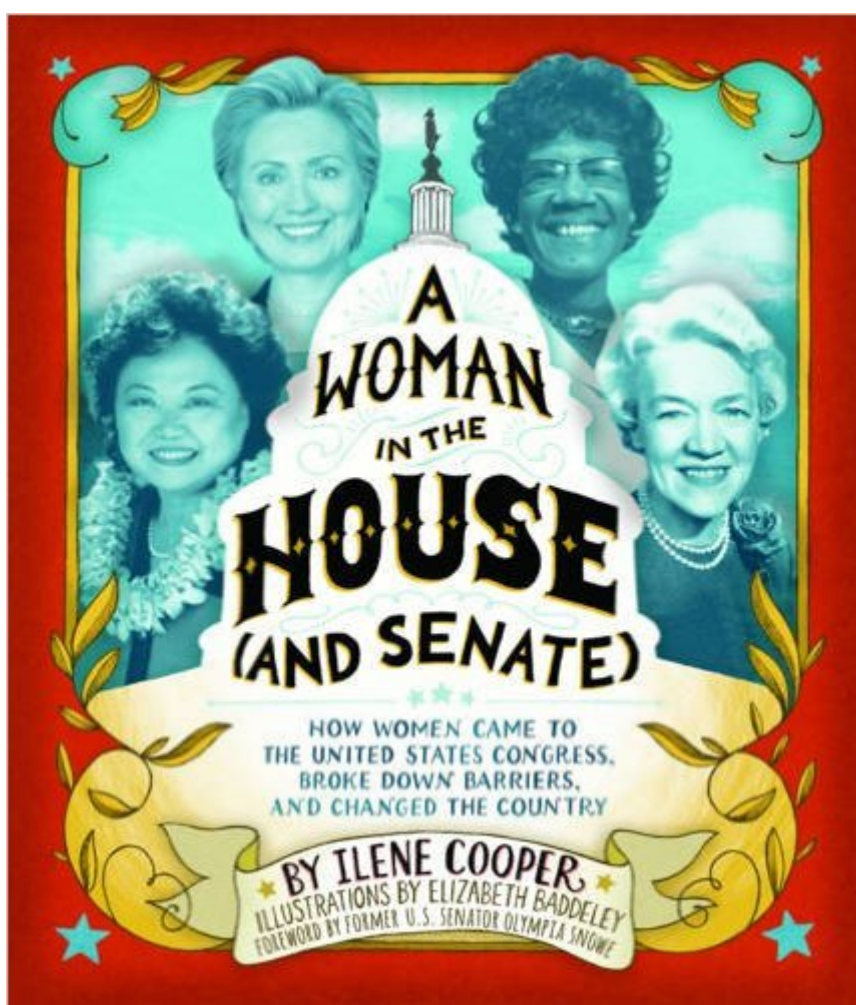


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# A Woman In The House (and Senate): How Women Came To The United States Congress, Broke Down Barriers, And Changed The Country



## Synopsis

For the first 128 years of our country's history, not a single woman served in the Senate or House of Representatives. All of that changed, however, in November 1916, when Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to Congress—even before the Nineteenth Amendment gave women across the U.S. the right to vote. Beginning with the women's suffrage movement and going all the way through the results of the 2012 election, Ilene Cooper deftly covers more than a century of U.S. history in order to highlight the influential and diverse group of female leaders who opened doors for women in politics as well as the nation as a whole. Featured women include Hattie Caraway (the first woman elected to the Senate), Patsy Mink (the first woman of color to serve in Congress), Shirley Chisholm (the first African-American woman in Congress), and present-day powerhouses like Nancy Pelosi and Hillary Clinton. The book is filled with lively illustrations and archival photographs. It includes a glossary, index, and chart of all the women who have served in Congress. Praise for *A Woman in the House (and Senate)* **STARRED REVIEW** "It is no small task to create a book that summarizes over a century of U.S. history, gives a crash course in civics, and provides succinct, pithy biographies of numerous women who have served in the legislative and judicial branches of government. Cooper pulls it off." —Kirkus Reviews, starred review

## Book Information

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Grade Level: 3 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Author Ilene Cooper has created an encyclopedia of sorts of the history of women in politics as it pertains to the U.S. Congress. The book is divided into chronological sections, beginning with the women's suffrage movement and ending with the results of the 2012 election. The foreword for the book was written by Olympia Snowe, a former U.S. Senator. Although women have made great inroads into the world of politics, they have long been under-represented. For the first 128 years in our nation's history, not one woman had served in Congress. That changed in 1916 when Jeannette Rankin from Montana became the first woman elected to the House of Representatives. Even though a sizeable number of women have served in either the House or the Senate since then, the Senate has never been comprised of more than 25 percent women, and the percentages in the House are lower than that. But, people will feel encouraged that things could change when they read about all of the influential women who have thus far opened doors into that arena! The text is chock-full of facts and tidbits about well-known women politicians like Hillary Clinton and Nancy Pelosi, as well as less-known ones like Florence Khan and Ruth Hanna McCormick. The text is accompanied by photos of every woman mentioned, as well as cartoon-like drawings that highlight certain topics. The author includes an appendix with additional info about the three branches of government, women and suffrage, politics and politicians, democrats and republicans, how a bill is passed, congressional committees, the cabinet, the women's movement, the Equal Rights Amendment and impeachment.

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