

Politically Conventional Women: The first female U.S. presidential candidate appeared on the scene in 1892 when abolitionist and suffragist Victoria Woodhull was nominated by the newly formed Equal Rights Party as its U.S. presidential nominee. Frederick Douglass declined to be VP on her ticket.

The second woman to run, Belva Ann Bennett Lockwood, a DC attorney, was the first woman member of the U.S. Supreme Court bar, and the first woman lawyer to argue before the Supreme Court. Lockwood ran as the Equal Rights candidate in 1884 and 1888. Her VP running mate, the first female VP candidate, was Marietta Lizzie Bell Stowe.

According to Notable American Women, Lockwood received about 4,100 votes (thirty-five years before women were allowed to cast their votes) and petitioned the United States Congress to have her ballots counted. She claimed supporters had seen their ballots ripped-up, that she had "received one-half the electoral vote of Oregon and a large vote in Pennsylvania not counted but rather dumped into the waste basket. Albeit a woman of exceptional credentials, the Atlanta Constitution labeled her "old lady Lockwood" not a presumptive 'Madame President.' In 1892 Woodhull again ran, the last woman to run for seventy-two more years.

At the 1964 Republican National Convention Senator Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) was nominated for president and received 27 votes on the floor, but the nomination went to Barry Goldwater. Eight years later, at the 1972 Democratic National Convention, U. S. Representative Shirley Chisholm (D-NY) ran for the U.S. presidency. Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to Congress (1968), received 152 votes on the floor, but the nomination went to Senator George McGovern. Also that year, in the Oregon Presidential Primary, Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-Hawaii) ran for the U.S. presidency. Mink, the first Asian American woman elected to Congress (1965) was author of Title IX (1972).

Ellen McCormack's name appeared on the ballot in 18 states as a candidate for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 1976. She was the first female candidate to have raised enough money to qualify for Federal matching funds. She ran as a housewife on a pro-life platform and received Secret Service protection during her campaign. She did not win any primaries, but engaged in a debate which included future President Jimmy Carter. She had her name placed in nomination at the DNC and received 22 delegate votes. In 1980 McCormack ran as a third-party candidate and received 32,327 votes.

In the 1984 election, Sonia Johnson ran and received 72,161 votes as the presidential candidate of the U.S. Citizens Party. Also in 1984, the Democratic nominee Walter Mondale chose former U.S. Representative Geraldine Ferraro (D-NY) as his VP.

U.S. Representative Pat Schroeder (D-Co) entered the presidential race late in 1988 when Gary Hart withdrew after his marital infidelities became public. Having raised only about \$850,000 of the \$2 million she projected she needed, Schroeder withdrew her candidacy.

Lenora Branch Fulani, an American psychologist, also ran in 1988 on the New Alliance Party ticket. Fulani was the first woman and the first African American with ballot access in all fifty states, as well as the first African American female candidate who raised enough money to qualify for Federal matching funds. Fulani received .2% of the vote, more than any woman in history. Her platform included racial equality, gay rights, and political reform. She again ran in 1992.

After a long career in politics, first as a Democrat and then a Republican, Elizabeth Dole ran for the Republican nomination in 2000. Dole pulled out of the race before any of the primaries largely due to inadequate fundraising. The first female African American U.S. Senator, Carol Moseley Braun (D-IL), campaigned for the Democratic Party nomination in 2004. Moseley Braun raised little money and withdrew before the Iowa caucuses.

Former First Lady, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) entered the 2008 U.S. presidential campaign. Her New Hampshire victory marked the first time a woman had ever won

a primary. Clinton won 18 primaries and garnered almost 18M votes. Her name was placed in nomination at the DNC in Denver where she placed the name of Barack Obama, by acclamation, to be the Democratic Party's 2008 presidential nominee, making Obama the first African American to receive a major party's presidential nomination. The next week, at the RNC in St. Paul, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin was nominated as the VP of Republican presidential nominee John McCain.

Sources: http://www.indopedia.org/Lenora_Fulani.html; Wikipedia for each woman named, and <http://woodhull.org/pageView.php?id=26>.