June 17, 1916

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was June 17, 1916, the day the first African-American female to be elected to the Missouri Legislature was born.

DeVerne Calloway was born in Tennessee. Originally a teacher, she spent World War II in service with the American Red Cross and then moved to Illinois, following the war. Later Calloway and her husband moved to St. Louis.

Her first attempt at running for office was successful. Calloway was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in November of 1962, where she stayed through 1980.

Calloway’s passions as a lawmaker included prison reform, improving the lives of the disabled, vision-impaired and children, and increasing funding for education.

She passed away in 1993.

June 17, 1916, the date marking birth of Missouri’s first African-American female lawmaker — DeVerne Calloway — on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: [Missouri Digital History](https://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/curriculum/africanamerican/timeline/timeline6); [Outstanding Women of Missouri](http://exsmo.com/museum/events/photo_exhibit/bios/bios_view.pdf))