

SENATE REDISTRICTING WORK GROUP

Thursday October 18, 2001

Neighborhood House
179 E. Robie St., St. Paul
Room 213 A&B
11:00 a.m.

Members Present

Senator Pogemiller
Senator Belanger
Senator Scheid
Joe Mansky, Governor's Redistricting Commission

Members Absent

Senator Hottinger
Senator Orfield

Staff Present

Peter Wattson, Senate Counsel
Vic Thorstenson, Senate Redistricting Staff
Michael Brodkorb, Republican Redistricting Staff

Senator Pogemiller called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Members and staff introduced themselves.

Senator Pogemiller asked for a summary of congressional plans from staff.

Vic Thorstenson presented the Senate's congressional plan.

Michael Brodkorb presented the House's congressional plan.

Joe Mansky presented the Governor's congressional plan.

Senator Pogemiller asked for an explanation of the legislative plans.

Michael Brodkorb presented the House's legislative plan.

Vic Thorstenson presented the Senate's legislative plan.

Senator Pogemiller asked for testimony.

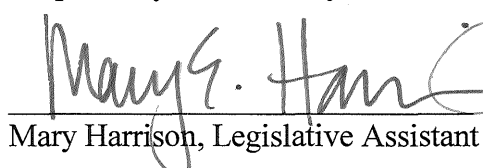
The following people offered testimony:

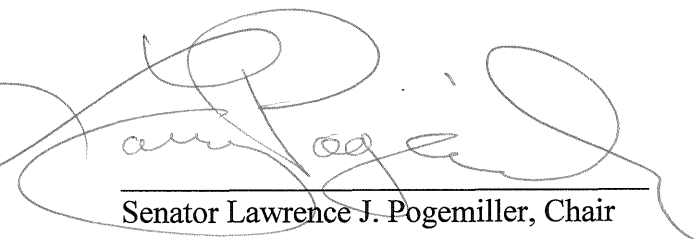
1. Lee Pao Xiong, Urban Coalition (see handout)
2. Bobbi Megard (see handout)
3. Emma Cheuse, Exec. Director MN Women's Campaign Fund (see 3 handouts)
4. Perrin Lilly, founder of MN Women's Campaign Fund
5. Susanne Hutcheson, MN Women's Campaign Fund
6. Kathleen Lonergan, Senate Environment Committee Staff and St. Paul Resident
7. Dede Wolfson
8. Julie Ingelman

Members and staff asked questions.

Senator Pogemiller adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:


Mary Harrison, Legislative Assistant


Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Chair

REDISTRICTING WORK GROUP

Thursday October 18, 2001
11:00 a.m.

Neighborhood House
Room 213 A&B
179 E. Robie St., St. Paul

A g e n d a

Introductions

Questions on plans

Public Testimony

1. Emma Cheuse - Minnesota Women's Campaign Fund
2. Lee Pao Xiong - Minnesota Urban Coalition
3. Other testimony

Committee Discussion

Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller
Chair

Mary Harrison
Legislative Assistant

**Testimony on Redistricting
Redistricting Working Group
Neighborhood House
October 18, 2001**

By

**Lee Pao Xiong
President & CEO
The Urban Coalition**

Mr. Chair and members of the Redistricting Working Group, my name is Lee Pao Xiong. I am the President and CEO of The Urban Coalition, a 34 year old research, education and advocacy organization working with low income communities and communities of color.

I want you to know that The Urban Coalition convened a meeting with several key opinion leaders from the various communities of color several weeks ago to explore how we can collectively articulate the interest of low income and communities to you as you work on this very important issue. We will continue to have more discussion in the next couple of months.

As you know, the faces of Minnesota has changed and continues to change with either immigration from other countries or in migration from other states. For example, according to the 2000 Census, the Hispanic population ^{in MN} increased 166%, the Asian population 84%, African American 80% and American Indian 10%. The combined population of these four groups constituted about 10% of Minnesota current population.

Until we grasp a better understanding of this complex issue, we would like you to consider three things as you redraw the legislative and congressional maps. First, we request that you draw your maps accordingly to ensure that at least 10% of the legislators at the State Legislature be of communities of color, reflecting the diversity and population of this state.

Second, since there are only four legislators of color at the capitol at this time, we request that as you redraw the maps, you make every effort to maintain those seats.

Last but not least, we don't think that, as communities of color, we will gain from the consolidation of Minneapolis and St. Paul into one congressional district. We urge you to keep those two districts separated.

Finally, I want to thank Mr. Lee Meyer and his staff for furnishing us with proposed maps and the various proposed plans to help us make in our planning effort.

Again, our group will continue to meet in the next few months. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you as you move forward in this effort.

In conclusion, I want to thank you for your good work and for your effort in coming out into the community. More importantly, I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in front of you today. Thank you.

Good morning - I'm Bobbi MEGARD, 1439
Hythe Street, St. Paul
I appreciate the opportunity to come before this
committee and I know I speak for many people when I
say I am grateful that you are taking testimony
in our community.

While I have run for office and been
privileged to be elected, I am speaking to you
today not as a candidate but as a voter-a voter
with deep roots in the League of Women Voters.

The recent events have tugged at my roots in
the League. In these days of terrorism from a
country allegedly run by a theocracy of men I am
reminded with every newscast that I live in a
democracy. I am reminded that women in this
democracy have the freedom to vote. And I am
reminded that voters have the opportunity, indeed
the right, to elect women as well as men. I urge
you to be cautious not to undermine that right.

It is the last part that I want to talk with
you about today-that voters have the opportunity to
elect women as well as men.

Today women are far under represented in the
highest elected offices in Minnesota. That is a
given. It is also a given that we all say that we

need more women elected to statewide office, to congress, to the Minnesota House and Senate. Thus it is critical that as you draw and redraw your redistricting plans, you are keenly aware of your impact on the ability of voters to elect women to office.

Redistricting plans can have one of three impacts. They can make it easier to elect women. They can make it more difficult to elect women. Or they can be neutral. On behalf of voters who want elect women to higher office, I urge you to not make it more difficult.

When developing a redistricting plan ask whether the plan creates obstacles for the voters who wish to reelect women legislators. The question should be asked in three ways because each is a measure of whether it would be more it would be more difficult to reelect a women.

First, look at the percentage of new territory for each legislator. If a current legislator ends up with a great deal of new territory, voters in that district will be less able to reelect their preference. The more the portion of new territory increases, the more difficult it is to reelect the

legislator. Thus, as a matter of principal, women legislators in either party should not average more new territory than male legislators.

Second, look at pairings. When two legislators are paired in the same district, voters will only have the opportunity to reelect only one. Women legislators must not be involved in pairings in a greater proportion than men legislators.

Third, look at the index that measures the proportion of all voters in the proposed district that are in the same party as the legislator. If this index is lowered in a redistricting plan compared to the legislator's current index, the voter in that district is less likely to be able to reelect that legislator. Thus, on average, the same party voter index for women of either party should not be reduced more than the same party voter index of male legislators of that party.

I trust that these measures, taken together, will help you ensure that redistricting plans are fair and not discriminatory.

Again I appreciate the opportunity to come before your committee and wish you the best as you work for the voters in this state.



**MINNESOTA
WOMEN'S
CAMPAIGN FUND**

MAKE HER
CONTRIBUTION
POSSIBLE WITH
YOURS

Testimony by the Minnesota Women's Campaign Fund

www.mnwomenscampaignfund.org

Thursday, October 18, 2001

Neighborhood House, 179 E. Robie St., St. Paul

Emma Cheuse, Executive Director, MWCF
Perrin Lilly, MWCF Board, St. Paul
Susanne Hutcheson, MWCF Board, Minneapolis

We greatly appreciate your request for community input and we promise only to take a few moments of your time to raise our concerns today on fairness toward women in the Redistricting process.

It is a value we all share as Minnesotans to involve qualified women along with qualified men in our public decisions and public life. We are here today to ask you to remember the women as you draw new district lines.

- Minnesota women are 50.5% of the population according to the Census Bureau.
- Women vote, since 1986 at a higher rate than men – though we have only had this basic right since the 19th Amendment in 1920. In the 1998 Congressional elections, 52.3% of all voters were women.
- Women also run for office – more during the last decade than ever before – though it is still possible to find many races for seats with only one or no women candidates on the docket.
- In addition, our organization represents only some of the thousands of activists who help qualified Minnesota women from all political parties run for office each election cycle.

Giving women equal opportunity to participate across the entire political spectrum is critical as a matter of fairness and to truly make our democracy work. Politics is power. Politics is the arena where we make public decisions. Women must have an equal chance to participate at every level – so they can be part of the decisions that affect all of our daily lives.

We are here to ask you to prevent your Redistricting decision from causing any particular hardship for women– as office-holders and as activists trying to elect qualified women. After Perrin and Susanne speak, I will suggest some ways in which you can assess the gender impact of your proposed districts so that Minnesota's final Redistricting plan may indeed act fairly toward women and men.

Perrin Lilly As you know, women have made progress in moving up the ranks of Minnesota government – but we are still not even close to being equally represented.

- One of out ten of Minnesota's federally elected positions is held by a woman. This is Betty McCollum whose district we stand in today.
- Minnesota has never elected a woman to serve as Governor or as U.S. Senator.

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- Since 1982, you should know that the efforts of activists and voters have helped increase the percentage of women serving in the state legislature from 13.9% to a high of 30% in 1996, giving Minnesota a national ranking of 6th at that time.
- Since then, however we have lost some ground— showing that the numbers of qualified women will not just naturally creep up if we sit back and wait. Today, although our state has the highest percentage of women participating in the labor force nationally, we no longer make the Top 10 list of states in terms of the percentage of women in the legislature. We are now back down to 28.9% in the Minnesota state legislature, nationally ranking 12th in this critical measure of women's political participation.

The Institute for Women's Policy Research is a national nonprofit think-tank that ranks women's equality and status according to measurable criteria in many areas, including political participation. It reported in 2000, (and I quote) :

“While women in Minnesota and the U.S. as a whole are seeing important changes in their lives and their access to political, economic and social rights, they by no means enjoy equality with men, and they still lack many of the legal guarantees that would allow them to achieve that equality.”

We believe that equal opportunity to participate in the political process is a value of great importance to a majority of Minnesotans. The ability to run and the chance to win if you are qualified for a public office – or simply to have the chance to vote or campaign for a qualified woman to serve – are critical measures of the opportunity Minnesota women have to fully participate in politics.

These factors influence women's ability to have a voice at all levels of Minnesota government. Many Minnesotans, both women and men – including some of you here serving on this panel – have worked to elect qualified women to bring us to today's levels. We are relying on you, as the leaders of the Redistricting process, to provide some of the support that is needed for Minnesota women to achieve equality. Or, at the very least, you should prevent the Redistricting process from adding more roadblocks to women's equal political participation.

How can you show that you are treating women incumbents fairly as you advocate your plans for Congressional and legislative districts or, in the case of the Governor, draw up your legislative plan? You can remember the women!

Specifically, you can choose to add gender impact as a criteria of importance in your plan and be sure your plan will not make it harder for women as a group to run for re-election and to participate fully in Minnesota politics.

Here are three questions you may wish to use before finalizing district lines. In your plan:

1. Are women more likely than men to be paired in the same district to run against another incumbent for re-election? If so, this could mean that a

disproportionate number of women office-holders would have to make a difficult decision about whether to continue participating in politics at the same high level – and, especially if two women are paired, activists are more likely to lose an advocate for their concerns.

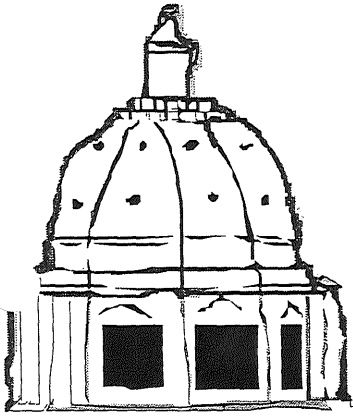
2. Are women more likely than men to see a greater addition of opposite-party voters in their new districts? If so, this could mean that a disproportionate number of women would need to persuade more people of different political opinions to vote for them in order to win.
3. Are women more likely to receive a high portion of new territory in their proposed districts? Or, are women more likely than men to witness major geographic changes in their district – so far not seen more strongly than in the House plan to combine the 4th and 5th Congressional districts? If so, this could mean that a disproportionate number of women would have to meet a larger number of new voters with new “community interests” for the first time in their re-election campaign.

Any of these factors alone are likely to make it harder both for incumbents facing re-election, and for the citizens who want to re-elect them. As you analyze your plan, please ensure that women do not end up facing these challenges at a higher rate than men.

As citizens, we want the chance to be able to vote for qualified women along with qualified men – and as activists, we need to know that if we choose to run or help elect women we will be treated fairly in the Redistricting process.

Make sure that your action does not discourage but positively encourages women to fully participate in politics and aim to lead. Help us be proud as Minnesotans that we value the involvement of all citizens in our democracy, including women, to the best of their ability. As you make your decisions, please remember to count the women!

We hope to see you take action to affirm gender equity as the Redistricting process moves forward. Thank you for your time and attention to this vital matter.



Minnesota Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women

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WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE - 2000 ELECTION RESULTS

This issue highlights women who will be serving in elected offices in 2001, reflecting the elections held on November 7, 2000. Minnesota election data are based on information received from the Secretary of State, the Office of the State Court Administrator, the Association of Minnesota Counties, the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota County Attorneys Association and the Minnesota School Boards Association. National data are from the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commission bids a fond farewell to Senator Pat Piper and Representative Julie Storm. Senator Piper has served on the Commission since 1985 and was chair from 1989 to 1991. Representative Julie Storm has served on the Commission since her appointment in 1999.

Women in Public Office has been updated on the LCESW website to include results from the 2000 election. In addition to information presented in this newsletter, Women in Public Office on the website includes:

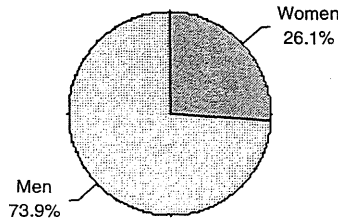
- Women in the Minnesota Legislature by Session
- Women in the Minnesota Legislature by Year(s) Elected
- Number of Women in MN Legislature, 1922-2000
- Maps of Women in the MN Legislature, 2001

Women in the Minnesota Legislature

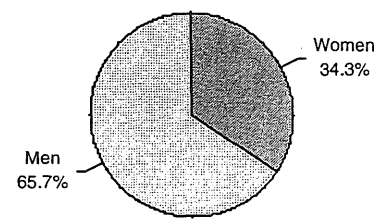
When the Minnesota Legislature convenes in January 2001, women will comprise 28.9 percent of its membership, filling 58 of 201 seats. This is a gain of one seat from the 2000 session when 57 women served in the Minnesota Legislature. Women will hold 35 (26.1%) of the 134 seats in the House, the same number of seats held in the 2000 session. In the Senate, women will hold 23 (34.3%) of the 67 seats. This is a gain of one seat from the 2000 session and is the highest number of seats held by women in the Senate.

In 2001, the following six women will serve their first term in the House: Connie Bernardy, Barb Goodwin, Debra Hilstrom, Maxine Penas, Connie Ruth, and Neva Walker. Six women will serve their first term in the Senate: Michele Bachmann, Debbie Johnson, Mady Reiter, Ann Rest, Julie Ann Sabo, and Grace Schwab.

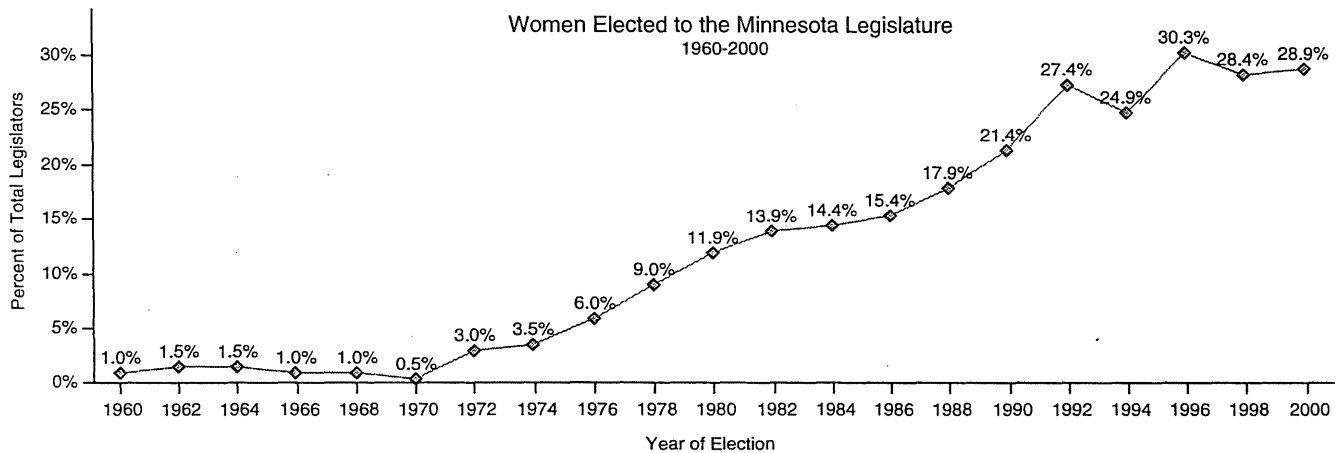
Minnesota House of Representatives, 2001



Minnesota Senate, 2001



Women Elected to the Minnesota Legislature, 1960-2000



In 1922 women became eligible to vote and run for election to the Minnesota Legislature. From 1922 to 1970, the percent of the legislature comprised by women was very low ranging from zero to 2.5 percent. Over the next twenty years, representation by women increased steadily from 3.0 percent in 1972 to 27.4 percent in 1992. In 1996, a record of 61 women (30.3%) were elected to the Minnesota Legislature. The numbers of women elected in the 1998 and 2000 elections were lower, at 57 (28.4%) and 58 (28.9%), respectively.

Women Candidates in the 2000 Election

In the 2000 election, a total of 111 women representing the Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL), Independence (I) and Republican (R) parties were candidates for seats in the Minnesota Legislature.

Seventy-six women were candidates for seats in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Women candidates ran in 60 of the 134 House districts. In 14 of the races, two women ran against one another. Twenty-six (15 DFL, 11 R) of the 35 women who were elected were incumbents. Nine women (7 DFL, 2 R) were newly elected to the House (however, three of these women, Geri Evans, Ruth Johnson and Nora Slawik, had previously served in the House). Of these nine newly elected women, two women won races against incumbent men, one woman won a race against an incumbent woman, and six women won races for open seats. In the six races for open seats in which a women won, three women replaced men who did not run and three women replaced women who did not run.

Thirty-five women were candidates for seats in the Minnesota Senate. Women candidates ran in 31 of the 67 Senate districts. In four of the races, two women ran against each other. Seventeen (10 DFL, 7 R) of the 23 women elected to the Senate were incumbent women. Six women (2 DFL, 4 R) were newly elected to the Senate (one woman, Ann Rest, had previously served in the House). Of these six women, one woman won a race against an incumbent woman and five won open seats. In the five races for open seats in which women won, four women replaced a woman who did not run, and one woman replaced a man who did not run for reelection.

Women in Minnesota Executive Offices

Minnesota executive offices were not up for election in November 2000. As result of the 1998 elections, four of the six (66.7%) statewide offices are held by women.

Lieutenant Governor

Mae Schunk (elected as *RP, switched to **I in 2000), the state's fourth female lieutenant governor, was elected in 1998. The position of lieutenant governor has been filled by a woman since Marlene Johnson (DFL) was elected in 1982. Marlene Johnson was reelected in 1986 and served a total of two terms. The second female lieutenant governor, Joanelle Trstad (**IR), was elected in 1990. Joanne Benson (R) was elected in 1994 and served as the third female lieutenant governor. *RP indicates Reform Party. **I indicates Independence Party. **IR indicates Independent Republican, which was the name of the Republican party in Minnesota prior to 10/96.

Secretary of State

Mary Kiffmeyer (R) was elected in 1998 and is the third female secretary of state in Minnesota. Joan Growe (DFL) was the second female secretary of state and served in that capacity for more than 20 years (1975-1998). The first female secretary of state was Mrs. Mike Holm (R). Mrs. Holm was appointed to fill her husband's position after his death in 1951 until the November 1952 election. In the 1952 election, Mrs. Holm was elected to serve out the remainder of the term ending in January 1953 as well as the two-year term ending in January 1955.

State Auditor

Judy Dutcher (elected as R, switched to DFL in 2000) was the first woman elected state auditor in Minnesota. She was elected to the position in 1994 and was reelected in 1998.

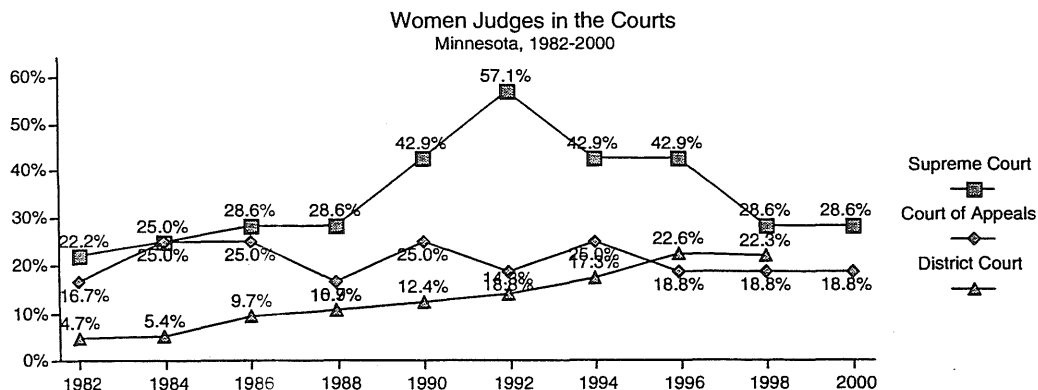
State Treasurer

Carol Johnson (DFL) was elected in 1998 and is the first woman state treasurer in Minnesota.

Governor and Attorney General

No woman has been elected to the positions of governor or attorney general in Minnesota.

Women Judges in the Minnesota Courts



Minnesota Supreme Court

Two (28.6%) of the seven justices on the Minnesota Supreme Court are women: Chief Justice Kathleen A. Blatz (the first woman chief justice in Minnesota) and Justice Joan Erickson Lancaster. Women have served on the Minnesota Supreme Court since Rosalie Wahl was appointed in 1976.

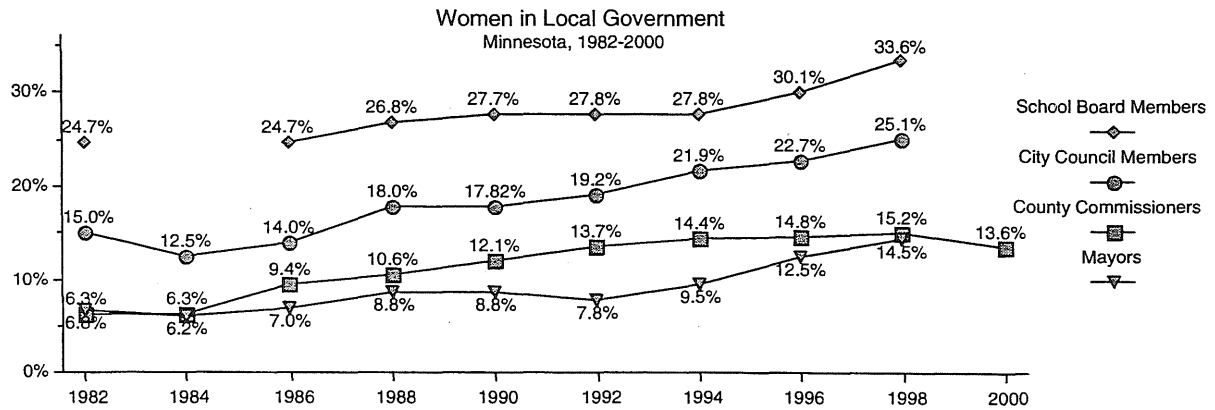
Court of Appeals

Women will continue to hold three of the 16 seats (18.8%) on the Court of Appeals. They are Judges Jill Flaskamp Halbrooks, Harriet Lansing, and Terri Stoneburner.

District Court

As of December 12, 2000, at least 60 women serve as District Court judges. One additional woman has been appointed to a seat on the district court, but has not yet been sworn-in. After January 1, 2001 four more judgeships will be authorized, bringing the total number of District Court judges to 268. The governor will appoint judges to fill these positions.

Women in Elected Offices of Local Governments



Minnesota School Board Members

Prior to the 2000 elections, 772 (33.6%) of 2,295 school board members were women. Complete data from the 2000 election should be available in January 2001.

City Council Members

In 1999, 852 (25.1%) of 3,397 city council members were women. Updated data from the 2000 election will not be available until Spring 2001.

Minnesota County Commissioners

As a result of the 2000 election, 61 (13.6%) of 447 county commissioners will be women. This is a slight decrease from the previous number of 68 (15.2%) women county commissioners who served in 1999. In 2001, 48 (55.2%) of Minnesota's 87 counties will have at least one female county commissioner.

Minnesota Mayors

In 1999, 124 (14.5%) of the 854 Minnesota mayors were women. Updated data from the 2000 election will not be available until Spring 2001.

Minnesota County Attorneys

County Attorneys were not elected in the 2000 election. As of December 2000, women serve as County Attorneys in seven (8.0%) of the 87 Minnesota Counties. They are: Lisa Borgen in Clay County; Amy Klobuchar in Hennepin County; Janelle Kendall in Mille Lacs County; Susan Gaertner in Ramsey County; Susan Rantala Nelson in Norman County; Michelle Dietrich in Redwood County; and Michelle Moren in Roseau County.

Women in Congress, Governorships and State Legislatures

U.S. House of Representatives

Fifty-nine women (41 Democrats, 18 Republicans) will serve in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2001, holding 13.6 percent of the 435 seats. This is a record high, surpassing the previous high of 56 women who served in 2000. Fifty-two of these women are incumbents and seven are new members. In addition, two women, one from the District of Columbia and one from the U.S. Virgin Islands, will be non-voting delegates to the House. Betty McCollum (DFL) was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 4th congressional district in Minnesota. She is the second woman elected to the U.S. House from Minnesota. In 1954, Coya Knutson (DFL) was elected from the 9th congressional district in northwestern Minnesota. Coya Knutson served two consecutive terms in the U.S. House.

U.S. Senate

Thirteen women (10 Democrats, 3 Republicans) will serve in the U.S. Senate, setting a record high of 13 percent of the 100 seats. Four women are newcomers: Maria Cantwell (WA), Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY), Debbie Stabenow (MI), and Jean Carnahan (MO). Jean Carnahan was appointed to the Senate seat won by her late husband in the 2000 election. Muriel Humphrey (DFL) is the only Minnesota woman to have served in the U.S. Senate. She was appointed in 1978 by the governor to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey.

Governorships

In 2001, five women (2 Democrats, 3 Republicans) will serve as governors, surpassing the previous record of four women serving as governors at one time. Two states, Delaware and Montana, elected their first female governors (Ruth Ann Minner (D) and Judy Martz (R), respectively) in the 2000 election. New Hampshire's Governor Jeanne Shaheen (D) won reelection. These women will join Dee Hull (R) of Arizona and Christine Todd Whitman (R) of New Jersey who are currently serving terms as governors. Additionally, Sila Calderon will serve as the first woman governor of Puerto Rico.

State Legislatures

Women will hold 1,656 seats (22.3%) in state legislatures nationwide in 2001. This is a decrease from 1,670 seats (22.5%) held by women in 2000. Washington will have the highest proportion of women (39.5%) and Alabama will have the lowest proportion of women (7.9%) serving as legislators. Minnesota is ranked 11th in the proportion of women (28.9%) serving in the State Legislature.

Minnesota and U.S. Election Firsts and Election Records

- ☒ Betty McCollum was the first woman from Minnesota to be elected to the U.S. House since Coya Knutson.
- ☒ Neva Walker is the first African American woman elected to Minnesota Legislature.
- ☒ Hillary Rodham Clinton is the first First Lady to gain elective office. She is also the first woman to serve as a U.S. senator from New York.
- ☒ Delaware and Montana elected their first women governors (Ruth Ann Minner, DE, and Judy Martz, MT).
- ☒ A record number of 23 women will serve in the Minnesota Senate.
- ☒ A record number of at least 60 women will serve as District Court Judges in Minnesota.
- ☒ A record number of 13 women will serve in the U.S. Senate.
- ☒ A record number of 59 women will serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- ☒ A record number of five women will serve as governors in 2001.

Women in the Minnesota Senate, 2001

	<i>District</i>	<i>Party</i>		<i>District</i>	<i>Party</i>		<i>District</i>	<i>Party</i>
Ellen Anderson	66	DFL	Arlene J. Lesewski	21	R	Twyla Ring	18	DFL
Michele Bachmann	56	R	Becky Lourey	8	DFL	Martha Robertson	45	R
Linda Berglin	61	DFL	Gen Olson	34	R	Claire Robling	35	R
Michelle Fischbach	14	R	Sandy Pappas	65	DFL	Julie Ann Sabo	62	DFL
Linda Higgins	58	DFL	Pat Pariseau	37	R	Linda Scheid	47	DFL
Debbie Johnson	50	R	Jane Ranum	63	DFL	Grace Schwab	27	R
Sheila Kiscaden	30	R	Mady Reiter	53	R	Deanna Wiener	38	DFL
Jane Krentz	51	DFL	Ann Rest	46	DFL			

Women in the Minnesota House of Representatives, 2001

	<i>District</i>	<i>Party</i>		<i>District</i>	<i>Party</i>		<i>District</i>	<i>Party</i>
Connie Bernardy	48B	DFL	Mary Liz Holberg	37B	R	Mary Ellen Otremba	11B	DFL
Lynda Boudreau	25B	R	Ruth Johnson	24B	DFL	Maxine Penas	1A	R
Karen Clark	61A	DFL	Phyllis Kahn	59B	DFL	Michelle Rifenberg	32B	R
Roxann Daggett	11A	R	Margaret Anderson Kelliher	60A	DFL	Connie Ruth	28A	R
Sondra Erickson	17A	R	Luanne Koskinen	49B	DFL	Leslie Schumacher	17B	DFL
Geri Evans	52B	DFL	Ann Lenczewski	40B	DFL	Alice Seagren	41A	R
Betty Folliard	44A	DFL	Peggy Leppik	45B	R	Nora Slawik	57A	DFL
Barb Goodwin	52A	DFL	Darlene Luther	47A	DFL	Barb Sykora	43B	R
Mindy Greiling	54B	DFL	Sharon Marko	57B	DFL	Kathy Tingelstad	50B	R
Elaine Harder	22B	R	Mary Jo McGuire	54A	DFL	Jean Wagenius	63A	DFL
Alice Hausman	66B	DFL	Carol Molnau	35A	R	Neva Walker	61B	DFL
Debra Hilstrom	47B	DFL	Mary Murphy	8A	DFL			

Overview of the Status of Women in Minnesota

Women in Minnesota exemplify both the achievements and shortfalls of women's progress over the past century. Many Minnesota women are witnessing real improvements in their economic, political and social status, and these advances are evident in relatively high rankings on several of the composite indices calculated by IWPR. Of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, Minnesota scores fourth in political participation, seventh in employment and earnings, twelfth in economic autonomy and in health and

well-being, and 22nd in reproductive rights (see Chart I, Panel A).

Despite improvements and the strong performance of Minnesota, women do not do as well as men in any state, and even those states with better policies for women do not ensure equal rights for them. Women in Minnesota still face significant problems that demand attention from policymakers, women's advocates and researchers concerned with women's status. As a result, in an evaluation of Minnesota

Chart I. Panel A.
How Minnesota Ranks on Key Indicators

Indicators	National Rank*	Regional Rank*
Composite Political Participation Index	4	1
Women's Voter Registration, 1992-96	3	2
Women's Voter Turnout, 1992-96	2	1
Women in Elected Office Composite Index, 2000	13	2
Women's Institutional Resources, 2000	21	3
Composite Employment and Earnings Index	7	1
Women's Median Annual Earnings, 1997	11	1
Ratio of Women's to Men's Earnings, 1997	24	3
Women's Labor Force Participation, 1998	1	1
Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations, 1998	5	1
Composite Economic Autonomy Index	12	1
Percent with Health Insurance Among Nonelderly Women, 1997	2	1
Educational Attainment: Percent of Women with Four or More Years of College, 1990	15	1
Women's Business Ownership, 1992	20	3
Percent of Women Above the Poverty Level, 1997	10	1
Composite Reproductive Rights Index	22	1
Composite Health and Well-Being Index	12	4

See Appendix II for a detailed description of the methodology and sources used for the indices presented here.

* The national rankings are of a possible 51, referring to the 50 states and the District of Columbia except for the Political Participation indicators, which do not include the District of Columbia. The regional rankings are of a maximum of seven and refer to the states in the West North Central Region (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD).

Calculated by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

Chart I. Panel B.
Criteria for Grading and Minnesota's Grades

Index	Criteria for a Grade of "A"	Grade, Minnesota	Highest Grade, U.S.
Composite Political Participation Index		B	B
Women's Voter Registration	Women's Voter Registration, Best State (91.2%)		
Women's Voter Turnout	Women's Voter Turnout, Best State (72.5%)		
Women in Elected Office Composite Index	50 Percent of Elected Positions Held by Women		
Women's Institutional Resources	Commission for Women and a Women's Legislative Caucus in Each House of State Legislature		
Composite Employment and Earnings Index		B	B+
Women's Median Annual Earnings	Men's Median Annual Earnings, United States (\$34,532)		
Ratio of Women's to Men's Earnings	Women Earn 100 Percent of Men's Earnings		
Women's Labor Force Participation	Men's Labor Force Participation, United States (74.9%)		
Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations	Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations, Best State (46.3%)		
Composite Economic Autonomy Index		B-	B+
Percent with Health Insurance	Percent with Health Insurance, Best State (91.9%)		
Educational Attainment	Men's Educational Attainment (percent with four years or more of college, United States; 24.0%)		
Women's Business Ownership	50 Percent of Businesses Owned by Women		
Percent of Women Above Poverty	Percent of Men Above Poverty, Best State (91.5%)		
Composite Reproductive Rights Index	Presence of All Relevant Policies and Resources (see Chart VI, Panel B)	C	A-
Composite Health and Well-Being Index	Best State or Goals Set by Healthy People 2010 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) for All Relevant Indicators (see Appendix II for details)	B	A-

See Appendix II for a detailed description of the methodology and sources for the indices and grades presented here.

Compiled by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

women's status compared with goals set for women's ideal status, Minnesota earns the grades of B in political participation, B in employment and earnings, B in health and well-being, and B- in economic autonomy. The state receives a C for reproductive rights (see Chart I, Panel B).

Minnesota's rankings and grades for each of the composite indices were calculated by combining data on several indicators of women's status in each of the five areas. These data were used to compare women in Minnesota with women in each of the 50

states and the District of Columbia. In addition, they were used to evaluate women's status in the state in comparison with women's ideal status (for more information on the methodology for the composite indices and grades, see Appendix II).

Minnesota joins Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota as part of the West North Central census region. Among these seven states, Minnesota leads the region for every index except the health and well-being index, for which it ranks fourth.

Women in Minnesota have unusually high labor force participation rates, especially among mothers of young children. Minnesota also has very high levels of voter registration and turnout among both women and men. Minnesota women are less diverse than women nationally, with fewer African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans and immigrants, but Minnesota does have a higher proportion of Native Americans than the nation as a whole. However, immigrant populations have been increasing in recent years in Minnesota, particularly in the twin cities. The patterns of family structure in Minnesota diverge from the national average, with a higher proportion of married-couple families and a lower proportion of female-headed families (see Appendix I for further details). Finally, Minnesota's proportion of women living in metropolitan areas is substantially lower than in the nation as a whole (69.2 percent compared with 83.1 percent). Differences among urban and rural women may affect their access to political and economic resources in a variety of ways not measured in this report.

Political Participation

Because Minnesota has relatively high rankings on each of the indicators in the political participation composite index, its ranking on this index is also relatively high, at fourth out of 50. Minnesota women's voter registration and turnout rates are near the top for all states, at third and second in the nation, and the state's rank for women in elected office is in the top third, at 13th in the nation. Despite this relatively high rank, however, Minnesota's women do not hold a proportional number of elected offices. Minnesota has no women among its congressional delegation, for example, and less than a third of the state legislature is made up of women. As a result, the state receives a grade of B on the political participation composite index.

Employment and Earnings

Minnesota's ranking on the employment and earnings composite index (seventh) encompasses a wide range of rankings on the indicators included in it. Minnesota women lead the nation in terms of labor

force participation. The state also has a relatively high number of women in managerial and professional occupations, at fifth in the nation. On the other hand, while women's median earnings are relatively high (11th), the ratio of their earnings to men's ranks relatively low, at only 24th in the nation. This lack of equity in wages contributes to an overall grade of B for employment and earnings, indicating that the state can still make important strides in promoting women's equity in the labor market.

In addition, in Minnesota a very large proportion, about 72 percent, of women with children under six years of age is currently participating in the workforce. Minnesota's parents thus increasingly need adequate and affordable child care, a policy demand not yet adequately addressed in Minnesota or the United States as a whole. In an economic era when all able or available parents must work for pay to support their children, public policies lag far behind reality.

Economic Autonomy

With high levels of health insurance coverage and relatively low levels of poverty among women, Minnesota ranks twelfth in IWPR's composite index of economic autonomy. At 15th in the United States, women in Minnesota are much more likely than women in the country as a whole to have a college education. Despite the state's affluence, however, about 38.7 percent of single females with children are living in poverty. Minnesota also ranks only slightly above average for women's business ownership. Minnesota's room for improvement is reflected in its grade of B- for this composite index.

Reproductive Rights

Minnesota women have some of the reproductive rights and resources identified as important, but they lack others, and as a result the state ranked near the middle of all states, at 22nd, on this measure. Minnesota allows public funding to be used for abortion services and does not require a waiting period before an abortion. However, Minnesota still lacks a few important reproductive rights and

resources: for example, minors are required to notify both parents before having an abortion, and many women in Minnesota lack access to a local abortion provider. Only 43 percent of women in the state live in counties with a provider, compared with 68 percent in the nation as a whole, and many rural counties have no provider at all. In addition, Minnesota does not require sex education, an important resource for teenage girls and boys. Thus like most states, Minnesota could provide more guarantees of women's reproductive choice. The state's performance for women's reproductive rights and resources earns Minnesota a grade of C on this index.

Health and Well-Being

At twelfth in the nation, women in Minnesota have fairly good health status when compared with women in other states. The state's mortality rates from heart disease, lung cancer and suicide, as well as its rates of chlamydia infection, are all relatively low and earn Minnesota a ranking in the top third for all states for those indicators. In contrast, the state

ranks near the middle of all states for indicators of mortality from breast cancer, incidence of diabetes and AIDS, and women's mental health, and is in the bottom third for women's activities limitations due to health. Thus the state earns a grade of B on the health and well-being composite index.

Conclusion

Minnesota illustrates both the advances and limited progress achieved by women in the United States. While women in Minnesota and the United States as a whole are seeing important changes in their lives and in their access to political, economic and social rights, they by no means enjoy equality with men, and they still lack many of the legal guarantees that would allow them to achieve that equality. Women in Minnesota and the nation as a whole would benefit from stronger enforcement of equal opportunity laws, better political representation, adequate and affordable child care, and other policies that would help improve their status.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 18th -

Neighborhood House

11:00 - 1:00 -

TESTIMONY - SIGN-IN -

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