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## League of Women Voters names 10 women in Tulsa who 'could be president'

From Staff Reports

Sep 29, 2024



The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa has named this year's Madam President award winners. Those pictured include, front row, left to right, honorary chair Susan Neal, Jennifer Jezek, Alice Blue, Susan Braselton, Secretary Shella Bowlin, Carolina Morris and Eileen Bradshaw. The back row, left to right, includes Karen Tilkin, Melissa Hoover (accepting on behalf of Rhonda Bear), Dr. Angela Hawkins and Kari Shults. Courtesy, League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa

From Staff Reports

**F**or the ninth consecutive year, Madam President honors women in the Tulsa area who “could be president.”

“As The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa celebrates 101 years of voter education and civic engagement in our community,” said Olivia Martin, chair of the event, “the Madam President award winners — and the impact they are making — sets an example of service, collaboration, and advocacy that honors the mission and history of the league and inspires each of us to lead into the next century.”

Meet this year's honorees:



Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt signs a pardon for Rhonda Bear in 2019.

Tulsa World Archive

## Rhonda Bear

Founder, She Brews Coffee & Transition Program

Rhonda Bear is an advocate for those incarcerated with excessive sentences, the program director for Stand in the Gap's Women in Transition Program and founder of She Brews Coffee Roasters & Transitional Housing Program.

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Alice Blue

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## Alice Blue

Clinical services director, Take Control Initiative

Alice Blue serves as the director of clinical services at the Take Control Initiative whose work has made a significant impact in Tulsa’s unplanned pregnancy numbers through education and access to contraception. Prior to her current role, Alice has served with the Carrera Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, the Community Service Council of Tulsa, and the Jewish Federation of Tulsa.



Sheila Bowlin

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# Sheila Bowlin

Secretary of State, Cherokee Nation

Sheila Bowlin was appointed to be Cherokee Nation Secretary of State in 2023. She previously worked at Cherokee Nation Businesses and most recently serving as vice president of Corporate Strategy and Analytics. In her role as Secretary of State she leads the tribe's forward facing government services, while also overseeing the implementation of the chief's strategic goals for the tribe.



Eileen Bradshaw

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# Eileen Bradshaw

President and CEO, Life Senior Services

Eileen Bradshaw is a Tulsa native and became the CEO of LIFE Senior Services in August 2019. She began her nonprofit career as volunteer coordinator at Emergency Infant Services and moved into the executive director role. She also served as the CEO of the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma for eight years before joining LIFE.





Clinic escort Susan Braselton confronts an abortion protester at the Tulsa Women's Clinic in 2022.

Mike Simons, Tulsa World Archive

## Susan Braselton

Women's health and animal welfare advocate

One of Susan Braselton's passions is the pursuit of bodily autonomy for all. She was able to help thousands of Oklahoman women as the vice president of Roe Fund and the Tulsa Women's Clinic escort coordinator. Susan has been a longtime volunteer for the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Emergency Infant Services, Tulsa Animal Welfare, Tulsa Pride and various other Tulsa organizations.



Dr. Angela Hawkins

## Dr. Angela Hawkins

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, SSM Health

Dr. Angela Hawkins is a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist in Oklahoma City and a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Hawkins is the founder and president of the Oklahoma Black Physicians Alliance, chair of the Oklahoma section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and co-chair of the Oklahoma Maternal Mortality Review Committee.



Jennifer Jezek

Stephen Pingry, Tulsa World

## Jennifer Jezek

VP Division Manager, VSC Fire and Security Inc.

In addition to her work with the Tulsa Regional Chamber, Jennifer Jezek is the Native American Resource Group Leader for the Associated Builders and Contractors National Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity Committee, as well as a past board chair for the Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation. She is also a past chair for Associated Builders and Contractors of Oklahoma.





Carolina Morris  
Tulsa World Archive

## Carolina Morris

Director of business relations, Utica Park Clinic

Carolina Morris uses her platform to be a role model and provide opportunities for youth through health care career exposure. She serves on the board for Youth Medical Mentorship, dedicated to recruiting, mentoring, and retaining a talented and diverse workforce to pursue careers in the medical field. She also serves on the Oklahoma Aquarium Foundation, a nonprofit that focuses on providing field trips to underserved communities.



Kari Shults

## Kari Shults

VP of advancement and president, TCC Foundation

Kari Shults serves as vice president of advancement and president of the Tulsa Community College Foundation. In her daily work she raises money to make the dream of education an affordable reality for TCC students. She is going on 11 years at TCC and is a proud product of the institution as her parents met in the second class of Tulsa Junior College in 1971.



Karen Tilkin

## Karen Tilkin

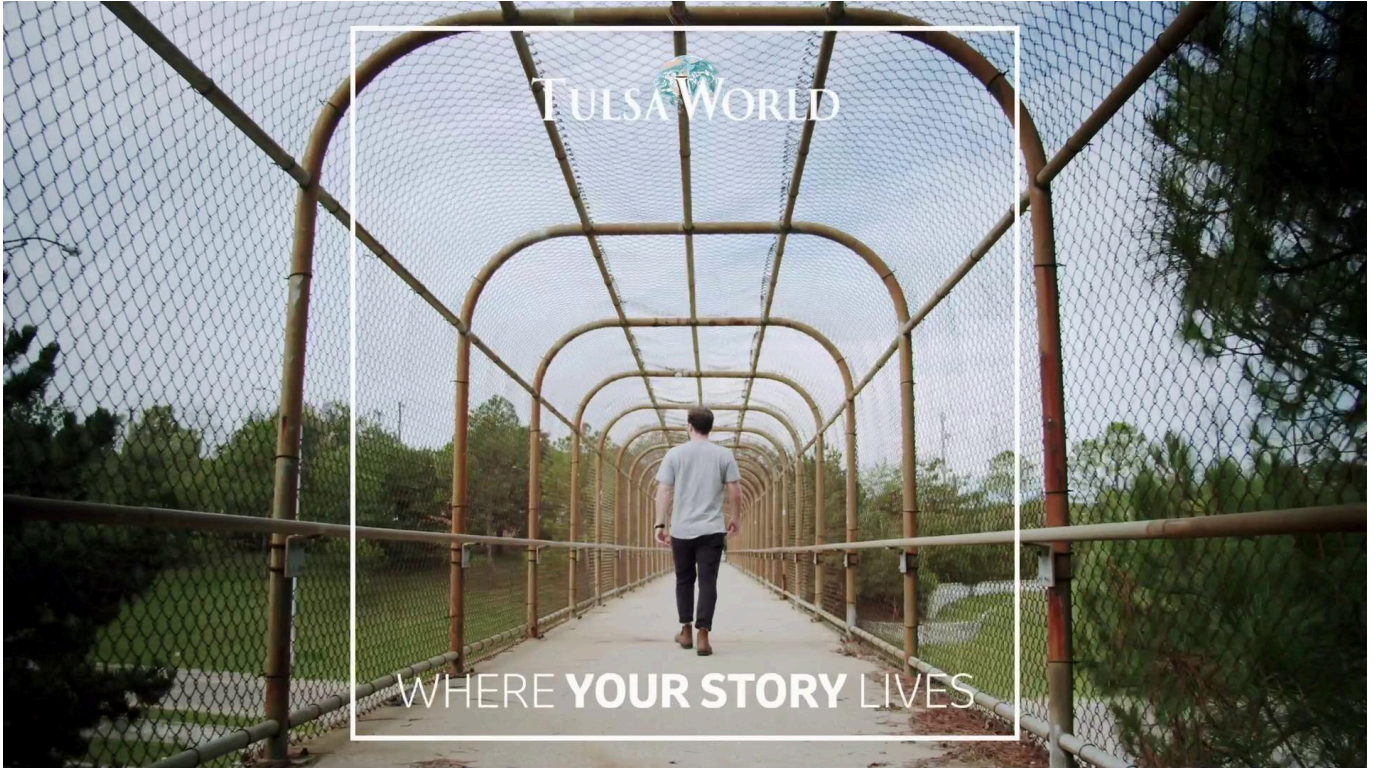
Executive director, CAP Tulsa

Karen Tilkin joined CAP Tulsa in 2008 and was named chief operating officer in 2009. In October 2019, she became executive director/CEO. Under her leadership, CAP Tulsa was named “Best Non Profit to Work For” by the Non-Profit Times for seven consecutive years, earning the top spot in 2021. CAP Tulsa continues to receive an annual MOSAIC Award for Top Inclusive Workplace Culture from the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

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