

**Weidenbaum Center Forum**  
**Improving Women's Participation in Elective Office**  
**February 27, 2005**  
**Washington University, Rebstock Hall Room 215**

Participant Biographical Sketches

**Speaker**

**Debbie Walsh** – Debbie Walsh is the director of the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers' Eagleton Institute of Politics. She joined the CAWP staff in 1981. She earned her B.A. in political science from SUNY Binghamton and her M.A. in political science from Rutgers, where she was an Eagleton Fellow. As director, she oversees CAWP's research, education and public service programs. She is frequently called upon by the media for information and comment and speaks to a variety of audiences around the country on topics related to women's political participation. First as director of CAWP's Program for Women Public Officials and now as the Center's director, Debbie has led the Center's extensive work with women officeholders and organized more than a dozen national conferences for women officials, ranging from small meetings focused on issues such as women's legislative caucuses, women in legislative leadership, and training programs for newly elected women legislators to CAWP's quadrennial national Forum for Women State Legislators, to which every woman state legislator in the country is invited. In 1984 she served as the Associate Producer of a documentary film "Not One of the Boys" which aired on the PBS series, Frontline, and had a viewership of six million people.

**Panelists**

**Sarah Steelman** – Sarah Steelman is the first Republican woman in Missouri history to be elected to the office of State Treasurer. A working mother who has dedicated her life to public service, she was administered the oath of office by her father, John Hearne, to become Missouri's 44th State Treasurer on January 10, 2005. Treasurer Steelman is responsible for the management of more than \$19 billion in Missouri's annual revenue. She oversees the investment of more than \$3 billion in long- and short-term investments in the state's portfolio. She is in charge of the state's efforts to return more than \$300 million in cash and valuables to citizens through the unclaimed property program. An economist, Treasurer Steelman reshaped the state's financial priorities by correcting Missouri's overall investment policy from simple comparative yield to a cumulative yield strategy to increase the benefits Missouri's investments bring to all citizens. In 1998 and 2002, Steelman served as the Senator for Missouri's 16th Senatorial District.

**Harriett Woods** – Harriett Woods is the former Lieutenant Governor of Missouri and a Past President of the National Women's Political Caucus. Her life has been devoted to public service and advancing women in public decisionmaking. She teaches at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Pace University and Hunter College in New York, and is the author of *Stepping Up to Power: the Political Journey of American Women*, (Westview Press). Her public service includes eight years as a city council member in University City, MO; eight years as a Missouri State Senator; and two years as a State Transportation and Highway Commissioner. She was the first woman to serve on the Highway Commission, as well as the first woman elected statewide in Missouri. In 1982 and 1986, she was the Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate. She currently is a Commissioner on the St. Louis Convention and Regional Sports Authority by appointment of the governor. Woods attended the University of Chicago and graduated from the University of Michigan. She has honorary doctorates of law from the University of Missouri and Webster University in St. Louis. She lives in University City.