

Michigan Every Day
By Patrick Sullivan and Carole Eberly

Nov. 4, 1952
First black woman in the state senate

Cora Brown was born in Alabama and moved to Detroit with her family when she was a child. She graduated from high school in Detroit and later, after working as a social worker and a police officer, earned a law degree from Wayne State University. She attempted a run for the state senate in 1950 and lost. When she was elected state senator from Detroit in 1952, she was the first woman of color to be elected to the upper house of a state legislature.