

Grace Urbahns

Porter County

1886 – November 1968

Coming from Porter County, Grace Urbahns served as the 33rd Treasurer of State in Indiana from January 1926 to February 1931. She was the first woman to serve in a state-level executive office when she was appointed to State Treasurer in 1926 after her husband, Bernhardt Urbahns, died in office. She was later elected and served until 1932. She went on to be elected to two additional terms (at the time, the Treasurer of State's term was two years instead of the current four years). She achieved this accomplishment in only six years after women were granted the right to vote and to run for office.

After her tenure, Grace was very active in the Republican Party, serving as National Committeewoman from Indiana and instilling a love of public service in her family. Her nephew, James Givens, went on to also serve Indiana as the Treasurer of State from 1941 until 1945. In 1936, she worked to rally women's votes for the Republican Party, directing the drive for women's vote in twenty-nine states in the west (Associated Press).

In November 1968, she passed away and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana.

References will be published at the end of Women's History Month.



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