



CAWP

Presidential Watch

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PALIN SELECTED FOR GOP TICKET, SECOND WOMAN VP CANDIDATE IN U.S. HISTORY

Alaska Governor Sarah Palin today became the second woman ever named to a major party's ticket as a vice presidential candidate, and the first on a Republican slate. Palin's selection by Senator John McCain as his running mate comes 24 years after Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro ran for vice president on the 1984 ticket of Democrat Walter Mondale.

"This is a history-making choice and another milestone for women in politics," noted Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP). "After the first woman on a national ticket, we've waited more than two decades for the second."

Palin, who was elected governor in 2006, served as chairman of the Alaska's Oil and Gas Conservation Commission from 2003 to 2004. From 1996 to 2002, she served two terms as mayor and CEO of Wasilla; before that, she served two terms on the Wasilla City Council from 1992 to 1996. A native of Idaho, she earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Idaho. She is the mother of five.

Palin is one of eight women currently serving as chief executives of states (5D, 3R). Since the first woman governor was elected in 1925, a total of 29 women have served in that position (18D, 11R) in 22 states.

Information about [women as presidential and vice presidential candidates](#) and [women in statewide elected executive offices](#) is available on CAWP's website, www.cawp.rutgers.edu.

A unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, CAWP is a leading authority in its field and a respected bridge between the academic and political worlds. Its mission is to promote greater knowledge and understanding about women's participation in politics and government and to enhance women's influence and leadership in public life.

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