

1. *Who was the first female governor of New Hampshire?*

- A. Jeanne Shaheen
- B. Maggie Hassan
- C. Vesta Roy
- D. Marilla Ricker

Answer: C. Vesta Roy. As president of the New Hampshire Senate, she served as acting governor of the state from December 29, 1982 until January 6, 1983 as a result of the death of Governor Hugh Gallen shortly before the inauguration of the governor-elect, John H. Sununu. Roy served as a state senator from 1978 until 1986.

If you answered A, you are correct that Jeanne Shaheen was the first woman elected as governor, in 1996. Maggie Hassan was elected to her first term in 2012.

If you answered D, it was not for lack of trying that Marilla Ricker didn't run for governor. A life-long conservative Republican, she was not a supporter of progressive Republican Robert Perkins Bass (Congressman Charlie Bass's grandfather). She attempted to run against Bass in the 1910 Republican primary. Her filing papers were denied when the NH Attorney General ruled that she could not run because she was not a registered voter (this was 10 years before women were allowed to register to vote).