



Kathryn E. Malstrom

Quick Facts

Birth: 1888

Wilmer, Minnesota

Death: August 16, 1961

Seattle, Washington

Occupation: Businesswoman

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Years served: 1933-37, 1939-45

Office: Senator; Social Security Director;
Pierce County Clerk

District: 27 (Pierce County)

Personal:

- Moved to Tacoma in 1898
- Married to Victor Malstrom, two sons
- Owned Opportunity Exchange, a second hand store in her home.

Education:

- University of Puget Sound
- University of Washington
- Washington State University

Community Service:

- Chamber of Commerce
- Parent-Teacher Association
- Red Cross, board member

Affiliations:

- Business and Professional Women
- Democratic Women
- League of Women Voters
- St. Leo's Catholic Church

Legislative & State Service:

- Kathryn's political friends entered her name and paid her filing fee to run for the Senate in 1932. Although she was convinced that a woman could not be elected to the Senate in Pierce County, and she did no campaigning, she still won the election by a small margin. (Dakin)
- First Democrat to serve as Senator in the 27th District
- "During her first term Governor Clarence D. Martin sent her to Washington D.C. to represent the governor, the state legislature and the state of Washington before the Ways and Means Committee of Congress. There she argued the effect of depreciated currency in the state and the Northwest generally." (Dakin)

- Served on the Juvenile Court Committee
- First woman to serve as vice-chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee
- Interests included a study of school finance, equal opportunities for both sexes, and social laws

Committees: (1933) State Library, chair; Appropriations; Banks and Banking; Education; Educational Institutions; Federal Relations and Immigration; Judiciary; Medicine, Dentistry, Pure Food and Drugs; Public Morals; Unemployment Relief **(1935)** State Library, chair; Appropriations, vice-chair; Banks and Banking; Education; Educational Institutions; Federal Relations and Immigration; Public Morals; Public Welfare and Unemployment Relief; Rules and Joint Rules **(1939)** State Library, chair; Aeronautics; Appropriations; Banks and Banking; Education; Educational Institutions; Flood Control; Legislative Apportionment; Printing; Public Buildings and Grounds; State Charitable Institutions **(1941)** State Library, chair; Appropriations; Education; Educational Institutions; Flood Control; Public Buildings and Grounds; State Charitable Institutions **(1943)** Education, chair; Appropriations; Educational Institutions; Financial Institutions Other Than Banks; Judiciary; Parks and Playgrounds; Public Buildings and Grounds; State Charitable Institutions; State, Granted, School and Tide Lands; State Library

Senate Bills sponsored:

(1933 session)

44-An act relating to beauty culture
Reported out of committee and died
44(substitute)-An act relating to beauty culture
Vetoed by Governor Martin
70-An act relating to regents and trustees of higher educational institutions
Went to third reading
71-An act relating to the University of Washington
Reported out of committee and died
73-An act relating to the nomination and election of justices of the peace
Went to second reading
74-An act relating to justices of the peace
Went to second reading
80-An act relating to education
Signed by Governor Martin
160-An act relating to primary election
Went to second reading
174-An act relating to veteran home
Reported out of committee and died
229-For the relief of Mary S. Burglehaus
Went to second reading
230-An act relating to child welfare
Went to third reading
244-An act relating to taxation
Signed by Governor Martin
250-An act relating to nurses
Signed by Governor Martin
282-An act relating to public schools
Went to third reading
287-An act relating to Grand Coulee project
Went to third reading
321-An act relating to billboards
Went to third reading
372-An act relating to reinstatement of private corporations
Reported out of committee and died
376-An act relating to an excise tax
Reported out of committee and died

(1933 special session)

38-An act relating to the public schools
Reported out of committee and died
59-An act relating to insurance companies
Signed by Governor Martin
60-An act relating to taxation
Went to third reading
61-An act relating to trust funds
Signed by Governor Martin
62-An act relating to taxation
Reported out of committee and died
86-An act relating to elections

Went to second reading
97-An act relating to printing
Went to second reading
99-An act relating to appropriations
Went to second reading

(1935 session)

6-An act relating to the welfare of minor children
Reported out of committee and died
29-An act relating to regulating the possession etc. of dead human bodies
Went to third reading
44-An act relating to and providing for the nomination and election of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Went to second reading
49-An act relating to the selection of jurors in the superior courts
Went to second reading
74-An act relating to levying taxes upon classified properties
Went to second reading
79-An act relating to industrial insurance
Went to third reading
85-An act relating to drugs and medicine
Signed by Governor Martin
96-An act relating to holding and possession of community property
Went to second reading
121-An act relating to official reports and to the budget system
Went to third reading
124-An act relating to closing certain offices on Saturday afternoons
Reported out of committee and died
130-An act pensioning blind people
Went to second reading
208-An act relating to household workers
Reported out of committee and died
210-An act relating to State Road No. 5
Went to second reading
223-An act authorizing and directing a conveyance by quit claim deed
Signed by Governor Martin
224-An act relating to filiation proceedings
Went to second reading
225-An act providing for the rights of children born out of wedlock
Went to second reading
230-An act relating to the processing, sale and distribution of milk
Went to second reading
242-An act pensioning blind persons
Signed by Governor Martin
261-An act abolishing writs of garnishment
Went to third reading
288-An act relating to State road No. 14, known as the Navy Yard Highway
Went to second reading
289-An act relating to State road No. 2, known as the Sunset Highway
Went to second reading
293-An act relating to liens for delinquent charges for water and electric energy
Went to second reading
317-An act relating to feeble minded children
Reported out of committee and died

(1939 session)

174-Relating to library education and library service
Reported out of committee and died
188-Relating to teacher's retirement fund
Signed by Governor Martin
288-Relating to public parties
Went to second reading
331-Relating to legislative reference bureau
Reported out of committee and died
430-Relating to University of Washington
Went to second reading

458-Relating to school revenues
Reported out of committee and died

(1941 session)

77-Relating to state parks
Went to second reading
115-Relating to crime of carnal knowledge of children
Went to third reading
176-Providing for the inclusion of rural county libraries under free public libraries
Signed by Governor Langlie
217-Relating to teachers' civil service
Reported out of committee and died
259-Providing for acquisition and maintenance of forest lands by counties, cities and/or school districts
Went to third reading
274-Relating to crime of incest
Went to third reading
329-Relating to incorporation of benevolent associations
Went to second reading
341-Requiring course in traffic safety and motor vehicle operation in high schools
Went to second reading
357-Providing for reconstruction of Tacoma Narrows Bridge
Signed by Governor Langlie
366-Transferring power and duties of department of agriculture to secretary of state
Reported out of committee and died

(1943 session)

46-Relating to nursery schools and child care centers
Went to second reading
98-Relating to the crime of incest
Signed by Governor Langlie
99-Relating to the crime of carnal knowledge
Signed by Governor Langlie
183-Relating to employment of educational employees in public schools
Went to second reading
262-Relating to scenic and recreational resources adjacent to highways
Went to second reading
263-Relating to minimum compensation of state employees and teachers
Went to third reading
268-Relating to school forests
Went to third reading

Senate Joint Resolutions sponsored:

(1933 session)

1-Relating to the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment to the United States Constitution
Signed by Governor Martin

(1933 special session)

10-Relating to a constitutional amendment
Went to second reading

(1935 session)

11-Relating to marriage licenses
Went to third reading
19-Relating to the flax industry
Signed by Governor Martin

Senate Joint Memorials sponsored:

(1933 special session)

2-Relating to old age pension
Reported out of committee and died

(1941 session)

3-Relating to reconstruction of Tacoma Narrows Bridge
Signed by Governor Martin
8-Relating to conservation and development of forests of the State of Washington

Went to second reading

(1943 session)

7-Relating to removal of restrictions on fuel oil in the public and private elementary and secondary schools

Went to third reading

Senate Concurrent Resolutions sponsored:

(1935 session)

3-Relating to Washington State Day

Signed by Governor Martin

Leadership, Positions & Appointments:

- Member of the commission that wrote the city charter for Tacoma in 1927
- Delegate to the Democratic National Convention from Washington State, 1940
- Appointed Director of the Social Security Department by Governor Mon Walgren in 1945. Before this time no woman had served as director of a state department.
- First woman to serve as vice chair of the Senate Appropriations.
- Appointed to the Welfare Medical Care Committee, 1957
- Pierce County Clerk, first woman elected to this position
- President of the Federated Women's Club in Pierce County
- President of the Presidents Council while representing the women's clubs in Pierce County
- President of the State Congress of Parents and Teachers
- Vice President of the Independent Merchants Association
- Vice-President of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Sources:

Articles:

- Dakin, Dorothy, "Ladies' Chapeaux Tasteful Addition to Political Ring," *The Spokesman-Review*, October 12, 1958
- "Death Claims Mrs. Malstrom, Ex-Solon," *Tacoma News Tribune*, August 17, 1961
- "Kathryn Malstrom Dies in Seattle," *Daily Olympian*, August 17, 1961
- "Mrs. Victor Malstrom Dies," *The Seattle Times*, August 17, 1961

Books:

- Newell, Gordon. *Rogues, Buffoons and Statesmen*. Superior Publishing Company, Seattle, 1975