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#### **ABSTRACT**

This bibliography lists selected resources of the New York State Library that explore the lives and times of women in federal and New York State government. In addition to biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, journals, and diaries, the bibliography contains references to working conditions in government service, politics, and a female perspective on appointive and elective office. The bibliography highlights many of the New York State Library's collections, including the depository collections of federal and State documents. (DB)



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# INTRODUCTION

In celebration of Women's History Month, the New York State Library is issuing the bibliography Women in Government. The bibliography lists selected resources of the New York State Library that explore the lives and times of women in Federal and New York State government. In addition to biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, journals, and diaries, the bibliography contains references to working conditions in government service, politics, and the distaff side of appointive and elective office. The bibliography highlights many of the New York State Library's collections, including the depository collections of Federal and State documents.

The mission of the New York State Library is to provide reference, information, and materials to support the work of New York State government and to ensure that every resident of the State has convenient free access to essential library services. To carry out this mission, the Library serves as the principal library resource for State government and serves as a coordinating and resource center for the statewide interlibrary loan network. If you cannot obtain the works listed in this bibliography at your local library, you may request them through interlibrary loan. Besides the bibliographic information, each entry in this bibliography contains the New York State Library call number in parenthesis. The use of this call number helps expedite the interlibrary loan process.

It wasn't until the 20th century that American women participated in government in great numbers. Early female officeholders often succeeded husbands or fathers who were ill or died while in office. Early civil service examinations frequently eliminated women candidates by giving preference to servicemen. The two world wars changed the face of government, making it much easier for women to hold government positions. Equal opportunity and equal pay issues became concerns as more women joined the Federal and State payrolls. The bibliography tracks several landmarks for women: the first female cabinet member, the first congresswoman, the first female vice-presidential candidate, and the first female to attend a military training academy. Although women did not have the right to vote until this century, and did not campaign successfully until later, women in elective office have been generous in sharing advice and political experiences in print.

It should be noted that wives of public officials have made, and continue to make, significant contributions to public service at all levels of government. In addition to their traditional role as hostess for official functions, contemporary presidential spouses have the opportunity to play a highly visible role in national affairs and may be influential in areas of public policy. This bibiliography documents the changing role of the "first lady" and other wives of public officals.

The bibliography was compiled by Linda Braun, a reference librarian on the staff of the New York State Library. We hope that this bibliography proves helpful to readers and researchers interested in the lives of women in government.



# **WOMEN IN APPOINTIVE OFFICE**

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