

## “Firsts” in the Massachusetts State Legislature

**First women elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives (1923):**

Sylvia Donaldson  
&  
Susan Fitzpatrick



**First woman elected to the MA Senate (1937):**

Sybil Holmes (Brookline)



**First woman elected to statewide office in Massachusetts as Lieutenant Governor (1987) \*note the office of Lt. Governor is elected jointly with the Governor**

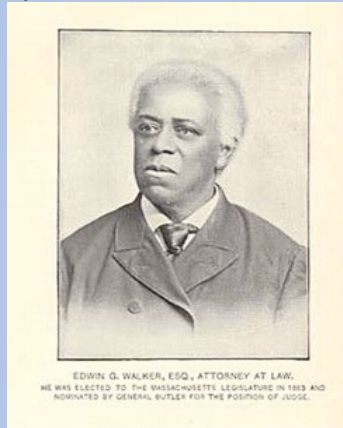
Evelyn Murphy



\*For more informationn about firsts for females in MA government see the Women's Caucus [webpage](#)

**First elected Black legislators in MA (both served in 1867 House):**

Edwin Garrison Walker  
&  
Charles Lewis Mitchell



**First elected female Black state legislator (House):**

Doris Bunte



Doris Bunte  
H 1973-1985

**First elected Black state senator:**

Bill Owens



Bill Owens  
H 1973-1974  
S 1975-1982  
S 1989-1992

**First elected female Black state senator:**

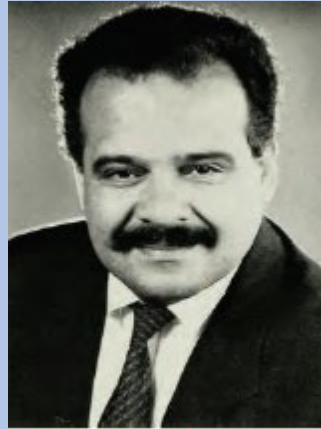
Dianne Wilkerson



Dianne Wilkerson  
S 1993-2008

**First person of Latin American descent to elected to the MA House and the first person of Hispanic descent to hold statewide office in the Commonwealth:**

Nelson Merced



Nelson Merced  
H 1989-1992

**First Asian American legislator in MA and the first female of Latin American descent elected to the MA Senate:**

Sonia R. Chang-Díaz



Sonia R. Chang-Díaz  
S 2009-current

**First elected Cambodian American state Legislator in the United States:**

Rady Mom



**2015- Current**

**First (only?) indigenous state legislator in the United States (1886 House):**

Watson Freeman Hammond

2. WATSON F. HAMMOND, Republican, farmer, Mashpee; was born in Boston, May 24, 1837, and was educated in the schools of Mashpee. Committee: Roads and Bridges. Residence, No. 31 Edinboro Street.

**First openly lesbian or gay candidate elected to the state Legislature (1975):**

Elaine Noble



**House 1975-1976**

**First transgender person elected to serve in the state Legislature (MA House) in the United States:**

Althea Garrison\*

\*A caveat: Garrson was outed against her will in 1992 by the press and has never identified as transgender ([more info](#)).



Althea Garrison  
H 1993-1994