

Joseph Rainey

Joseph Rainey was the 1st African-American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. His term was from 1870 to 1879.



Shirley Chisholm

Shirley Chisholm was the 1st African-American woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She represented New York's 12th Congressional District from 1969 to 1983 and was the 1st African American to seek the nomination for President on a major party ticket (Democrat).



Edward William Brooke

Edward William Brooke, III was the 1st African American elected to the U.S. Senate (post Reconstruction). He was a Massachusetts senator from 1967-1979 and is also the last Republican senator from the state of Massachusetts.



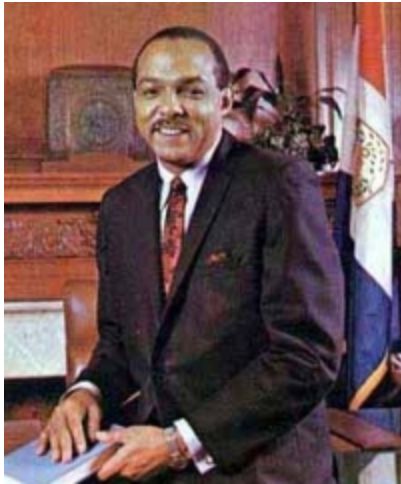
Carol Moseley Braun

Carol Moseley Braun was the 1st African-American female to be elected to the U.S. Senate. She represented the state of Illinois from 1993-1999 and was appointed the Ambassador to New Zealand in 2004.



Carl Stokes

Carl Stokes was the 1st African American to be elected mayor of a major U.S. city. He was mayor of Cleveland, Ohio from 1968-1971.



Sharon Pratt Dixon-Kelly

Sharon Pratt Dixon-Kelly was the 1st African-American female elected mayor of a major U.S. city. She was the mayor of Washington, D.C. from 1991-1995.



Pinckney B.S. Pinchback

Pinckney B.S. Pinchback was the 1st African American to serve as governor of a state. Upon the impeachment of his predecessor, Henry Clay Warmoth, he was appointed governor of Louisiana. He served from 1872 to 1873.



L. Douglas Wilder

Lawrence Douglas Wilder was the 1st African American to be elected governor of a state. He was governor of Virginia from 1990 to 1994 and has been the mayor of Richmond, Virginia since 2005.



Patricia Roberts Harris

Patricia Roberts Harris was the 1st African American to be appointed to a full Cabinet position (Robert C. Weaver was HUD Secretary in 1966 but it is only considered a Cabinet Level position now). She served as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (now Health and Human Services) from 1977-1979.



President Barack H. Obama II

Barack Hussein Obama II was the 1st African American to become President of the *Harvard Law Review*. In January 2005 he became one of only 5 African Americans to serve in the U.S. Senate (including Reconstruction). At the time he was elected, he was the only African-American senator. In 2008 he became the 1st African American to receive the nomination of a major party in a presidential election. On January 20, 2009, he was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States.

