



July 12-15
Madison Square Garden
New York City

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PRESS RELEASE
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34% OF DELEGATES ARE WOMEN

What sort of person is the average woman delegate attending the Democratic National Convention? According to Harriet Cipriani, Director of Women's Activities of the Democratic National Committee, she is well educated, employed outside the home and probably attending her first national political convention.

Of the 3075 delegates attending this year's Democratic National Convention, 34% are women. This is slightly less than the 40% who attended in 1972, but considerably above the 13% of women delegates who participated in the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

"It is important to study these figures in terms of a long-range trend," said Mrs. Cipriani. "The relatively high percentage of women in 1972 was due to the quota system used in the delegate selection process in many states. However, this year women have had to contest men for delegate slots as equals, with no special treatment and with quotas expressly forbidden. We are disappointed that the number of women delegates has slipped a bit since 1972, but we are encouraged by the 21% increase since 1968."

Questionnaires completed by the delegates reveal that 65% are between the ages of 35 and 60; 28% are between 18 and 35; and 7% are over 60. Eighty-seven percent have attended college, with 27% holding college degrees and 23% having advanced degrees. Nine percent have done some graduate work.

OVER

Arrangements

Robert S. Strauss
Chairman

Dorothy V. Bush
Secretary

S. Lee Kling
Treasurer

Marta Baca

ong. Edward Boland

Hon. George Brown

Peter Camiel

Ruth Harvey Charity

Patrick Cunningham

Patt Derian

James Dugan

Loray Dyson

Hazel Talley Evans

Sen. Wendell Ford

Hon. Wilson Frost

Frank Jacobs

Cong. Martha Keys

Sidney Lee

Hon. Henry Maier

Charles Manatt

Olivia Maynard

Hon. Robert McNair

Louis Nine

Hon. Philip Noel

Susan O'Neill

Ruth Johnson Owens

Basil Paterson

Charles Pine

ong. Charles Rangel

John Robinson

Paul Thatcher

Caroline Wilkins

rd Bennett Williams

Doris Wilson

Andrew J. Shea

Convention Manager

Credentialed

Sen. Alan Cranston

Platform

Hon. Phillip Noel

Rules

ton. Martha Griffiths

Three-fourths of the women are employed outside the home, either full or part-time. Teaching is their chief occupation. As might be expected, occupations range from secretary, bookkeeper, real estate saleswoman, interior decorator and antique dealer to broker, factory worker, waitress, systems analyst and editor and food inspector. Several own their own businesses.

Although there is great diversity in age and occupation among the women delegates, an overwhelming 86% are active in Democratic Party activities.

For 75% of the women, the sessions in Madison Square Garden will mark their first experience as a national convention delegate. The remainder have served previously, either as a delegate or an alternate. Ten state delegations are headed by women.

Thirty-seven percent of the women have run for public office. Of that number, most have been candidates for the state legislature. Others have run for county, city or town positions. Twenty-one percent now hold some public office.

Mrs. Cipriani pointed out that women are playing an increasingly significant role in party affairs. "The fact that so many women are now precinct chairpersons, County and City Democratic Committee officers and State Central Committee members indicates that affirmative action is working at every level. Women are working their way up through the system. We are proud of the 34% who have reached the level of recognition in their districts to be elected national convention delegates. The hard work and consciousness-raising efforts of thousands of women at every level of party activity have resulted in the gains we see today. And I am confident that this same effort will achieve the goal of equal representation for women at future conventions."