

**YES, ROSIE, YOU CAN DO IT!**

MAYOR PAULA DIERENFELD  
JOHNSTON, IOWA

Presentation to Iowa Women in Agriculture  
July 30, 2020



- Johnston Mayor
- Johnston City Council
- Attorney, Nyemaster Goode P.C.
- Iowa Utilities Board
- Iowa Governor's Office
- Iowa Legislature
- U.S. Senator's Office

**ONCE A FARM GIRL**



**ALWAYS A FARM GIRL**



- Pioneer Hi-Bred Corn Company
- Hy-Line Chickens
- Corteva
- John Deere Financial
- Johnston Green Days

# We Can Do It!



*Flax*

POST FEB. 15 TO FEB. 28



WAR PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

# POLL QUESTIONS

1. When you were a little girl, did you ever think that someday you could grow up to be the President of the United States?
  - (a) Yes
  - (b) No
  
2. Have you ever considered serving on a city or county board or commission, or running for elected office?
  - (a) Yes
  - (b) No
  
3. If not, why not?
  - (a) Too busy – don't have the time
  - (b) Not interested – politics aren't my thing
  - (c) Not qualified – don't have the knowledge or skills
  - (d) Other reasons

# Local Elected Offices (2018)

	Total Seats	# Women	# Men	% Seats held by women
Mayors	935	143	792	15%
City Council	4,718	1,330	3,388	28%
School Boards (333 Boards)	1,883	742	1,139	39%
County Supervisor	375	38	337	10%

Source: Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, Iowa State University



**Trivia Question #1** – First Woman in Nation to Serve as Mayor of a City over 10,000. Who is She and what City was She the Mayor of?

- Won City Council seat as Republican challenger, appointed Mayor, later elected to second term
- Successful business woman (book stores, women's clothing stores, real estate)
- Tough on crime – ran on platform of ridding city of gambling and bootlegging
- Established first juvenile home and began paving city streets



# State and Federal Elected Offices

Office	Women Pre-2018	Women Post- 2018
Governor	0%	100% (1)
U.S. Senate	50% (1)	50% (1)
U.S. House	0% (0)	50% (2)
Iowa Senate	14% (7)	20% (10)
Iowa House	28% (28)	35% (35)

Source: Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, Iowa State University

# Women Serving in Iowa Legislature: A Historical Perspective

- Carolyn Campbell Pendry
  - First female to serve in Iowa Legislature (1928)
- Willie Stevenson Glanton
  - First female minority elected (1964)
- Linda Upmeyer
  - First female Speaker (2016-2020)
  - Father Del Stromer also served as Speaker (1981-1982)
- Total number of female legislators
  - 161

## Trivia Question # 2

How many Iowa counties have never sent a woman to the Iowa Legislature?



## **Run, Rose, Run**

- We need more women to run
- Women need to be encouraged or recruited to run
- When women run, women win
- Women candidates are good at raising money for their campaigns



Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga

# Gender Balance Law

- 1987: gender balance required by law on Iowa's state boards and commissions
- 2009: Iowa Legislature extended the requirement to county and city boards and commissions, effective 2012
- 2020: 14 counties and 33 cities achieved gender balance

	2014	2016	2018	2020
Counties	50%	59%	59%	68%
Cities	49%	59%	63%	69%

Source: Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, Iowa State University

# Why Women Don't Run

- Lack of female office holders to serve as role models
- Not encouraged to consider public service or to run
- Feel they don't have the time or qualifications

## **Does It Really Matter?**

“If women are not elected or serving in appointed positions in numbers equal to men, then the voices of half the population are not being heard at decision-making tables.”



# Rosie For President



POST FEB. 15 TO FEB. 29



WAR PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

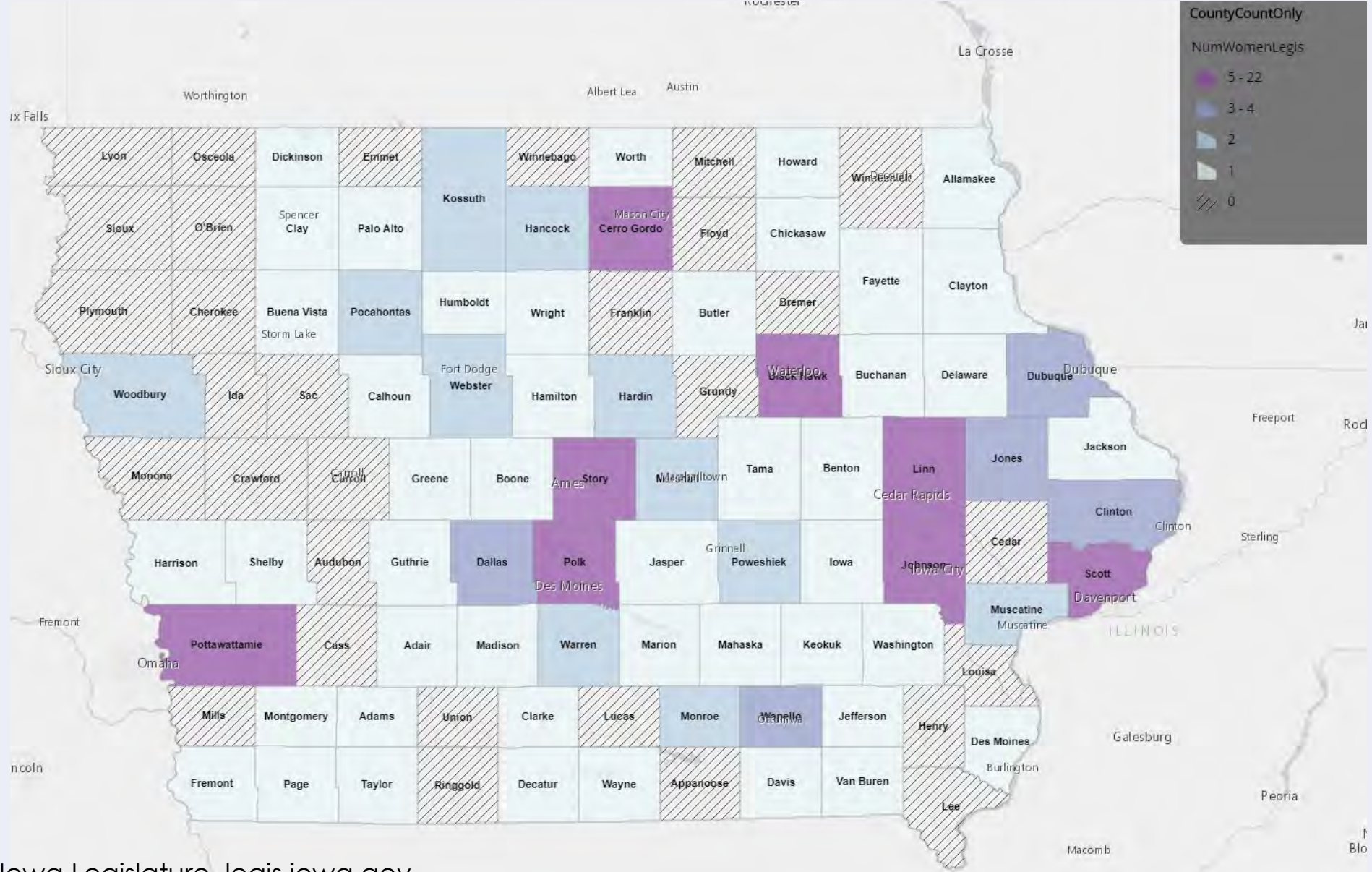


# Emma Harvat

## Iowa City

- Won City Council Seat as Republican challenger, appointed Mayor, later elected to second term
- Successful business woman (book stores, women's clothing stores, real estate)
- Tough on crime – ran on platform of ridding city of gambling and bootlegging
- Established first juvenile home and began paving city streets

# Thirty Counties Have Never Sent a Women to the Iowa Legislature



Source: Iowa Legislature, legis.iowa.gov



WOMEN

bring all

VOTERS

into the world



Let Women Vote

**Thank you!**