

# Women's and Girls' Day at the Legislature

2021 Theme: Our Past, Present, and Future



# Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

**Whereas,** the West Virginia Women's Commission continues to develop and transform programs and activities to meet the demands of our constituent base, including the creation of an online educational event combining the annual Women's and Girls' Day at the Legislature and West Virginia Women's History Month Kickoff Celebration; and

**Whereas,** Women's and Girls' Day at the Legislature provides an opportunity for the public to hear from accomplished women regarding their road to empowerment, their legislative experience and the legislative process, and how to create strategic planning goals to lead our state now and in the future, thus providing "Our Past, Present, and Future" theme for the 2021 event; and

**Whereas,** the West Virginia Women's Commission, in partnership with the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, celebrates West Virginia Women's History Month each March by recognizing women of every age, race, class, and ethnic background who made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; served as early leaders in the forefront of every major social change movement to create a more fair and just society for all; and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and social roles in every sphere of the life of the State; and

**Whereas,** the partners, commissioners, and staff support the West Virginia Women's Commission mission to elevate the power and potential of West Virginia women and girls to thrive and have economic, political, educational, and social equality to ensure their full participation in society and be recognized for their achievements.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **March 1, 2021** as:

## ***Women's and Girls' Day at the Legislature***

do hereby proclaim **March 2021** as:

## ***Women's History Month***

in the Mountain State and encourage all women and girls to learn from the rich stories of the past, get involved in local and state government, and work toward continuing to make a difference in the lives of future generations of West Virginians.


**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Eleventh day of February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-One, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Eighth year of the State.



  
Jim Justice  
Governor

By the Governor:

  
Mac Warner  
Secretary of State

Joe Manchin III  
WEST VIRGINIA



United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC

## GREETINGS FROM JOE MANCHIN UNITED STATES SENATOR

### ***2021 Women's & Girls' Day at the Legislature*** ***"Our Past, Present, and Future"***

I've always believed that if you want something done right, you put a woman in charge. That's why I am so proud that my state offices and my Energy Committee staff are led by women who do an outstanding job working for the people of West Virginia every day. Every one of our female leaders in the Mountain State is the epitome of strength and advancement in their fields and serve as inspiring role models for the next generation, and that is due in great part to the women who broke ground in generations past. Because of their accomplishments, more young women have, and will, blaze their own trails and continue to make our home state and entire nation proud.

That is what today's virtual Day at the Legislature is all about: showcasing our state's legislative process to the next generation of leaders and inspiring them to make their voices heard about the issues that matter to them. Especially with the challenges we've faced in the last year, this is an important time to reflect on the past and improve upon what we're able to accomplish in the present in order to create an even brighter future for all.

If we want to create and keep jobs, encourage our state's youth to stay in West Virginia, and keep up with ever-changing technology, encouraging more women to embrace leadership roles is the right direction for a more balanced and productive West Virginia. I sincerely appreciate today's speakers, the West Virginia Women's Commission, and all those who have made today's opportunity possible. By working together and encouraging more women to become involved in lawmaking, we can make our state an even better place to work and live. Keep up the great work.

With warmest regards,



U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III





Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

March 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST GUARD  
AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
AND CONSUMER POLICY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
AND CIVIL LIBERTIES  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CRISIS

ALEX X. MOONEY  
2ND DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
INVESTOR PROTECTION,  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND CAPITAL  
MARKETS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4802

CHARLESTON OFFICE  
405 CAPITOL STREET  
SUITE 306  
CHARLESTON, WV 25301  
(304) 925 5964

MARTINSBURG OFFICE  
300 FOXCROFT AVENUE  
SUITE 101  
MARTINSBURG, WV 25401

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2440 RAYBURN HOUSE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

[HTTP://MOONEY.HOUSE.GOV](http://MOONEY.HOUSE.GOV)

Dear Friends:

I would like to express my appreciation to the WV Women's Commission for organizing today's Women's and Girls' Day at the West Virginia Legislature. I regret that I am unable to take part in the festivities, but I send my best wishes and warmest regards.

The theme of today is "Our Past, Present, and Future". A Century ago, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was less than a year old. Its passage in 1920 would not have been possible without the many, many voices of the Women's Suffrage Movement. Our ancestors knew, just as it is laid out in the Constitution, that the right to vote is inalienable; they stood up, fought, and won for all women!

Today, we live in an incredible time. There are more women CEOs, entrepreneurs, and Members of Congress than ever before. One-hundred and forty-three of my colleagues are women; Republican and Democratic, they all serve our Country and represent just how much our Nation has grown these last one-hundred years.

As I continue to represent Southern West Virginia in Washington, I hope to inspire and empower our next generation of women, so they may achieve their dreams. Each and every one of our young mountaineers has a bright future ahead of them!

Again, I would like to extend my thanks to the WV Women's Commission and the many female lawmakers that made today possible.

It is my greatest honor to represent West Virginia's Third Congressional District in Congress. If I can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Carol D. Miller*

Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress

WASHINGTON DISTRICT OFFICE  
1605 LONGWORTH HOB  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3452

BECKLEY DISTRICT OFFICE  
307 PRINCE STREET  
BECKLEY, WV 25801  
(304) 250-6177

BLUEFIELD DISTRICT OFFICE  
601 FEDERAL STREET  
ELIZABETH KEE FEDERAL BUILDING  
BLUEFIELD, WV 24701  
(304) 325-6800

HUNTINGTON DISTRICT OFFICE  
SIDNEY L. CHRISTIE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE  
845 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 314  
HUNTINGTON, WV 25701  
(304) 522-2201

[MILLER.HOUSE.GOV](http://MILLER.HOUSE.GOV)

## Greetings from Alex Mooney United States Congressman

*In honor of the 2021 Women's and Girls' Day at the Legislature*

It is an honor to share my greetings for *Women's and Girls' Day at the Legislature* hosted by the West Virginia Women's Commission. This annual commemoration for Women's History Month is a terrific opportunity for West Virginians to come together.

The event today will empower women and girls alike to make their voices heard. West Virginia has a wonderful history of women who played a prominent role in shaping our country. Today we remember West Virginia native Anna Jarvis who founded Mother's Day. We celebrate Mary Lou Retton who at 16-years-old became the first American woman to win the Olympic all-around gold medal in gymnastics. We honor Katherine Johnson who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her brilliant work at NASA that led to the Apollo moon landing and the Space Shuttle program. Like these iconic West Virginia figures, I hope you, too, are inspired to become inventors, trailblazers and active citizens in your communities.

Today as we kickoff Women's History Month, we learn from the past, celebrate the present and look to the future. I am proud of Mountaineers for coming together to show women and girls across our great state that their lives can be filled with dreams, achievement and remarkable success. I am grateful to live in a country that guarantees this freedom and opportunity. I'm proud to represent you in Congress. God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

*Alex X. Mooney*

Alex X. Mooney



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

**West Virginia Women's Commission**  
State Capitol Complex, Building 6  
Suite 850, Room 8-D  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305  
Telephone: (304) 558-6073 Fax: (304) 558-6640

March 1, 2021

On behalf of the West Virginia Women's Commission, we express our deepest gratitude to our distinguished guests and all of you for attending the virtual 2021 Women's and Girls' Day at the Legislature and Women's History Month Kickoff Celebration. On this day, we stand in solidarity with other women in the United States and around the world to be equal participants in all walks of life and in all endeavors.

The West Virginia Women's Commission is committed to elevating the power and potential of women and girls in West Virginia. Our vision remains with women and girls prospering and having social, economic, and political equality. This is the reason our event today is so special. The voice of the next generation is paramount as we continue to advocate for equality and rights of all women and girls.

Through times of continuing challenges, we are here to celebrate and learn from the past, live in the present and create a brighter future. We are proud that we embody the spirit of peace, unity and inspiration. No matter who you are or where you are from, remember that your talent is needed, and your voice must be heard. The West Virginia Women's Commission appreciates your support and welcomes your future participation.

Sincerely,

Julie C Palas  
Interim Executive Director

Kenyatta C. Grant  
Interim Chair

Virtual Premiere Presentation: Monday, March 1, 2021 • 9:00–10:30 a.m.  
facebook.com/WVaWomen & youtube.com/channel/UCCYkSLBbAoEeoCa8IfgBPpg  
WV Public Broadcasting Stations will recap the presentation at 8:00 p.m.

## Women's and Girls' Day at the Legislature

2021 Theme: Our Past, Present, and Future

### Program Agenda

#### Our Past – Women's History Month Kickoff Celebration

*in partnership with the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs (HHOMA)*

Welcome and Introductions by Julie Palas, WV Women's Commission Interim Director

Welcoming Greeting by First Lady Cathy Justice

Greeting from HHOMA Director Jill Upson

Musical Video Montage

Presentation by Jerry Vilar, 2020 Legacy of Women Awards

Recipient of the Women Making History Lifetime Achievement Award

Introductions by Kenyatta Coleman Grant, WV Women's Commission Interim Chair

Greetings from US Senator Shelley Moore Capito and former WV Senator Marie Redd

WV Women's History by Eric Waggoner, WV Humanities Council Director

Introduction by Michelle Petties, Executive Assistant, HHOMA

Performance Poetry by Doris "Lady D" Fields, 2020 Legacy of Women Awards

Recipient of the Artist Award

#### Our Present – Legislative Content and Action Steps

Legislative Process and Introduction by Kenyatta Coleman Grant, WV Women's Commission Interim Chair

50th Anniversary of the 26th Amendment by WV Secretary of State Mac Warner

Introductions by Kenyatta Coleman Grant, WV Women's Commission Interim Chair

Greetings from WV Senator Glen Jefferies

Introduction to the WV Senate by Brandy Love O'Brien

Musical Video Montage

Current Legislation by Meredith Hartery, WV NOW President

Using Your Voice and Introductions by Leah Glover, WV Women's Commission Committee Member

Greetings from WV Delegate Amy Summers

Keynote Remarks by WV Delegate Danielle Walker

#### Our Future – Creating Goals and Panel Discussion

Creating Goals by Leah Glover, WV Women's Commission Committee Member

Greetings from Renee Montgomery, 2018 Legacy of Women Awards

Recipient of the Sports Champion Award

Panel Discussion on Empowerment, Encouragement and Support

Liz Brunello, Appalachian Center for Equality Youth Program Organizer

Rosemary Ketchum, City Council Member of Wheeling, WV

Takeiya Smith, Our Future West Virginia Youth and Racial Justice Organizer

Panel Moderator Kenyatta Coleman Grant, WV Women's Commission Interim Chair

Evaluation Form and Introductions by Beth Wolfe, WV Women's Commission Committee Member

Greetings from WV Delegates Barbara Fleischauer, Sean Hornbuckle and Mike Pushkin

Acknowledgements by Julie Palas, WV Women's Commission Interim Director





# Our Past

## Speakers (in order of appearance)



### Julie Palas

Julie Palas, Appalachian School of Law graduate, has enjoyed professional experiences in legal, investigative, government, non-profit, grant administration, human and civil rights, education, special projects, events planning, and as a visual art creator. After law school, Julie moved to Charleston, WV, to work for the State of West Virginia, and is now Director of the James “Tiger” Morton Catastrophic Illness Commission and Interim Director the WV Women’s Commission. [Julie.C.Palas@wv.gov](mailto:Julie.C.Palas@wv.gov)



### Cathy Justice

Cathy Justice, First Lady of the State of West Virginia, is a native West Virginian, an accomplished competitive horsewoman, business owner, educator, avid women’s basketball fan, a wonderful cook, and continues to be an overall champion for the WV Women’s Commission and our state. [governor.wv.gov/first-lady/Pages/default.aspx](http://governor.wv.gov/first-lady/Pages/default.aspx), [facebook.com/WVFirstLady](https://www.facebook.com/WVFirstLady)



### Jill Upson

Jill Upson is the Executive Director of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs and a former WV Delegate. She is Chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission and the Governor’s COVID-19 Advisory Commission on African American Disparities. Director Upson was the first black Republican woman elected to the WV House of Delegates. [minorityaffairs.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://minorityaffairs.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx)



### Geraldine Vilar

Geraldine “Jerry” Vilar is “The Hat Woman of Fairmont” and recipient of the 2018 Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson “Women Making History” Award for lifetime achievement. Jerry was also Ms. Senior West Virginia 1995, a member of WV’s Silver Haired Legislature, and a triple threat as a singer, dancer and actor who still performs as Betsy Ross for schools and women’s organizations. [facebook.com/geraldine.vilar.7](https://www.facebook.com/geraldine.vilar.7)



### Kenyatta Coleman Grant

Kenyatta Coleman Grant, WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence Community Organizing Coordinator, with degrees in Political Science and Criminal Justice is passionate about social justice, equality and community organizing. A member of the YWCA Racial Justice Committee and Call to Action for Racial Equality (CARE) Coalition, Ms. Grant is a dynamic trainer/facilitator on implicit bias, diversity and cultural competency. She is the Interim Chair of the WV Women’s Commission, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and is President of the Beta Beta Omega Chapter in Charleston, WV. [facebook.com/WVCADV](https://www.facebook.com/WVCADV)

# Our Past

## Speakers (in order of appearance)



### Shelley Moore Capito

Shelley Moore Capito, United States Senator, was born in 1953 in Glen Dale, West Virginia. She received degrees from Duke University (B.S.) and University of Virginia (M.Ed.). She is WV’s first female US Senator and serves on the Appropriations, Environment and Public Works, Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Rules and Administrations committees. [capito.senate.gov](http://capito.senate.gov)



### Marie Redd

Former WV Senator Marie Redd represented the 5th District, which contains Cabell County and a small portion of Wayne County. In 1998, she defeated incumbent Thomas F. Scott, to become West Virginia’s first African American state senator. [reddlawfirm.com](http://reddlawfirm.com)



### Eric Waggoner

Eric Waggoner, West Virginia Humanities Council Executive Director/CEO, is a former associate professor at West Virginia Wesleyan College, a writer and a musician. The West Virginia Humanities Council is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote a vigorous program in the humanities statewide. [wvhumanities.org](http://wvhumanities.org)



### Michelle Petties

Michelle Petties, Executive Assistant for the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, is a native West Virginian. After spending close to 15 years living in Ohio, she returned home and became a licensed minister in 2019. Michelle co-hosts an online bible study group for women and is currently working towards an MBA. Michelle serves on the education and communications committees for the WV Women’s Commission.



### Doris A. Fields

Doris A. Fields, known as “Lady D” and WV’s First Lady of Soul,” is a West Virginia native and graduate of West Virginia State University. Singing since she was three, Doris is also an actor, songwriter, director, promoter, educator, social activist and visual artist. Debuting her original play about blues singer Bessie Smith, “The Lady and the Empress” in 2003, and performing her award-winning song, “Go Higher” at the Obama for Change Inaugural Ball in 2009, Doris is a world-class musician who could live anywhere. She has chosen to give her talents and energy to her home state. [facebook.com/dafields](https://www.facebook.com/dafields)

# Our Present

## Speakers *(in order of appearance)*



### Kenyatta Coleman Grant

Kenyatta Coleman Grant, WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence Community Organizing Coordinator, earned degrees in Political Science and Criminal Justice and is passionate about social justice, equality and community organizing. A member of the YWCA Racial Justice Committee and Call to Action for Racial Equality (CARE) Coalition, Ms. Grant is a dynamic trainer/facilitator on implicit bias, diversity and cultural competency. She is the Interim Chair of the WV Women’s Commission, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and President of the Beta Beta Omega Chapter in Charleston, WV. [facebook.com/WVCADV](https://www.facebook.com/WVCADV)



### Mac Warner

WV Secretary of State Mac Warner was elected in 2016 and reelected in 2020. He graduated from West Point and served 23 years in the US Army before serving as Chief of the Organizational Capacity Building Section of the world’s largest Rule of Law program with the US State Department in Afghanistan. As Secretary of State, he is focused on transparent, fair and fraud-free elections and posted record-setting numbers of newly registered voters, including 13,688 high school students.



### Glenn Jeffries

Glenn Jeffries, WV State Senator serving the 8th District, is a member of the Putnam County Economic Development Authority Operations Committee and Putnam County Chamber of Commerce. Senator Jeffries was elected to the Senate 2016. His committee assignments include Economic Development, Energy, Industry, and Mining, Government Organization, Natural Resources, Transportation and Workforce. [glenn.jeffries@wvsenate.gov](mailto:glenn.jeffries@wvsenate.gov)



### Brandy Love O’Brien

Brandy Love O’Brien is a WV Senate Staff Assistant known for her enthusiasm and in-depth knowledge about the WV Legislature and her “walk about tours” on the Senate side of the State Capitol. She also gives educational lectures on Legislation 101 and women’s empowerment.

# Our Present

## Speakers *(in order of appearance)*



### Meredith Hartery

Meredith Hartery is the President of the West Virginia National Organization for Women and former President of the Morgantown National Organization for Women. Hartery is a seasoned development director with over 14 years of experience in business development and full-cycle partnership management in a variety of industries. [WestVirginiaNOW@gmail.com](mailto:WestVirginiaNOW@gmail.com)



### Leah Glover

Leah Glover, fundraising strategist and community volunteer, serves on the YWCA, Capitol Market and WV Coalition of Domestic Violence Board of Directors and is a grant reviewer for the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation and a member of the WV Women’s Commission fundraising and education committees. Leah is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and Charleston–Institute Chapter of The Links, Inc, and received the President’s Volunteer Service Award by President Barack Obama, was named a Hometown Hero by News 12 in Connecticut and honored as a 1 of 100 Women of Color Honoree.



### Amy Summers

Amy Summers, WV Delegate serving the 49th District, is a registered nurse and was elected to the House in 2014. Delegate Summers became first woman to serve as Majority Leader of the WV House of Delegates in 2018. She also serves as the Vice Chair for the House Rules and Health and Human Resources committees. [Amy.summers@wvhouse.gov](mailto:Amy.summers@wvhouse.gov)



### Danielle Walker

Danielle Walker, WV Delegate serving the 51st District, was elected to the House in 2018. Delegate Walker is a community activist who proudly and boldly uses her voice to take a stand for the voiceless and fights for justice. She is Minority Chair of the Select Committee on Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse and Minority Vice Chair of Education, Health and Human Resources and Senior, Child and Family Issues. Delegate Walker is also a member of Valley Habitat for Humanity, Morgantown NOW, NAACP Branch #3241, and is a Read Aloud Board Member. [danielle.walker@wvhouse.gov](mailto:danielle.walker@wvhouse.gov)



# Our Future

## Speakers *(in order of appearance)*



### Leah Glover

Leah Glover, fundraising strategist and community volunteer, serves on the YWCA, Capitol Market and WV Coalition of Domestic Violence Board of Directors, is a grant reviewer for the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation and a member of the WV Women’s Commission fundraising and education committees. Leah is a member of The Association of Fundraising Professionals and Charleston-Institute Chapter of The Links, Inc, and received the President’s Volunteer Service Award by President Barack Obama, was named as Hometown Hero by News 12 in Connecticut and honored as a 1 of 100 Women of Color Honoree.



### Renee Montgomery

Renee Montgomery, with an 11-year WNBA career, is in her first season as a studio analyst on Atlanta Hawks broadcasts for Fox Sports Southeast and nightly co-hosts the TMZ Sports Show. She recently started the Remotely Renee Podcast that includes sports to entertainment to social justice activism. [remotelyrenee.com](http://remotelyrenee.com), [facebook.com/RemotelyRenee](https://facebook.com/RemotelyRenee)



### Liz Brunello

Liz Brunello, American Friends Service Committee’s Youth and Community Engagement Program Associate for the Appalachian Center for Equality in West Virginia, helps young adults become strong leaders and passionate advocates to make long-term change for the common good. In her spare time, she is an avid printmaking artist, fiction reader and movie watcher. [afsc.org/charleston-wv](http://afsc.org/charleston-wv)



### Rosemary Ketchum

Rosemary Ketchum is a member of the Wheeling City Council representing Ward 3. She serves as the Chief Operations Officer of the holistic youth wellness coalition, Edible Mountain, and is also on the boards of several organizations. Rosemary has been a returning guest on MSNBC and has been profiled by several outlets including The Today Show, Time Magazine, CBS, and CNN for her work in community organizing and politics. [rosemaryketchum.com](http://rosemaryketchum.com)



### Takeiya Smith

Takeiya Smith, Our Future West Virginia Youth and Racial Justice Organizer, is the lead organizer of the Young West Virginia Power Building Movement that supports young black voters to engage elected officials through civic education and collaborative action and empowers young people by addressing the school-to-prison pipeline for ages 14-18 years old in their schools. [ourfuturewv.org](http://ourfuturewv.org)

# Our Future

## Speakers *(in order of appearance)*



### Beth Wolfe

Beth Wolfe, Executive Vice President of Enrollment Management at the University of Charleston, received her doctorate from Marshall University and is an educator and administrator with more than 21 years of experience in K-12 and higher education. Beth is an avid writer and public speaker. She was a featured speaker at Marshall University’s inaugural TEDx event and her poetry appeared in the 2020 Women of Appalachia Project anthology.



### Barbara Fleischauer

Barbara Evans Fleischauer, WV Delegate serving the 51st District, is an attorney and small business owner in Monongalia County. Delegate Fleischauer has served in the legislature for 23 years. She is currently the Minority Chair for the Veterans Affairs Committee and serves on the Government Organization, Health and Human Resources Interstate Cooperation and Rule Making Review committees. [barbaraf@wvhouse.gov](mailto:barbaraf@wvhouse.gov)



### Sean Hornbuckle

Sean Hornbuckle, WV Delegate serving the 16th District, is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones and was elected to the House in 2014. He serves as the Minority Chair of the Education Committee and Minority Vice-Chair of the Small Business and Economic Development Committee, and is a member of the Finance Committee. [sean.hornbuckle@wvhouse.gov](mailto:sean.hornbuckle@wvhouse.gov)



### Mike Pushkin

Mike Pushkin, WV Delegate serving the 37th District, is a Taxi Driver and Musician who gives of his time and talents in his community. Delegate Pushkin was elected to the House of Delegates in 2014. He serves as Minority Chair for Health and Human Resources and Homeland Security, Minority Vice Chair for the Select Committee on Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse and is a member of Enrolled Bills, Judiciary and Workforce committees. [mike.pushkin@wvhouse.gov](mailto:mike.pushkin@wvhouse.gov)



### Julie Palas

Julie Palas, Appalachian School of Law graduate, has enjoyed professional experiences in legal, investigative, government, non-profit, grant administration, human and civil rights, education, special projects, events planning, and visual art creator. After law school Julie moved to Charleston, WV, to work for the State of West Virginia, and is now Director of the James “Tiger” Morton Catastrophic Illness Commission and Interim Director the West Virginia Women’s Commission. [julie.c.palas@wv.gov](mailto:julie.c.palas@wv.gov)

# Legislative Visits

You may use the following information as a guide when visiting your legislators, but do not feel you need to follow it exactly. During this time of COVID-19 you may not be able to meet with your legislator in person. If you can schedule a meeting it is important to remember to wear a mask and social distance.

## Consider the following tips:

- Introduce yourself.
- Explain that you are there for in support of Women’s and Girls’ Day at the Legislature.
- Describe your topics of interest – such as a particular bill in the House or Senate, or subject areas like environmental issues, health and family well-being, education, employment, equal pay, and diversity concerns.
- Explain why it is important to support those types of issues.
- Close by thanking the legislator or staff member.

If you are unable to speak to a legislator or staff member in person, you can ask for an online meeting, schedule a phone call, or send an email or letter to your legislator and include statements like:

*“Dear Legislator (Add their title and name):*

*I am contacting you to advocate on behalf of the following legislative bills and issues:*

*I would like you to vote for:*

*I would like you to vote against:*

*Sincerely,*

*(Add your name and contact information)”*

If you plan to visit your legislator in person, please take photographs with your legislator and share on social media — tagging those in the photo, the legislator, and the West Virginia Women’s Commission.



Personal Civic Action Plan By \_\_\_\_\_

My current strengths, skills, knowledge \_\_\_\_\_

These are community issues that interest me most:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Short-Term (Present to 2 years)

Proposed Action What are things you want to do or see happen that you think could make a difference?	I need to contact... or ask for help from... Is there a person, agency or group you can volunteer with or that can help you learn more about your proposed actions?	My expected outcome is... As a result of taking this action, what would you like the outcome to be?
1. I want to		
2. I want to		
3. I want to		

### Long-Term (2-5 years)

4. I want to		
5. I want to		
6. I want to		

NOTES:



Name

County Represented

2021 Women’s and Girls’ Day at the Legislature and Women’s History Month Kickoff Presentation Summary Evaluation

For our sponsors and future programming, please print, complete and return to Julie.C.Palas@wv.gov or Julie Palas, State Capitol Complex, Building 6, Suite 850, Charleston, WV 25305.

Please let us know your planned activities

Did you or do you plan to visit one or more WV Senators?

Yes

No

Did you or do you plan to visit one or more WV Delegates?

Yes

No

If yes, name the Senators or Delegates below:

WV Senator(s):

WV Delegate(s):

Do you plan to share the resources provided in the online program with your friends, contacts, school or group?

Yes

No

Do you plan to take a virtual tour of the Capitol?

Yes

No

Do you plan to take a virtual tour of the WV Museum?

Yes

No

Do you plan to take a virtual tour of the WV Archives?

Yes

No

Did you complete a Personal Civic Action Plan for future efforts?

Yes

No

Please comment on each segment of the virtual presentation:

**Our Past:** First Lady Cathy Justice, US Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Former WV Senator Marie Redd, HHOMA Director Jill Upson, Legacy of Women Awards Recipient Jerry Vilar, Doris “Lady D Fields

**Our Present:** Senators Patricia Rucker and Glenn Jeffries, Delegates Amy Summers and Danielle Walker, Senate Staff Member Brandy O’Brien

**Our Future:** Renee Montgomery, Panelists Liz Inez, Wheeling City Council Member Rosemary Ketchum, Takeiya Smith, and Delegate Kayla Young, and greetings by WV legislators

Please add any additional comments on your experience of the virtual event or suggestions you may have for future events:

Additional Resources

View the 2021 Women’s and Girls’ Day at the Legislature 90 minute premiere beginning at 9:00 a.m. on March 1, 2021 at [facebook.com/WVaWomen](#), and on West Virginia Public Broadcasting stations at 8:00 p.m. that evening. You can share the presentation with others from the WV Women’s Commission Facebook page.



In 2021, West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner will lead a statewide yearlong effort to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Ratified by West Virginia on April 28, 1971, the 26th Amendment reduced the voting age from 21 to 18. The late U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph (of West Virginia) was the father of the 26th Amendment and said, “If you’re old enough to fight and die for your country, you are old enough to vote.” Initial information on the WV Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the 26th Amendment can be found on the WV Secretary of State’s website at [sos.wv.gov/about/Pages/26Amend.aspx](#) or at [facebook.com/WV26Amendment](#).

Legislative Visits

You are encouraged to voice your concerns and/or opinions about upcoming legislation by contacting your US senator or representative and your WV district senator or delegate via letters, emails, or online meetings.

- Find your US Senate legislator at [senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm?State=WV](#) or House legislator at [house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative](#).
- Find your WV Senate legislator at [wvlegislature.gov/Districts/maps.cfm#SD01](#) or House legislator at [wvlegislature.gov/Districts/maps.cfm#HD01](#).
- View the 2021 WV House District Map with Delegate photos or Senate District Map with Senator photos [wvdhhr.org/wwvc](#)

2021 Legislative Sessions

Go to [wvlegislature.gov](#) to download a WV legislature membership directory or 2021 session calendar, and to see live sessions of the WV Legislature via streaming video and audio options.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

[wvlegislature.gov/Educational/Bill\\_Becomes\\_Law/Bill\\_Becomes\\_Law.cfm](#)

Virtual Capitol Tours

Take a virtual tour of the WV State Capitol Building, the WV State Museum, and the WV Division of Archives and History by going to [wv.pbsllearningmedia.org/collection/the-west-virginia-capitol-complex](#). Learn from a tour guide, museum director, and archivist what it is like to work in each setting.

Equal Pay Day March 24, 2021

[equalpaytoday.org/equal-pay-day-2021](#)

WV Women’s Commission Facebook

[facebook.com/WVaWomen](#)

Legacy of Women Awards Nomination Form

[wvdhhr.org/wwvc](#)

If you have questions or would like to make a donation for this year’s event or future events and activities, contact Julie Palas at 304-558-6073 or [julie.c.palas@wv.gov](#), or donate online directly to the WV Women’s Commission at [wvdhhr.org/wwvc](#).

# WV Women’s Commission Participants

**Leola Robinson Bateman**  
*WV Human Rights Commission*

**Belinda Biafore**  
*Fairmont – Commissioner*

**Kenyatta Grant**  
*Elkview – Commissioner  
Interim Chair*

**Crystal Bishop**  
*Mount Hope*

**Betty Critch**  
*Morgantown*

**Leah Glover**  
*Hurricane*

**Karen Haring**  
*Morgantown*

**Elaine Harris**  
*St. Albans*

**Katonya Hart**  
*Charleston*

**Emily Hopta**  
*WV Department of Health  
and Human Resources*

**Candace Kraus**  
*WV Attorney General’s Office*

**Eva Marcum**  
*WV Department of Education*

**Susan Marrash-Minnerly**  
*Charleston*

**Kameron Miller**  
*Charleston – Commissioner*

**Julie Palas**  
*Interim Executive Director*

**Beth Ross**  
*Daniels – Commissioner*

**Michelle Barnes Russell**  
*Martinsburg – Commissioner*

**Callie Saunders**  
*WV Division of Labor*

**Alexis Schmidl**  
*Buckhannon*

**Sierra Sovine**  
*Dunbar*

**Angela Sundstrom**  
*WV Higher Education  
Policy Commission*

**Bobbi Wisniewski**  
*WV Department of Administration  
Division of Personnel*

**Beth Wolfe**  
*Scott Depot*

## In addition to our distinguished guests, we thank the following for their support and participation:

Art’s Flower Shop, Dunbar

Call to Action for Racial Equality

Charleston-Institute Chapter of The Links, Inc.

Diana Jacobs

Ellen Bullock

GFWC Woman’s Club of Dunbar

Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs

James “Tiger” Morton Catastrophic Illness Commission

Lee Ann Grogg

Libera, Inc., [www.liberawv.com](http://www.liberawv.com)

Office of U.S. Representative Alex Mooney

Office of U.S. Representative Carol Miller

Office of U.S. Senator Joe Manchin

Rouse House Productions, Joyce Rouse, Lisa Palas, Lyndy Gravelle

WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence

WV Department of Arts, Culture and History

WV Department of Commerce, Office of Marketing  
and Communications

WV Department of Education

WV Department of Health and Human Resources

WV House of Delegates

WV Office of the Secretary of State

WV Senate

WV Office of the First Lady

WV Office of the Governor

WV State University

WV Humanities Council

WV NAACP

WV National Organization for Women, and Kanawha Valley  
and Morgantown Chapters

WV Public Broadcasting

# Music Credits

## Women Rock The World

by Lisa Palas, Lindy Gravelle, Joyce Rouse

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## Standing On The Shoulders

by Joyce Johnson Rouse ©1995 Rouse House(ASCAP)

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*“HerStory” and “Love Large” CDs available at [www.earthmama.org](http://www.earthmama.org)*

## We’ve Come A Long Way, Ladies

by Joyce Rouse and Lindy Gravelle

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STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

**West Virginia Women's Commission**

State Capitol Complex, Building 6

Suite 850, Room 8-D, Charleston, WV 25305

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