



# Ellen Craswell

## Quick Facts

**Birth:** May 25, 1932  
Seattle, Washington

**Death:** April 5, 2008  
Poulsbo, Washington

**Occupation:** Medical Technologist

**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**Years served:** 1977-1981 (H)  
1981-1993 (S)

**Office:** Representative; Senator,  
President Pro Tempore 1991-93

**District:** 23 (Kitsap County)

## Personal:

- Raised in Kitsap County
- Worked in medical technology and speech therapy
- Co-owner of an art shop
- Married to Bruce Craswell, 4 children

## Education:

- Attended the University of Washington

## Community Service:

## Affiliations:

- Active in church and Christian organizations
- Washington State Arts Commission
- Oceanographic Commission of Washington

## Awards:

## Legislative & State Service:

- Ellen's husband, Bruce, ran in 1974 for the legislature and lost. When he decided not to run in 1976 she decided to run in his place.
- Introduced a bill that later became an initiative to the people in 1979. This initiative dealt with the question: Shall state tax revenues be limited so that increases do not exceed the growth rate of total state personal income? The voters overwhelming approved the initiative.

**Committees: (1977)** Education; Parks and Recreation; Revenue **(1979)** Revenue, Republican chair; Education **(1981)** Education; Social and Health Services; Ways and Means **(1983)** Education; Social and Health Services; Ways and Means **(1985)** Education; Human Services and Corrections; Ways and Means **(1987)** Education; Natural Resources;

Ways and Means (1989) Children and Family Services, vice-chair; Ways and Means, vice-chair; Education; Rules (1991) Rules, vice-chair; Ways and Means, vice-chair; Children and Family Services; Education

### **Leadership, Positions & Appointments**

- Ran for Washington State Governor in 1996, lost to Gary Locke by 355,954 votes.

### **Sources:**

- <http://archives.thedaily.washington.edu/1996/102396/intcras.102396.html>
- “Tale of two legislators: Craswell, Kiskaddon,” by Cindy D. Brown, *The Seattle Times*, February 21, 1988.
- “A first, for Craswell and for women,” by Adele Ferguson, *The Bremerton Sun*, January 22, 1988.