

# 50-50 in 2020 Newsletter

June 2018

## THINGS ARE LOOKING UP IN IOWA

Iowa's June primary election results at a glance, courtesy of ISU's Carrie Chapman Catt Center: A record-breaking 84 women will advance to November's general election state level ballot. That's 34% of the field of 98.

Across the board in Iowa, more women won their primary races than men in the June primaries, whether they be Democrat, Republican or Libertarian. Of the 24 contested races that included at least one man and one woman, women won 79% (19) of them.

## WHO DAH THOUGHT?

America's most female-friendly elected office appears to be that of lieutenant governor.

According to CAWP, 12 of the nation's 43 lieutenant governors (28 percent) are women.

Next highest is state house/assembly seats, where women hold 1,427 of 5,411 seats (885D, 531R).

Interestingly, it is Republican women who hold the most statewide elected positions. Of the 72 women in the 312 available positions across the country, Republicans hold 43 and Democrats 28. (There's one non-partisan.) But when it comes to state legislatures, of the 7,383 seats in those chambers, female Democrats out-number their Republican counterparts, 1,144 to 705.

Of the six women currently serving in the 50 offices of governor, three got there by taking over when male governors resigned. That includes Iowa's Kim Reynolds.

In Iowa, women hold seven of the 50 state Senate seats, and 28 of the 100 seats in the House. That's a paltry 23.3 percent total for the entire General Assembly and places us at 32<sup>nd</sup> among the 50 states for number of women elected to state general assembly/legislatures. (Wisconsin ranks 29<sup>th</sup> while Illinois ranks sixth, with 35.6 percent of their state legislature's seats held by women.)

## NATIONALLY SPEAKING

With the filing deadlines having passed in 38 states, a record number of women filed as major party candidates for the U.S. Senate in 2018, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. As of June 1, 42 women (24 D and 18 R) filed, as compared to the 40 who set the previous high in 2016.

"Women have not only broken a record for U.S. Senate candidacies this year," according to CAWP's director, Debbie Walsh. "They are also contenders in some of the most competitive races of this cycle."

However, of the 42 women candidates filed for the U.S. Senate, 6 (2D, 4R) have already been defeated in primary elections and 3 (2D, 1R) have secured major party nominations.

## COUNTING DOWN TO NOVEMBER

Politico's Women Rule Candidate Tracker updated as of June 22, shows that of the 602 women who declared earlier in the year they were running for governor, U.S. Senate or U.S. House, 166 lost primaries or dropped out, 288 are awaiting primaries, and 148 advanced in their primaries to win a spot in the fall's General Election.

## **TALK ABOUT A BEAUTIFUL SENARIO**

Writing for "Roll Call," Jennifer Shutt reports that for the first time since the U.S. House Beauty Shop was eliminated in 1977, two women are in the running to become co-leaders of a standing House committee in the next Congress. And it's not just any committee. It's the Appropriations Committee. They are Kay Granger, R-Texas, and Nita M. Lowey, D-New York.

Depending on which party has control after the November elections, one will be the committee's first chairwoman and the other will become ranking member.

## **2018 EQUITY AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED**

50-50 in 2020's 2018 Equity for Women Award recipient is Diane Ramsey, founder and former CEO of Iowa Women Lead Change, a premier leadership program for Iowa women and co-chair of the public/private partnership EPIC Corporate Challenge. Ramsey will receive her award at our annual fundraiser reception set for 5:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, October 11th, at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art. Mark your calendars and watch for your snail mail and/or Evite this fall!

## **FOOD FOR (GREAT) THOUGHT**

From Politico's "Women Rule" newsletter, a comment from Barbara L. McAneny, M.D., President, American Medical Association:

"Do your homework. Realize the people who write the agenda, control the meeting. And pay your dues by working to advance other people's issues. If you want allies when it comes to something that's important to you down the road, you need to build a cohort of people who trust you and will work with you. That means helping them when there's no personal gain for you. Leadership and power have to be earned."