
Black Women in Politics

November / December 2020.



U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm announcing her candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination on Jan. 25, 1972. Photo: Thomas J. O'Halloran
<https://www.rutgers.edu/news/black-women-still-underrepresented-american-politics-show-continued-gains>

by **Jon Rehm** on November

Each month a new topic will be spotlighted in this newsletter. The goal is for each school to have access to a consistent source of information to assist in the infusion of the African American experience. With Sen. Kamala Harris the presumptive Vice President this month's topic is the African American women in politics. As of the 2018 election, African American women were underrepresented in all areas of politics never having served as

governor of a state, comprising 3.6 percent of the members of Congress and 3.7 percent of state legislators nationwide, less than 1 percent of elected executive officials, and of the mayors of the 100 most populous U.S. cities, five are black women (Branson. 2018). Yet African American women should be a force in politics. African American Women vote at a higher percentage than any other gender or racial group (Galofaro and Stafford, 2020). More and more African American Women are running and with base that votes, winning seats across the country.

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Resources

[U.S. House of Representatives website](#)- Includes biographies

[Suffrage for Black Women](#)- video and lesson plan

Stacy Abrams- served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 2007-2017 and minority leader from 2011-2017. In 2018 she became the First African American woman to be the nominee for governor of a state by a major party. She has since founded Fair Fight Action, to fight voter suppression.

- [Stacy Abrams TED talk](#) (12:38)
- [Biography](#)

Charlotta Bass- The first African American woman nominated for vice president in 1952 by the progressive party. Charlotta Bass was also the owner and editor of the California Eagle newspaper.

- [National Parks Service Biography](#)
- [New York Times: Overlooked No More: Before Kamala Harris, There Was Charlotta Bass](#)- article with pictures
- Meet Charlotta Spears Bass – The First Black Woman to Run for Vice President of the U.S.- PBS video (12.32)

Shirley Chisholm- The first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress. During the 1972 presidential election, she became the first African American woman to run for president for a major party. She lost in the primaries receiving 2.69% of the vote

Interview

- [The First Black Congresswoman](#)
- [My Bid for Presidency](#)
- [Advice to Young African Americans](#)
- [Outlook for the Future](#)

Fannie Lou Hamer- a voting rights activist and civil rights leader, she helped found the Freedom democratic Party, helped organize Mississippi's Freedom Summer and co-founded the National Women's political Caucus.

- [National Women's History Museum](#)- biography

- [Washington Post](#)- article from 2017
- [Smithsonian Magazine](#)- article and video
- [Fannie Lou Hamer | The Former Sharecropper who Became a Key Voice in Voting Rights](#)- short biography (2:47)
- [Fannie Lou Hamer: Stand Up](#)- Mississippi Public Broadcasting (26:46)

Anna Arnold Hedgeman-the first African American woman to hold a mayoral cabinet position in New York City. In 1963 she helped to organize the March on Washington. In 1966 she was one of the co-founders of the National Organization for Women

- [Anna Arnold Hedgeman: Fierce Trailblazer. Bold Freedom Fighter.](#) Short Biography (2:27)

Condoleezza Rice- the first female African American Secretary of State. She was the first African American woman to be provost of Stanford University.

- [National Women's History Museum Biography](#)
- [Mini Biography](#) (3:24)
- [10 Fun facts](#) (3:11)- great for elementary
- [Plays piano with yo-yo ma](#) (1:41)

Teaching Ideas

Black Hair

1. Video- [Hair Love](#) (6:47)- Elementary
2. Book (read aloud)- [Hair Love](#) (5:01)- Elementary
3. Poem- [Street Symphony for a Black Girl](#) (CommonLit)- 4th -6th Grade ([PDF version](#))
4. Video- [Good Hair excerpt On Relaxer](#) (9:27)- High School

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