

Celebrate Diversity

#MOCelebratesDiversity



Each month, the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) celebrates the diversity of our state's workforce. We look forward to providing content that embraces the differences that make us better together. Check us out [here!](#)

Women's History in Missouri

By Tynesha D. Hardin and Joy Harris-Bird

We celebrate women's history to honor the role women have played in society and to commemorate their contributions. Women's history was first celebrated as "Women's Day" in New York in 1909 following a march led by women seeking better jobs, pay, and working conditions. In 1980, National Women's History Week was established, and in 1987, it became a month-long celebration.

Throughout the years, we've recognized the accomplishments of some amazing women. **Susan B. Anthony**, **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, and **Sojourner Truth** were the first champions and trailblazers for women's rights. **Aretha Franklin**, "The Queen of Soul," was the first woman to be elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. **Katharine Graham** was the first woman to become a Fortune 500 CEO in 1972 for The Washington Company. **Madeleine Albright** was the highest-ranking woman in federal government history in 1997 when she was sworn in as Secretary of State. **Condoleezza Rice** was the second woman and first Black American in the same position in 2004. **Kamala Harris**, Vice President of the United States of America is now the highest-ranking female official in U.S. history as the first female, first Black American, and first Asian American to hold the office.

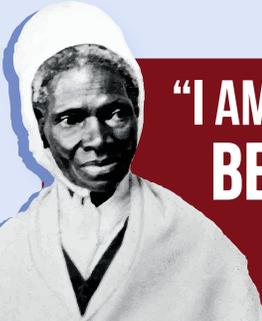
This past January, 36 women elected to serve in the State of Missouri Senate were celebrated. These senators, past and present, were called to the Senate floor on the first day of the 2022 session and applauded for their service to our state and its citizens. Eleven of these women are currently serving in the Senate – the most women to serve at one time. These

11 women recently spearheaded a project to champion and promote literacy in Missouri. They published a book titled "**You Can, Too**" that details their journeys to become senators.

Women continue to make history every day and March reminds us to reflect on their achievements. Take some time out this month to celebrate the women in your life and the accomplishments they've made.



18 Missouri Senators pictured on the first day of session (January 2022)



**"I AM FOR KEEPING THE THING GOING WHILE THINGS ARE STIRRING;
BECAUSE IF WE WAIT TILL IT IS STILL, IT WILL TAKE
A GREAT WHILE TO GET IT GOING AGAIN."**

~ SOJOURNER TRUTH (1797-1883)