



Illinois Council on Women and Girls Semi-Annual Report
2021

Pursuant to 20 ILCS 5130/30

Letter from the Chair – Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.”

– Alice Walker

As Chair of the Illinois Council on Women and Girls, I have had the opportunity to see the sheer resilience and determination of women working toward a brighter future—in health, safety, leadership, education, and the economy. As Lieutenant Governor of the great state of Illinois, it is an honor to lead the Council while working with Governor Pritzker, who has shown his commitment to supporting women across the state as a leader.

We found ways to connect and uplift women across the state, even during a global pandemic. I was proud to lead the inaugural Women and Girls #WeAreOne Virtual Summit hosted by the Council during Women’s History Month. This month-long series connected with tens of thousands of residents, discussing Illinois’ economy; women and the justice system; women in leadership; girls and their futures; and self-care and mental health. Speakers represented women and girls, cisgender and transgender, across every region of our state, intentionally including and uplifting Black, Latina, and Asian-American and Pacific Islander women. Leaders in government, philanthropy, business, medicine, sports, education, and law told their stories and described a brighter tomorrow. The Council played a crucial role hosting and organizing the series, fulfilling their duty to provide recommendations and highlight issues women and girls face for leaders across the state.

While I am proud of the work of every committee detailed in this report, I am most excited about the creation of the Girls Committee, which was absolutely needed to make the Council on Women and Girls truly representative. As we cast a vision of the future, it is important that we seek the wisdom and insights of the girls who will live that future, and it is inspiring that the Council is intentional about building that vision inclusively. Together, these women and girls are helping to shape a more equitable, secure tomorrow so future generations can reach their full potential with all the support they need to thrive. I look forward to continuing the work that will make that vision a reality.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Juliana Stratton', written in a cursive style.

Juliana Stratton
Illinois Lieutenant Governor
Chair, Illinois Council on Women and Girls

Executive Summary

Pursuant to 20 ILCS 5130/30, this report from the Illinois Council on Women and Girls (the “Council”) describes the creation and membership of the Council, activities the Council conducted, and the progress made on the Council’s policy and advocacy recommendations provided to the Governor and General Assembly. The Council furnishes this report and its recommendations to improve the lives of women and girls as they relate to the four issue-based committees the Council opted to create, which include: 1) Gender-Based Violence, 2) Health & Healthcare, 3) Leadership & Inclusion, and 4) Academic & Economic Opportunity.

Council Overview and Activities

The Illinois legislature established the Illinois Council on Women and Girls Act sponsored by State Senator Jacqueline Collins and State Representative Anna Moeller. The statute mandates that the Council “advise the Governor and General Assembly on policy issues and initiatives impacting the lives of women and girls in Illinois.”ⁱ The statute establishes a 32-member council composed of ex-officio members representing state agencies, as well as individuals appointed by the Governor and the General Assembly.

Recommendations and Progress

In 2019, the Council’s inaugural year, the committees made a total of 14 recommendations. There were four related to gender-based violence, four related to academic & economic opportunity, three related to leadership & inclusion, and three related to health & healthcare. In 2021, the Council continued to build on these recommendations to advise the Governor’s Office and General Assembly on ways to advance policies that improve the lives of women and girls throughout Illinois. While advancing issue-based recommendations, the Council formed a Girls Committee in 2021 to represent the voices of Illinois youth in the policy-making process.

Report Structure

This report restates the recommendations that were published in the 2020 Council on Women and Girls report and discusses the progress that has been made by the Council on the recommendations in each issue area. It concludes with information on the Girls Committee, as well as the Women and Girls Virtual Summit and an update on state level policy developments that are relevant to the Council’s work.

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Lt. Governor Stratton with State Representative Terra Costa-Howard; Diana Martinez, Director of the McAninch Center at the College of DuPage; State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton; Maureen Dunne, Chair of the College of DuPage Trustees; State Senator Celina Villanueva; and State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas at the McAninch Center at the College of DuPage – photo taken September 2021.

Council Overview and Activities

Legislative Mandate

The goal of the Council, pursuant to the Illinois Council on Women and Girls Act (20 ILCS 5130/30), is to advise the Governor and the General Assembly on policy issues and initiatives impacting the lives of women and girls in Illinois. This mandate includes, but is not limited toⁱⁱ:

- Advancing civic participation of women and girls in Illinois
- Advocating for programs and policies that work to end the gender pay gap and discrimination in professional and academic opportunities
- Promoting resources and opportunities for academic and professional growth
- Improving legal protections and recourse regarding sexual harassment in the workplace;
- Reducing violence against women
- Improving standards of, and access to, healthcare in general and reproductive healthcare in particular
- Researching the disparate impacts on women caused by a lack of access to healthcare
- Improving protections for transgender individuals, especially protections against violence and harassment
- Increasing fair and equal access to culturally competent healthcare, housing, employment, and other factors related to the quality of life
- Disseminating information to, and building relationships with, state agencies and commissions in furtherance of the Council's goals
- Increasing attention around the inclusion of women, especially those of color, in decision-making capacities

Council Composition

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls is composed of the following 32 members:

- 16 public members appointed by the General Assembly
 - 4 appointed by the House Speaker
 - 4 appointed by the House Minority Leader
 - 4 appointed by the Senate President
 - 4 appointed by the Senate Minority Leader
- 1 representative of the Governor's Office appointed by the Governor
- 4 public members appointed by the Governor
- 11 ex-officio members or their designees
 - Lieutenant Governor
 - Chief of the Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services, Department of Human Services
 - Director, Executive Director or Superintendent of the following State agencies:
 - Department on Aging

- Department of Human Rights
- Department of Children and Family Services
- Department of Healthcare and Family Services
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Labor
- State Board of Education
- Board of Higher Education
- Community College Board

Membership

Below are the public members appointed to the Council at the time of the creation of this report.

Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, Chair	Ex-Officio Member
Lilian Jimenez	Ex-Officio Member
Katherine Ostrowski	Ex-Officio Member
Donna Hardy	Ex-Officio Member
Marla Courts	Ex-Officio Member
Director Theresa Eagleson	Ex-Officio Member
Director Ngozi Ezike	Ex-Officio Member
Marina Faz-Huppert	Ex-Officio Member
Jackie Matthews*	Ex-Officio Member
Director Ginger Ostro	Ex-Officio Member
Natasha Allan	Ex-Officio Member
Deputy Governor Sol Flores	Governor's Office Representative
Candace Coleman	Public Member (Governor Appointed)
Dr. Sharon Latiker	Public Member (Governor Appointed)
Nikita Richards*	Public Member (Governor Appointed)
Veronica Espina	Public Member (Governor Appointed)
Ines Kutlesa*	Public Member (Minority Leader of the House Appointed)
Rhonda Thomas	Public Member (Minority Leader of the House Appointed)
Theresa Forthofer	Public Member (Minority Leader of the House Appointed)
Maaria Mozaffar*	Public Member (Speaker of the House Appointed)
Wendy Pollack	Public Member (Speaker of the House Appointed)
Kaethe Morris Hoffer	Public Member (Speaker of the House Appointed)
Dr. Vidhya Prakash*	Public Member (Minority Leader of the Senate Appointed)
Monique Garcia	Public Member (Minority Leader of the Senate Appointed)
Pamela Althoff	Public Member (Minority Leader of the Senate Appointed)
Sylvia Matos-Collins	Public Member (President of the Senate Appointed)
Amina Jaffer	Public Member (President of the Senate Appointed)
Rochelle Crump	Public Member (President of the Senate Appointed)

Ibie Hart*	Guest Member
Kelly Fair	Guest Member
State Senator Jacqueline Collins	Guest Member
State Representative Anna Moeller	Guest Member
Sophie Zerrouki	Guest Member, Girls Committee Member
Jisel Ortiz	Guest Member, Girls Committee Member
Jasmin Mundi	Guest Member, Girls Committee Member
Leslie Smith	Guest Member, Girls Committee Member
Eden Soto	Guest Member, Girls Committee Member
Gloria Jen*	Guest Member, Girls Committee Member
Ala'a Tamam	Guest Member, Girls Committee Member
Addison Belhomme	Guest Member, Girls Committee Member
Wendy Riley-Washington	Guest Member, Girls Committee Member

*Denotes committee chair/co-chairs

Guest members are individuals who are not formally appointed but are active with the Council. Guest members do not have a vote in official Council business. They are encouraged to participate in the meetings and may serve on committees formed by the Council.

The Creation and Convening of the Illinois Council on Women and Girls

Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm said, “You don’t make progress standing on the sidelines.” In that spirit of activism, State Senator Jacqueline Collins and State Representative Anna Moeller championed the Illinois Council on Women and Girls Act, which was signed into law in 2018. The Council began to convene in 2019 and, at the Council’s inaugural event, Governor JB Pritzker appointed Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton as the first chair of this Council.

In 2021, the Council held four quarterly meetings, which took place on February 24, June 9, October 14, and December 8. All meetings in 2021 convened virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While convening in a virtual setting, the Council was able to effectively organize actions that moved forward recommendations with key executive branch officials, including a specific focus on improving health equity during a global pandemic. The Council created space for girls to join the conversation, a necessary addition to be a representative council that advocates for both women and girls.

The four issue-based committees supplemented the work of the Council, specifically addressing the following issue areas: 1) Gender-Based Violence, 2) Health & Healthcare, 3) Leadership & Inclusion, and 4) Academic & Economic Opportunity. The committees convened virtually between council meetings to discuss how to advance their recommendations.



Lt. Governor Stratton with First Women’s Bank CEO Marianne Markowitz and Erin Guthrie, former Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity at event with First Women’s Bank in Chicago – photo taken October 2020.

Recommendations and Progress Updates

Gender-Based Violence Committee

Sexual and gender-based violence “refers to any act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and is based on gender norms and unequal power relationships,” including acts of domestic violence.ⁱⁱⁱ Everyone deserves the right to feel safe and protected in their homes, schools, and workplaces. That is why the Gender-Based Violence Committee of the Council aims to reduce violence against women, girls, and non-binary people. The committee also looks to build better state-wide resources for residents who are survivors of gender-based violence.

Recommendations

The Gender-Based Violence Committee continues to work on the following four recommendations:

- 1) Improving efficiencies for publicly funded crime laboratories to reduce sexual assault-kit backlogs.
- 2) Increasing visibility and support networks by implementing public awareness campaigns about gender-based violence and available resources in rural communities, with messaging targeting veterans, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ communities.
- 3) Providing localized accounts of the prevalence of gender-based violence across the State by collaborating with local governments.
- 4) Reducing the overall trauma associated with gender-based violence by ensuring that elementary and secondary school students who are parents, expectant parents, or

survivors of gender-based violence can safely stay in school, succeed academically, and complete their education.

Progress Update:

The Gender-Based Violence Committee recommended reducing the backlog in testing and processing of the Illinois State Police Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits. Earlier this year, the Gender-Based Violence Committee chairperson attended an event hosted by the Office of Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and shared the progress that has been made with the committee. That progress includes additional facilities by January 2022 in DeKalb, Urbana, Mattoon, Carbondale, Rock Island, Bloomington, and Macomb that will provide support and services to child, adolescent, and adult survivors of sexual assault. Additionally, by January 2022, three categories of professionals will be authorized to conduct forensic medical examinations on sexual assault cases: sexual assault nurse examiners, sexual assault forensic examiners, and Board Certified/Board-eligible-pediatricians. Great strides have been made to give survivors of sexual assault more reasonable timeframes to decide whether they want the evidence collected on their case to be tested, and enhancements have also been made to keep them updated on the status of their case. The timeline of processing the kits has been reduced from one year to roughly 4 to 6 months in most cases.

Given these improvements, the Gender-Based Violence Committee is now developing a “Know Your Rights” campaign. This campaign will identify resources for people impacted by gender-based violence, educate and help individuals understand their legal rights, and raise awareness against gender-based violence across the State. The committee plans to organize virtual events with digital content being shared between events to amplify the work of the campaign. The events will focus on experiences and resources for people of color, rural communities, veterans, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ communities.



Lt. Governor Stratton with Cassandra Tanner-Miller at bill signing for HB 3317 Domestic Violence Taskforce Act – photo taken August 2021.

Academic & Economic Opportunity Committee

Left out and often boxed out, women face persistent issues with professional equity and representation in every field. Barriers such as racial and/or gender discrimination often block women from advancing in their education and careers.^{iv,v} The Academic & Economic Opportunity Committee focuses on policies and programs that will break down these barriers and build pipelines for women to succeed academically, professionally, and economically. This committee’s mission is more crucial than ever because of the heightened financial stressors and unprecedented economic downturn burdening women, particularly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.^{vi}

Recommendations:

The Academic & Economic Opportunity Committee continues to work on the following four recommendations:

- 1) Empowering girls and young women by creating opportunities for them to engage with the executive branch on issues important to their communities.
- 2) Integrating efforts to better serve students and parents on and around Illinois military bases by increasing collaboration among existing institutions, like the Illinois Educational Opportunities for Military Children Council and the Military Economic Development Committee.
- 3) Allowing more women to enter and remain in the workforce by increasing access to affordable childcare, especially for working women and women in school.

- 4) Encouraging girls and women to pursue higher education that increases their wage potential by creating greater opportunities for trauma-informed services for students who experience gender-based violence.

Progress Update:

The Academic & Economic Opportunity Committee focused on its first recommendation to bring the voices of girls to the executive branch. The committee began by creating an advisory group made up of high school-age girls. This advisory group joined the Council as the Girls Committee. It is considered part of the Council on Women and Girls, and members attend quarterly Council and committee meetings. The Girls Committee provides input on the Council's existing work, including this 2021 Council Report, in addition to gender-based violence programming while pursuing their own projects as a standing committee.

The Academic & Economic Opportunity Committee will also work to connect the girls to critical mentorship opportunities, both within and outside of the Council. Moving forward, the Academic & Economic Opportunity Committee will have meaningful dialogue on advancing access to affordable quality childcare, its third recommendation.



Lt. Governor Stratton meeting with Student Body President Enoma Egiebor and Vice-President Nicole Arnold at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign – photo taken October 2021.

Leadership & Inclusion Committee

Far too often, women in professional fields are not given opportunities for leadership, despite having the same qualifications as their male counterparts.^{vii} The Leadership & Inclusion Committee works to construct avenues for women and girls to access leadership opportunities in all fields.

Recommendations:

The Leadership & Inclusion Committee continues to work on the following three recommendations:

- 1) Encouraging women and girls to pursue STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) career pipelines by examining existing and new opportunities for entry. Specifically, opportunities to enter STEAM career pipelines should be focused on access for current and former youth in foster care, youth with disabilities, youth from LGBTQ+ communities, immigrants and refugees, and racially diverse groups.
- 2) Providing school groups the opportunity to understand how engagement in our systems of government can expand opportunities for underrepresented people by utilizing local youth advisory boards led by elected leaders.
- 3) Improving professional opportunities by encouraging the expansion of internships targeting young women through partnerships between schools and high-growth industries.

Progress Update:

During the early part of 2021, the committee drafted a six-part Illinois Girls Lead proposal (formerly referred to as Lead Like a Girl). This proposal includes the following six objectives:

1. To provide role models for young girls in the state of Illinois that exhibit leadership, and pathways into leadership at critical stages of their lives within the classroom.
2. To provide vehicles of support for girls in the classroom so that they have equitable STEM and STEAM learning experiences.
3. To provide programming through media campaigns that provide an alternative to stereotypical and harmful mainstream social media and media messages.
4. To provide a statewide curriculum on girls' leadership offered to 5th through 10th grade classrooms.
5. To provide a statewide online network for college-age women and young women in the workforce focused on leadership skills, strategy, and sisterhood alliances in boardrooms.
6. To work towards enacting legislation that incentivizes equitable representation in government committees, agencies, nonprofit agencies, selection committees, and all bodies that have appointed positions in leadership.

The Leadership & Inclusion Committee will partner with state legislators to identify school districts willing to participate in the Illinois Girls Lead mentoring program. A pilot program for mentorship is currently in development.



Lt. Governor Stratton and First Lady MK Pritzker at the Illinois State Fair – photo taken August 2021.

Health & Healthcare Committee

Systemic patterns of bias have caused persistent inequities in both women’s health outcomes and the healthcare they receive.^{viii}

The COVID-19 pandemic further impacted, changed, and limited access to care for many women.^{ix} The Health & Healthcare Committee recommended policies related to health and healthcare access for women and girls in Illinois.

Recommendations:

The Health & Healthcare Committee continues to work on the following three recommendations:

1. Expanding access to postpartum healthcare coverage to help reduce disparities.
2. Increasing access to substance use and mental health services for pregnant and postpartum women to reduce rates of maternal morbidity.
3. Examining and better understanding healthcare disparities by improving data collection.

Progress Updates:

The Health & Healthcare Committee focused its efforts on highlighting health care disparities by improving data collection. After generating a list of statewide stakeholders, the committee held

Illinois' first-ever virtual health equity summit on July 21, 2021. The mission of the summit was to optimize data collection and analysis to inform equitable health care solutions at scale for under-resourced women and girls in Illinois. Over twenty leaders were in attendance, representing: the Asian Health Coalition; Casa Central; Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Regional Operations in Region 5; Medicaid Policy Network; Center for Minority Health Services; Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Medical Society, EverThrive, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Healthy Communities Foundation, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, John Howard Association of Illinois, American Muslim Health Professionals, the Ray Graham Association and EasterSeals.

The key takeaway from the health equity summit was the need for enhancing quantitative and qualitative data collection on social determinants of health to promote health equity and optimize health outcomes. In October 2021, the Health & Healthcare Committee briefed Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike from the Illinois Department of Public Health. The committee plans to provide a formal presentation on its findings to Lt. Governor Stratton and Governor JB Pritzker. The Health & Healthcare Committee is determined to achieve its vision of equitable healthcare and optimal health for every woman and girl in Illinois.



Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health speaking on the importance of COVID-19 vaccination with Governor Pritzker – photo taken October 2021.

Girls Committee

A steering committee of council members Jackie Matthews, Ibie Hart, Monique Garcia, Nikita Richards, and Dunn Fellow Akanksha Balekai (the “Steering Committee”) volunteered to lead the development of the Girls Committee. The Steering Committee developed the process with diversity, accessibility, and inclusion in mind. The Steering Committee created an online application that would be open and accessible to girls across the state. Social media promotion graphics were shared with other council members to promote the application in their networks. The committee intentionally reduced barriers in the application process through a qualitative scoring system as well as seeking a variety of recommendations to encourage more girls to apply.

Creation Timeline

- Phase 1 - Online Application: The Academic & Economic Opportunity Committee developed the application materials August 17, 2020, finalized them December 31, 2020, and launched the online application for the Girls Committee on January 14, 2021 with an application due date of February 16, 2021.
- Phase 2 - Application Review: The Steering Committee completed its review of the 310 submitted applications on March 1, 2021. The Steering Committee completed its review of the top 30 highest-scoring applications on March 8, 2021.
- Phase 3 - Interviews: The Steering Committee finished conducting interviews and reference checks March 23, 2021.
- Phase 4 - Selection: The Steering Committee completed its review of the interview and reference check recordings on April 2, 2021 and made its final selection of nine applicants for the Girls Committee. Notifications of selection for the Girls Committee were released on April 4, 2021.

Progress Updates

The members on the Girls Committee serve on the four issue-based committees of the Council. They attend meetings and give their input. Members from the Girls Committee are learning about the legislative process and researching Illinois childcare programming. In future meetings, members will present recommendations based on self-directed research. In addition, the new members are working to identify ways to include non-members in activities of the Girls Committee.

Gender-Equity Progress in Illinois

Since the creation of the Illinois Council on Women and Girls, numerous efforts have been enacted to protect and enhance the lives of women and girls across the state. In 2019, the Justice, Equity, and Opportunity (JEO) Initiative was established and has since been led by the Lieutenant Governor to advance criminal justice reform and equity-focused programs. During the pandemic, there was increased capacity and streamlined access to emergency shelter for individuals and families impacted by domestic and sexual violence.

Illinois also witnessed the launch of a nation-leading \$570-million childcare grant program to support over 5,000 childcare providers. To improve the state's early childhood education system, an early childhood workforce plan with \$200 million in funding to expand both the size and skill level of educators and caregivers was created, helping to make Illinois the best state in the nation for raising young families. Illinois also became the first state in the nation to provide Medicaid postpartum coverage to mothers for a year after a baby's birth.

Another historic achievement was the enactment of the Healthcare Affordability Act, expanding healthcare for more children, pregnant women, and adults. Thanks to Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly, these executive and legislative achievements have brought the state of Illinois one step closer to a more equitable future for women and girls.

On August 20, 2021, Governor Pritzker signed seven new pieces of legislation that address gender-based violence and remove some of the barriers survivors often face at home, in the workplace, at school, while navigating the judicial system, and when seeking trauma-informed support and protection. The legislation establishes a Forensic Science Commission, a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission, creates the Domestic Violence Taskforce Act, and expands the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.

Women and Girls Virtual Summit

WOMEN+GIRLS VIRTUAL SUMMIT

Office of Lt. Governor
Juliana Stratton

ADVOCATING FOR JUSTICE
March 10, 2021 | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM CST
@ltgovstratton

WE ARE ONE: MK PRITZKER, First Lady of Illinois

FEATURING: MK PRITZKER, First Lady of Illinois

WOMEN+GIRLS Colette Payne, Women's Justice Institute

PANEL DISCUSSION

- KIM FOXX, Cook County State's Attorney
- DELIA RAMIREZ, State Representative, 4th District
- CHANNYN PARKER, Howard Brown Health Center
- WILLETTE BENFORD, Live Free Illinois

EVENT PARTNERS: chicago foundation for women, WOMEN'S JUSTICE INSTITUTE

It is evident that there are disparities and challenges in this country that intensify when they intersect with gender. From health, to the economy, to justice and beyond, these problems impact women and girls uniquely, and often in more complex ways. Lt. Governor Stratton often says it is important to listen to the wisdom in the room and to be that wisdom when you bring your authentic self into spaces where dialogue and decisions are being made. With that in mind, an idea of celebration and collaboration came into being. In honor of Women's History Month, the Council partnered with the Chicago Foundation for Women to organize the first-ever, month-long summit sponsored by the state that focused on issues impacting women and girls in Illinois.

The #WeAreOne Women and Girls Virtual Summit was a five-part series of virtual events that focused on advocacy in various issue areas. These weekly events, shared via livestream on social media, centered on Illinois' economy and pathways to entrepreneurship; women and the justice system; women in leadership; girls and their futures; and self-care and mental health.

The Summit launched with a welcome from Governor Pritzker, who has assembled the most inclusive executive cabinet in state history, and whose policies and leadership elevate work toward gender equity. Speakers in each session represented and spoke to the diverse identities, lived experiences, and backgrounds of women and girls across Illinois, including those impacted by the justice system, local advocates and elected officials, and professionals in law and medicine.

The Women and Girls Summit provided an opportunity for participants to learn more about the issues affecting girls, women, and nonbinary people in Illinois, as well as an outlet to discuss potential solutions toward change. Additionally, it offered a reminder to women and girls to practice self-care and to be mindful of balance, so that they are well, and are better equipped to ensure that others who they care about, and support, are well, too.



Lt. Governor Stratton at an event for former P.O.W. Jessica Lynch at the National Women Veterans United Center in Chicago – photo taken October 2021.

Next Steps

The Council will continue working on its recommendations and partnering with organizations as well as women and girls across the state to further gender-conscious policy and advocacy, including within our military. As Illinois continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council will work to center the voices of women, girls, and non-binary residents in Illinois policymaking.



Lt. Governor Stratton meeting with locals and celebrating AgDay at Southern Illinois University – photo taken September 2021.

Acknowledgements

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls is made up of appointed and ex-officio members who contributed their time, talent, and ideas to the work of the Council and this report. The Council is extremely grateful to the governmental bodies, non-profit organizations, and companies that gave their time to support the Illinois Council on Women and Girls. The Office of Lieutenant Governor Stratton served in an administrative capacity to support all works of the Council.



Lt. Governor Stratton and Governor Pritzker at victory celebration for the 2021 WNBA Champions Chicago Sky – photo taken October 2021.

References

Editor's note: discrepancies in how studies obtained data limits continuity for statistics related to sex and gender referenced in this report. This report uses the terms such as women, cisgender women, and female according to terms used from source material for supporting data.

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