

Webb, L. (2022) “Female interventions in politics in the *libera res publica*: Structures and practices”, in R. Frolov and C. Burden-Strevens (eds) *Leadership and Initiative in Late Republican and Early Imperial Rome*, Leiden, Brill, 151–88, <https://brill.com/display/book/9789004511408/BP000006.xml> (Open Access).

This chapter charts the structures (female networks, matronal meetings, and religious roles) and practices (intercession, benefactions, and participation in family meetings) of female interventions in politics in the Republic (509–27 BCE). It argues that the interventions of senatorial women like Servilia, Iulia, Terentia, Hortensia, and Octavia were not novel, but a manifestation of a long tradition of women seizing political initiative. Through numerous formal and informal initiatives, inside and outside of the *domus*, women proactively engaged in the *res publica*.