

Washington Women in Politics

by David Jepsen, edited by Abby Rhinehart

Washington state has had many women politicians:

Bertha Knight Landes became the mayor of Seattle in 1926. She was the first woman to be the mayor of a big American city.

Julia Butler Hansen was the state senator from Cathlamet from 1939 to 1960. She helped build I-5 and many other highways.

Ruby Chow was the first Asian American woman elected to the King County Council in 1973. Chow owned Seattle's first fancy Chinese restaurant.

In 1976, Dixy Lee Ray was the first woman governor of Washington. Ray was born in Tacoma. She was a biologist and worked at the Pacific Science Center.



Washington State History Museum Suffrage Curriculum
4th grade
Created 2019

Footer images, left to right: "Woman forever march," Washington State Historical Society Catalog ID Number: 2010.151.4;
"Woman's suffrage pin," Washington State Historical Society Catalog ID Number: C2008.0.132; "Votes for women: official
organ of Washington Equal Suffrage Association," Washington State Historical Society Catalog ID Number 2000.104.38.14

You may choose to ask students to learn about just 1 event in small groups. Then you can come together to make a class-wide timeline. If you do that, you can cut up events using the template on this page.

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