

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

A Civics In Real Life Series

FEMALE FIRSTS

Hillary Rodham Clinton



From the nation's first-ever presidential election in 1789 through the election of 2012, America had never seen a major party nominate a female as their presidential candidate. But after [57 presidential elections](#), history was made when [Hillary Clinton](#) became the first woman to represent a major party (Democratic) in the 2016 election. Clinton was no stranger to shattering ceilings and breaking barriers, as her life and career leading up to that historic moment were full of notable "female firsts." Hillary Clinton was born and grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. As a pre-teen, Clinton worked with multiple national political campaigns. She attended Wellesley College, was elected Senior Class President, president of the Young Republicans Club, and served as the college's first-ever student speaker at graduation. After Wellesley, Clinton attended Yale Law School where she continued to stay involved in public service and politics. World events at the time, like the [Vietnam War](#) and the [Civil Rights Movement](#), caused Clinton to change her political views and party, from Republican to Democrat. At Yale, she met her future husband, Bill Clinton. After graduating from law school, Clinton chose to work for the [Children's Defense Fund](#). She also served as legal counsel on the congressional committee assigned to investigate [Watergate](#). After Nixon's resignation, Clinton moved to Arkansas and began teaching at the University of Arkansas Law School. Clinton had a large impact on the university and community: she opened a legal aid clinic, became the first female to serve on the board of directors of the [Legal Service Corporation](#) after an appointment from President Carter, and became the first-ever female partner of the oldest law firm west of the Mississippi. For 11 years, Hillary Clinton filled the role of First Lady of Arkansas after [Bill was elected governor](#) and then spent 8 years as [First Lady of the United States](#) after Bill was elected president in 1992. She was a very active first lady. She continued to practice law, served on boards, started various organizations, and fought for reform in the areas of children/families and health care. While president, Bill Clinton named Hillary the head of the [Task Force on National Health Care Reform](#). In 2000, Hillary Clinton announced her run for a vacated New York Senate seat. Despite backlash about having never lived in New York, Clinton won the seat, becoming the first First Lady to win an elected office and the first female senator from New York. She was reelected in 2006. In 2007, Hillary Clinton began her first campaign to become president of the United States. After a hard-fought primary season, Clinton came in second to [Barack Obama](#), who would go on to win the presidency and pick Clinton as his Secretary of State. As Secretary of State, Clinton set a record by visiting 112 countries during her tenure. In 2015, Secretary Clinton announced she would try again to run for president and accepted the Democratic Party's nomination in 2016. During the general election, Clinton won the popular vote but lost the Electoral College and conceded to her opponent, Donald Trump. In her concession speech on November 9, 2016, Clinton reminded all young women to "never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams."

Civics Challenge: Search & Learn

First Female To Win A Major Party Nomination For Governor In Your State:	
Political Party:	
Year:	
Result:	



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