

Timeline

This timeline includes some highlights in the history of elected women in Colorado. A large copy of the timeline could be posted in the classroom so that students can add additional events—other women who served, events that were happening at the same time, significant legislation sponsored by women on the timeline, etc.

- 1893: Colorado became the first state to give women the right to vote through a popular election.
- 1894: Women voted in a statewide election in Colorado for the first time. Three women were elected to the Colorado House of Representatives.
- 1895: Colorado swore in the first women to serve in any state legislature: Clara Cressingham, Carrie Holly and Frances Klock.
- 1910: Dr. Elizabeth Cassidy became a Denver County Commissioner. Some sources say she was the nation’s first female county commissioner.
- 1912: Helen Ring Robinson became the first woman elected to the state Senate.
- 1955: Elizabeth Eyre Pellet became the first woman to serve in a major leadership position in the state legislature (minority leader).
- 1967: Virginia Blue became the first woman to serve as Colorado State Treasurer
- 1971: Betty Benavidez became first Latina to serve in the state legislature.
- 1972: Pat Schroeder was the first Colorado woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.
Mary Estill Buchanan became the first women to serve as Colorado's Secretary of State.
- 1973: Arie Taylor became the first African American woman to serve in the state legislature.
- 1979: Ruth Stockton became the first female Senate President pro tem.
Nancy Dick was the first woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor.
- 1985: Polly Baca became the first Latina to serve in leadership in the state Senate.
- 1990: Gail Norton elected the first woman to serve as Attorney General.
- 1997: Norma Anderson became the first woman to serve as Majority Leader in the House.
- 2003: Lola Spradley became the first woman to serve as Speaker of the House.
Norma Anderson became the first woman to serve as Majority Leader in the Senate.
- 2005: Joan Fitz-Gerald became the first woman to serve as the President of the Senate.