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For Immediate Release

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**CAWP Statement on Kamala Harris Becoming the First Woman and
First Woman of Color Elected Vice President**

Senator Kamala Harris will be the first woman to serve as vice president of the United States, as well as the first woman of color, the first Black woman, and the first South Asian woman. This is an enormously significant moment in the story of women's participation in American politics and in the history of our country. That it happens during the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which expanded some women's political participation while women like Kamala Harris remained excluded, is all the more symbolic. At this pivotal moment in history, she is the face of the future of the Democratic Party. Her win puts to rest the question of the electability of women to high office — a question that haunted both the women and people of color who ran for the Democratic nomination this cycle. To women and girls of all walks of life, of every political persuasion, Harris's ascension to the vice presidency broadens the horizons of the possible.

Debbie Walsh
Director, Center for American Women and Politics

About CAWP

The [Center for American Women and Politics](https://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/) (CAWP), a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is nationally recognized as the leading source of scholarly research and current data about women's political participation in the United States. Its mission is to promote greater knowledge and understanding about the role of women in American politics, enhance women's influence in public life, and expand the diversity of women in politics and government. CAWP's education and outreach programs translate research findings into action, addressing women's underrepresentation in political leadership with effective, intersectional, and imaginative programs serving a variety of audiences. As the world has watched Americans considering female candidates for the nation's highest offices, CAWP's five decades of analyzing and interpreting women's participation in American politics have provided a foundation and context for the discussion.