



Produced by the Senate Clerk's Office  
Susan Clarke Schaar, Clerk of the Senate

For more information, please contact:

Senate Clerk's Office  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 396  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 698-7410  
[information@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:information@senate.virginia.gov)

# WOMEN *of the* SENATE *of* VIRGINIA

## 1971



First woman elected to serve as Clerk of the Senate of Virginia: **Mary Louise O'Connor Lucas (Richmond City)**.



*Interesting fact:* Also, the first female Senate Page, **Sallie Johnston (Henrico)**, was appointed to serve in the Senate of Virginia.

## 1980

Sixty years after women won the right to vote, Eva F. Scott took her seat.



## 1982

Second woman and first female Democrat elected to the Senate of Virginia begins her service: **Evelyn M. Hailey (D—Norfolk)**.

*Interesting fact:* Since that time, women have won Senate seats in each major election.

## 1992



Women who currently have the longest Senate service take the oath of office: **Janet D. Howell (D—Fairfax County)** and **L. Louise Lucas (D—Portsmouth)**.



*Interesting fact:* These two women also have the longest legislative service and continue to serve in the Senate of Virginia.

## 1970s

### 1979

First woman elected to the Senate of Virginia, as well as the first Republican woman elected to the same body: **Eva F. Scott (R—Amelia)**.



## 1980s

*Interesting fact:* It was not until four years after the election of **Evelyn M. Hailey (D—Norfolk)** that three other women were elected to the Senate of Virginia.

### 1988

First African-American woman elected to the Senate of Virginia: **Yvonne B. Miller (D—Norfolk)**.



## 1990s

### 1996

First woman to chair a Senate committee: **Yvonne B. Miller (D—Norfolk)**.



### 1997

First woman on Senate Finance Committee: **Janet D. Howell (D—Fairfax County)**.



### 2007

First African-American woman in the General Assembly to serve in a leadership position as a caucus chair: **Mamie E. Locke (D—Hampton)**.



Eleven members of the 40-member Senate are women.

## 2000s

### 2008

First woman named a Senate budget conferee: **Janet Howell (D—Fairfax County)**.



## 2010s

## 2020s

### 2020

First woman/African-American woman elected President *pro tempore*: **L. Louise Lucas (D—Portsmouth)**.



First Muslim-American woman elected to the Senate of Virginia: **Ghazala F. Hashmi (D—Chesterfield)**.



First woman to chair Senate Finance and Appropriations: **Janet Howell (D—Fairfax County)**.



## Present day

Seven of the women are members of the Democratic Party.



Four of the women are members of the Republican Party.





## Women in the Senate of Virginia

*in alphabetical order*

Senator	Locality	Senate	House
Boysko, Jennifer (D)	Fairfax County	2019 -	2016-2019
Byrne, Leslie L. (D)	Fairfax	2000 - 2004	1986-1992
Chase, Amanda F. (R)	Chesterfield	2016 -	
Couric, Emily (D)	Charlottesville	1996 - 2001	
Dance, Rosalyn R. (D)	Petersburg	2014 - 2020	2005-2014
Devolites Davis, Jeannemarie (R)	Fairfax	2004 - 2008	1998-2004
Dunnavant, Siobhan S. (R)	Henrico	2016 -	
Favola, Barbara A. (D)	Arlington	2012 -	
Hailey, Evelyn M. (D)	Norfolk	1982 - 1984	1974-1981
Hashmi, Ghazala F. (D)	Chesterfield	2020-	
Howell, Janet D. (D)	Fairfax County	1992 -	
Kiggans, Jen A. (R)	Virginia Beach	2020-	
Locke, Mamie E. (D)	Hampton	2004 -	
Lucas, L. Louise (D)	Portsmouth	1992 -	
Miller, Emilie F. (D)	Fairfax	1988 - 1992	
Miller, Yvonne B. (D)	Norfolk	1988 - 2012	1984-1988
McClellan, Jennifer L. (D)	Richmond	2017 -	2006-2017
Phillips, Edwina Dalton (R)	Henrico	1988 - 1992	
Puller, Linda T. (Toddy) (D)	Fairfax County	2000 - 2015	1992-2000
Scott, Eva F. (R)	Amelia	1980 - 1984	1972-1979
Ticer, Patricia S. (D)	Alexandria	1996 - 2012	
Vogel, Jill Holtzman (R)	Fauquier	2008 -	
Wexton, Jennifer T. (D)	Loudoun	2014 - 2019	
Whipple, Mary Margaret (D)	Arlington	1996 - 2012	
Woods, Jane H. (R)	Fairfax	1992 - 2000	1988-1992



## Women in the Senate of Virginia

*in alphabetical order*

Senator	Locality	Senate	House
Boysko, Jennifer (D)	Fairfax County	2019 -	2016-2019
Byrne, Leslie L. (D)	Fairfax	2000 - 2004	1986-1992
Chase, Amanda F. (R)	Chesterfield	2016 -	
Couric, Emily (D)	Charlottesville	1996 - 2001	
Dance, Rosalyn R. (D)	Petersburg	2014 - 2020	2005-2014
Devolites Davis, Jeannemarie (R)	Fairfax	2004 - 2008	1998-2004
Dunnavant, Siobhan S. (R)	Henrico	2016 -	
Favola, Barbara A. (D)	Arlington	2012 -	
Hailey, Evelyn M. (D)	Norfolk	1982 - 1984	1974-1981
Hashmi, Ghazala F. (D)	Chesterfield	2020-	
Howell, Janet D. (D)	Fairfax County	1992 -	
Kiggans, Jen A. (R)	Virginia Beach	2020-	
Locke, Mamie E. (D)	Hampton	2004 -	
Lucas, L. Louise (D)	Portsmouth	1992 -	
Miller, Emilie F. (D)	Fairfax	1988 - 1992	
Miller, Yvonne B. (D)	Norfolk	1988 - 2012	1984-1988
McClellan, Jennifer L. (D)	Richmond	2017 -	2006-2017
Phillips, Edwina Dalton (R)	Henrico	1988 - 1992	
Puller, Linda T. (Toddy) (D)	Fairfax County	2000 - 2015	1992-2000
Scott, Eva F. (R)	Amelia	1980 - 1984	1972-1979
Ticer, Patricia S. (D)	Alexandria	1996 - 2012	
Vogel, Jill Holtzman (R)	Fauquier	2008 -	
Wexton, Jennifer T. (D)	Loudoun	2014 - 2019	
Whipple, Mary Margaret (D)	Arlington	1996 - 2012	
Woods, Jane H. (R)	Fairfax	1992 - 2000	1988-1992



## Women in the role of Clerk of the Senate

	Locality	Year (s)
Lucas, Mary Louise O'Connor	Richmond City	1971 – 1976
Schaar, Susan Clarke	Brunswick	1990 –

*Interesting fact: Of the 20 clerks elected by the Senate since 1776, two have been women.*



## Women in the role of Clerk of the Senate

	Locality	Year (s)
Lucas, Mary Louise O'Connor	Richmond City	1971 – 1976
Schaar, Susan Clarke	Brunswick	1990 –

*Interesting fact: Of the 20 clerks elected by the Senate since 1776, two have been women.*