the University of Illinois. She served as a Grundy County assistant state's attorney and as an Assistant Attorney General. She has since served on the Third District of the Appellate Court.

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

OSMOND, JOANN D. (2003-15). Republican from Gurnee; appointed in 2003 to fill the House vacancy due to the death of her husband, Timothy H. Osmond, and elected in 2004. She served at different times as an Assistant Republican Leader and Republican Conference Chairperson. She formerly owned an insurance company, and served as treasurer and trustee of the First Fire Protection District.

PACIONE-ZAYAS, CRISTINA H. (2020-). Democrat from Chicago; appointed and then elected to Senate, where she vice-chairs the Higher Education Committee. She received dual B.A. degrees in sociology and Spanish, and both Ed. M. and doctorate degrees in educational policy studies, all from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has been associate vice president of policy for the Erikson Institute; director of education advanced policy at the Latino Policy Forum; and a member of several educational boards and committees.

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

PANKAU, CAROLE (1993-2013). Republican from Itasca; served in House from 1993 to 2005, and in Senate from 2005 to 2013. She received a B.S. in accounting from the University of Illinois. In the Senate, she was a Minority Caucus Whip. She was a Bloomingdale Township committeewoman and vice-chair of the Bloomingdale Township Republican Organization.

PAPPAS, DIANE (2019-21). Democrat from Itasca; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a J.D. from Yale Law School. She immigrated to the United States from Poland at age 11. She is former in-house counsel for Motorola Solutions, Inc., YRC Worldwide, Inc., and USF Corporation.

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

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

PARKHURST, LINDSAY (2017-20). Republican from Kankakee; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois, a J.D. from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law; and an LL.M. from DePaul University, and practiced civil and criminal defense law. She formerly was an assistant public defender and practiced medical malpractice defense. In 2020 she was elected a circuit judge in the 21st Judicial Circuit.

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

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

PERRY, JOSEPHINE (1931-35). Republican from Chicago; served in House. She was a graduate of Illinois State Normal University (now Illinois State University), and a member of several civic and social welfare organizations.

PIERCE, FERNE CARTER (1957-62). Democrat from Malta; served in House. She was an active partner in a farming and Angus cattle operation. She also was a precinct committeewoman and former secretary of the DeKalb County Democratic Central Committee, and secretary-treasurer of the Women's Auxiliary of the American Angus Association.

PIHOS, SANDRA M. (2003-13). Republican from Glen Ellyn; served in House. She received a B.A. from Mount Union College and an M.S. from Northern Illinois University. She served as a teacher and high school guidance counselor, and was president of the Glenbard Township District 87 school board. She formerly owned a restaurant management firm.

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

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

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

RADOGNO, CHRISTINE (1997-2017). Republican from Lemont; served in Senate, where she was the first woman to serve as Senate Republican Leader. She received bachelor's and M.S.W. degrees from Loyola University of Chicago. She was the 2006 Republican nominee for State Treasurer. She formerly was a social worker at Mercy Center for Health Care Services in Aurora, and a member of the LaGrange Village Board of Trustees.

RAMIREZ, DELIA C. See Women in Congress.

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

REAVES-HARRIS, PAMELA (2015-17). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois, and a J.D. from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. She has engaged in the private practice of law and been an administrative law judge. In 2020 she ran for a Cook County Circuit Court judgeship.

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

REZIN, SUE (2010-). Republican from Morris; serves in Senate, where she is Deputy Republican Leader. She was elected to the House in November 2010, but appointed to the Senate the next month. She received a bachelor's degree in international business and political science, with a minor in Hispanic studies, from Augustana College. She also graduated from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government's Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program. She managed her family's real estate business for 15 years; has been vice-president of the Morris Hospital Foundation board; and has served on the boards of the Community Foundation of Greater Grundy County and We Care of Grundy County.

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

RONEN, CAROL (1993-2008). Democrat from Chicago; served in House from 1993 to 2000, and was appointed to Senate in 2000. She received a bachelor's degree in political science from Bradley University, and a master's in public administration from Roosevelt University. She also was assistant commissioner of the Chicago Department of Housing, and assistant commissioner of the Chicago Department of Planning.

ROTH, PAM (2011-13). Republican from Morris; served in House. She received a degree in business administration and accounting from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, and worked as a CPA. She was senior financial analyst for the Morris nuclear power plant, and president of the Saratoga District 60C school board.

RYG, KATHLEEN A. (2003-09). Democrat from Vernon Hills; served in House. She received a B.S. from Northern Illinois University and an M.A. from Roosevelt University. She worked as a mental health administrator, and was a Vernon Hills village trustee and clerk, as well as Chief Deputy Recorder of Deeds for Lake County.

SANALITRO, JENNIFER (2023-). Republican from Hanover Park; serves in House. She was born in Tacoma, Washington, and owns a small business and is a sales executive at Dandee Pallet and Packaging. She is also a former district sales training manager and a current Wayne Township Committeeman.

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

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

SCHAKOWSKY, JANICE D. "Jan". See Women in Congress.

SCHERER, SUE (2013-). Democrat from Decatur; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree in education from Illinois State University and a master's degree in education from Eastern Illinois University. She was a public elementary school teacher for 34 years.

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

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

SENGER, DARLENE J. (2009-15). Republican from Naperville; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree in finance from Purdue University, and an M.B.A. from DePaul University. She is a licensed financial and investment advisor, and has served on the Naperville City Council and Naperville Plan Commission.

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

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

SHARP, WANDA J. (1999-2001). Democrat from Maywood; appointed to House in January 1999 after Representative Eugene Moore became Cook County Recorder of Deeds. She had earlier served as a Maywood village trustee.

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

SIMON, JEANNE C. See HURLEY, JEANNE C.

SLONE, RICCA C. (1997-2005). Democrat from Peoria Heights; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Washington University; master's degrees in anthropology and public administration from the University of California and Ohio State University; and a J.D. from the University of Illinois. She formerly chaired the Environmental Law Section Council of the Illinois State Bar Association.

SMITH, MARGARET (1981-2002). Democrat from Chicago; elected to House in 1980 and to Senate in 1982, where she was the Minority Caucus Chair. She attended Tennessee State University and received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Chicago Baptist Institute. She was a board member of the Ada S. McKinley and Beatrice Caffrey Youth Service Network.

SOTO, CYNTHIA (2001-18). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She attended William Rainey Harper College. She has been an Administrative Supervisor in the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and a member of the Near North Civic Committee board.

STAVA-MURRAY, ANNE (2019-). Democrat from Naperville; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College. She formerly was a consumer researcher and focus group moderator. She has also been a commissioner on the Naperville Board of Fire and Police.

STEANS, HEATHER (2008-21). Democrat from Chicago; served in Senate. She has a B.A. in urban studies from Princeton University, and an M.A. in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She has been a strategic planner for the Chicago Public Schools; a budget director for the Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations; and a consultant at Ernst and Young.

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

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

STEWART, MONICA FAITH (1981-83). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a B.A. in history from Vassar College and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. After her House term, she became director of development of public education and children-at-risk issues for North Central Regional Educational Laboratory at Oak Brook. She also was an adjunct member of Northeastern Illinois University's political science department.

STIEHL, CELESTE M. (1973-83). Republican from Belleville; served in House. She was the first woman in General Assembly leadership, serving as Assistant Minority Leader from 1975 to 1981 and Assistant Majority Leader from 1981 to 1983. She was a member of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and of the Small Business Advisory Council. She also was a member of the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees. She was a director of the Belleville Economic Development Corporation; executive director of Belleville Economic Progress Inc.; president of St. Clair County Republican Women; and co-chair of the Illinois Positive Action Task Force.

STONEBACK, DENYSE WANG (202123). Democrat from Skokie; served in House. She earned a bachelor's degree in criminology and law studies and Spanish from Marquette University, and a master's degree in translation from the Complutense University of Madrid. Her father immigrated to the U.S. from China. She taught English and translation abroad, and worked in educational publishing for many years. She also founded People

for a Safer Society to fight gun violence and has served as its president for 6 years.

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

STUART, KATIE (2017-). Democrat from Edwardsville; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a master's degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, both in mathematics. She is a former elementary and high school math teacher, and also was a math instructor at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

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

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

SYED, NABEELA (2023-). Democrat from Palatine; serves in House. She received bachelor's degrees in political science and business administration from the University of California at Berkeley. She has been working in digital strategies for nonprofit companies focused on civic engagement. She is the first Indian American and Muslim woman elected to the General Assembly.

TABARES, SILVANA (2013-18). Democrat from Chicago; served in House. She received a B.A. in journalism from Columbia College in Chicago. She was managing editor for EXTRA Community Newspaper, and taught radio broadcast to local youth as an audio producer for WRTE Radio Arte in Chicago. In 2018 she was appointed as Chicago's 23rd Ward alderman.

TOPINKA, JUDY BAAR (1981-95). Republican from Riverside; served in House, then in Senate starting in 1985. She was elected State Treasurer in 1994 and served three terms. In 2006 she was the Republican candidate for Governor. She was elected State Comptroller in 2010 and re-elected in 2014, but died before her second term began. She received a B.S. degree from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, and became a features editor, reporter, and columnist for Life Newspapers and a public relations consultant and executive vice-president of Cicero Radio Corporation. She was active in the Chicago Chapter of Women in Communications, Illinois Women's Press Association, Chicago Press Club, and Executive Club of Chicago.

TRACY, JIL (2006-15; 2017-). Republican from Quincy; served in House from 2006-15, then elected to the Senate in 2016. In the Senate she serves as a Republican Caucus Whip. In 2014 she was a Republican candidate for nomination as Lieutenant Governor. She received a B.A. in political science and a law degree from Southern Illinois University, and was the director of the Attorney General's West Central Illinois regional office. She served for over 13 years on the Mt. Sterling Park District Board.

TURNER, DORIS (2021-). Democrat from Springfield; appointed and then elected to Senate. She is the first African American to serve central Illinois in the Senate. She also was the first African American woman to lead a county party in the state, and the first woman and person of color to be named mayor pro tempore of Springfield. Before her appointment to the Senate, she served on the Springfield City Council and the Sangamon County Board, where she was floor leader. She worked in state government for 33 years, including serving as chief of the Illinois Department of Public Health Center for Minority Health Services.

TURNER, SALLY J. (2021-). Republican from Beason; appointed and then elected to Senate, where she serves as Republican Caucus Whip. She received a bachelor's degree in legal studies from the University of Illinois, and a master's degree in organizational leadership from Lincoln Christian University. She served as Logan County Clerk and Recorder from 1994 to 2018—the longest-serving woman in an elected capacity in Logan County.

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

VAN PELT, PATRICIA (2013-). Democrat from Chicago; serves in Senate. She received a B.A. from Roosevelt University, an M.A. from Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago, and a Ph.D. in management of nonprofit agencies from Capella University. She is a certified public accountant, and has served on the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council and the Illinois Charter School Commission.

VENTURA, RACHEL (2023-). Democrat from Joliet; serves in Senate. She received an A.S. in biology from Tidewater Community College and a B.S. in mathematics from Benedictine University. She has a variety of work experience, spending time as a Health Insurance Actuary in California, a naturalist for Georgia State Parks, and Business Director for local gaming company Legendary Games. A former Will County Board member, she is a board member for the RPG Creators Relief Fund, a nonprofit charity helping game designers in need.

VILLA, KARINA (2019-). Democrat from West Chicago; served in House for one term and then was elected to the Senate. She received a master's degree in social work from Aurora University. She formerly was a school social worker, and vice-president of the West Chicago District school board. She is the daughter of immigrants who were small business owners.

VILLANUEVA, CELINA (2018-). Democrat from Chicago; appointed to House in 2018, and then appointed to fill a Senate vacancy in January 2020. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a former community organizer with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

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

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

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

WHEELER, BARBARA (2013-19). Republican from Fox Lake; served in House. She received a bachelor's degree from Loyola University of Chicago and a master's degree from National Louis University (both in education). She has been a teacher and Peace Corps volunteer, and a McHenry County Board member.

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

WILLIAMS, ANN M. (2011-). Democrat from Chicago; serves in House. She received a B.A. in journalism from the University of Iowa and a J.D. from Drake University Law School. She was a legislative director and assistant attorney for the Illinois Attorney General.

WILLIAMSON, LINDA (1985-91). Republican from Northlake; served in House. She studied political science at Triton College. She served as a Leyden Township trustee from 1982 to 1984, and a member of the citizens' advisory board to the Cook County Board of (tax) Appeals. She was a

founder and president of Taxpayers for Better Government (now defunct), and a member of the Citizens' Utility Board. She also was director of governmental affairs for the Illinois Commissioner of Savings and Residential Finance.

WILLIS, KATHLEEN (201323). Democrat from Addison; served in House. She received a B.A. in human services administration from Elmhurst College, and a master's degree in library and information services from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She was the coordinator of access services at Elmhurst College, and a part-time teacher of children's and youth literature. She also has served on the Addison Elementary School District Board. She served as the Majority Conference Chair in the 101st General Assembly.

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

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

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

YANG ROHR, JANET (2021-). Democrat from Naperville; serves in House. She received a bachelor's degree in economics and English from Northwestern University, and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. She is also a Chartered Financial Analyst charterholder. She is the Head of Managed Investment Data at Morningstar, and has worked in the investment industry for most of the past two decades. She also served on the Naperville Community Unit School District 203 school board.

YARBROUGH, KAREN A. (2001-12). Democrat from Maywood; served in House. She received a B.A. in business administration from Chicago State University and an M.A. in inner city studies from Northeastern Illinois University. She was the founder and president of an insurance agency and president of the Maywood Chamber of Commerce. She has served as Cook County Recorder of Deeds and currently is the Cook County Clerk.

YOUNGE, WYVETTER H. (1974-2008). Democrat from East St. Louis; served in House. She received a J.D. from St. Louis University and a master of law degree from Washington University. She had been an attorney for the Federal National Mortgage Association and director of Neighborhood

Opportunity Centers (War on Poverty), and chaired the East St. Louis Planning Commission. She was an Assistant Majority Leader and Majority Conference Chairperson.

ZICKUS, ANNE (1989-91 and 1993-2002). Republican from Palos Hills; served in House. She was a member of the Palos Republican Women's Organization, Illinois Federation of Republican Women, and National Federation of Republican Women. She earlier was a Palos Hills alderman and plan commission member.

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

Appendix A: Statistical History of Women in the General Assembly

<i>General Assembly</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>House</i>			<i>Senate</i>			<i>General Assembly total</i>
		<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Republicans</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Republicans</i>	<i>Total</i>	
53rd	1923-24	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
54th	1925-26	-	3	3	-	1	1	4
55th	1927-28	2	3	5	-	1	1	6
56th	1929-30	2	4	6	-	1	1	7
57th	1931-32	1	2	3	-	1	1	4
58th	1933-34	1	3	4	-	-	-	4
59th	1935-36	-	2	2	-	-	-	2
60th	1937-38	-	2	2	-	-	-	2
61st	1939-40	1	3	4	-	-	-	4
62nd	1941-42	-	3	3	-	-	-	3
63rd	1943-44	-	3	3	-	-	-	3
64th	1945-46	-	3	3	-	-	-	3
65th	1947-48	-	4	4	-	-	-	4
66th	1949-50	-	4	4	-	-	-	4
67th	1951-52	1	5	6	-	1	1	7
68th	1953-54	1	5	6	-	2	2	8
69th	1955-56	1	5	6	-	2	2	8
70th	1957-58	4	2	6	-	2	2	8
71st	1959-60	5	2	7	-	2	2	9
72nd	1961-62	3	2	5	-	2	2	7
73rd	1963-64	2	1	3	-	2	2	5
74th	1965-66	3	4	7	-	-	-	7
75th	1967-68	1	3	4	1	-	1	5
76th	1969-70	1	3	4	1	-	1	5
77th	1971-72	1	2	3	1	-	1	4
78th	1973-74	2	6	8	3	-	3	11
79th	1975-76	4	8	12	2	-	2	14
80th	1977-78	6	12	18	3	-	3	21
81st	1979-80	9	14	23	2	2	4	27
82nd	1981-82	10	18	28	2	3	5	33

Appendix A: Statistical History of Women in the General Assembly (cont'd)

<i>General Assembly</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>House</i>			<i>Senate</i>			<i>General Assembly total</i>
		<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Republicans</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Republicans</i>	<i>Total</i>	
83rd	1983-84	7	13	20	4	4	8	28
84th	1985-86	8	12	20	4	6	10	30
85th	1987-88	9	11	20	6	6	12	32
86th	1989-90	10	12	22	6	6	12	34
87th	1991-92	11	9	20	7	6	13	33
88th	1993-94	15	15	30	5	6	11	41
89th	1995-96	15	16	31	5	5	10	41
90th	1997-98	18	16	34	5	7	12	46
91st	1999-2000	19	14	33	5	7	12	45
92nd	2001-02	20	15	35	6	6	12	47
93rd	2003-04*	26	14	40	9	6	15	55
94th	2005-06*	26	12	38	9	7	16	54
95th	2007-08*	24	14	38	12	3	15	53
96th	2009-10*	30	13	43	10	4	14	57
97th	2011-12*	31	11	42	10	6	16	58
98th	2013-14*	33	14	47	11	4	15	62
99th	2015-16*	34	10	44	12	4	16	60
100th	2017-18*	39	14	53	14	5	19	72
101st	2019-20*	41	9	50	23	2	25	75
102nd	2021-22*†	41	8	49	25	4	29	78
103rd	2023-24*†	42	6	48	20	5	25	73

* For these years, each woman who served in the General Assembly is counted whether she was elected or appointed. Thus in several cases a seat is counted more than once for the same General Assembly. Also, if a woman moved between the House and the Senate, she is counted more than once.

† As of January 2023.

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