Nov. 7, 1972

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Nov. 7, 1972, the day Missouri’s first female state senator was first-elected to the Missouri Senate.

Mary Gant was born on July 14, 1936, in Kansas City. Her first foray into elected life was as a committeewoman in her hometown. After this, she ran for the first of three terms as a state representative in 1966. Following her six years in the Missouri House of Representatives, she ran for the Missouri Senate, and won the 9th District Senate seat with 71 percent of the vote.

Against the wishes of some of her legislative peers, Gant did not support the Equal Rights Amendment; although, she did favor equal pay and equal opportunity. During her years in the Missouri Senate, Gant supported and sponsored legislation dealing with property tax reform, elder abuse and child abuse.

A heated, three-way primary battle in 1980 saw Gant lose the chance at another term in the upper chamber, ending her eight years as a Missouri senator. She lost the primary by 36 votes.

From there, she would go on to chair the State Board of Mediation, between 1981 and ’94.

Mary Gant, Missouri first female state senator, first-elected on Nov. 7, 1972, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Source: Missouri secretary of state Web site)