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Two New Women Governors Guaranteed in 2010 Woman-versus-Woman Races around Nation Include Two for Governor, One for Senate

With two women as the major-party nominees in each state, New Mexico and Oklahoma will elect their first woman governors this fall. Along with one of the nation's most closely watched Senate contests, featuring former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina (R) opposing Senator Barbara Boxer (D) in the race for California's U.S. Senate seat, these races highlights a growing list of highly visible woman-versus-woman bouts shaping up for November 2010.

High-profile U.S. House races in Arizona, California, Minnesota and South Dakota are confirmed or likely to pit women against one another.

Among the woman-versus-woman races either already set or likely to result from upcoming primaries are:

State	Race	Democratic candidate	Republican candidate	Race status
CA	US Senate	Barbara Boxer (I)	Carly Fiorina (C)	Won primary
NM	Governor	Diane Denish (O)	Susana Martinez (O)	Won primary
OK	Governor	Jari Askins (O)	Mary Fallin (O)	Won primary
AZ	US House	Ann Kirkpatrick (I)	Sidney Hay (C)	Primary 8/24
CA	US House	Laura Richardson (I)	Star Parker (C)	Won primary
MN	US House	Taryl Clark (C)	Michele Bachmann (I)	Primary 9/14
SD	US House	Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin (I)	Kristi Noem (C)	Won primary

I=Incumbent

C=Challenger

O=Open Seat

A complete summary of 2010 women candidates is available at www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/elections/documents/CanSum10.pdf.

The first woman-versus-woman Senate race took place in 1960, when Margaret Chase Smith bested Lucia Cormier. In all, there have been only eight such races prior to this year.

The first woman-versus-woman gubernatorial contest occurred in 1986 when Kay Orr (R) defeated Helen Boosalis (D) in Nebraska. The only other such race took place in Hawaii in 2002, when Linda Lingle (R) beat Mazie Hirono (D).

The largest number of woman-versus-woman races in one election cycle occurred in 1998, when there were 15 such match-ups. A complete history of woman-versus woman races for Senate, House and Governor is available at: www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/elections/documents/WomVWom.pdf

About CAWP

The Center for American Women and Politics, a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is a university-based research, education and public service center. Its mission is to promote greater knowledge and understanding about women's changing relationship to politics and government and to enhance women's influence and leadership in public life. CAWP is a leading authority in its field and a respected bridge between the academic and political worlds.