

Women in the Oklahoma Legislature

LESSON 2

WHILE THE HOUSE OF

Representatives and the Senate are both part of the Oklahoma Legislature, there are a number of differences between the two bodies. The state is divided into voting districts for both the Senate and the House with 101 members in the House of Representatives and 48 members in the Senate. Since there are fewer of them throughout the state, Senate districts are generally larger than House districts. Additionally, State Representatives are elected for two years and Senators for four.

In Oklahoma, there have been five women who have served in both branches. Helen Cole (1984) was the first. She was followed by Penny Williams, Angela Monson, Mary Easley, and Judy Eason McIntyre. All of these women started out in the House of Representatives and ran for the Senate later.

While not all districts in Oklahoma have had a woman represent them, there are some that have had a number of women Legislators. With the recent election of Emily Virgin, the House District 44 seat (Norman) has now been held by five women for nearly 25 years. Mina Hibdon (1973) was the first, followed by Cleta Deatherage, Carolyn Thompson Taylor, and Laura Boyd. Similarly, Senate District 48 seat (Oklahoma City) has been held by women for over 24 years. Vicki Miles-LaGrange (1986) was the first, followed by Angela Monson, and Connie Johnson who currently holds the seat.

Oral histories with many of these women can be found at <http://www.library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/wotol>



Helen Cole



Mina Hibdon



Vicki Miles-LaGrange

ACTIVITY

Do you know what Senate and House of Representative District you live in and who represents you? Do you have any women representing you in the House or Senate now?



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