

WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2012*

CONGRESS, STATEWIDE, STATE LEGISLATURE

CONGRESSWOMEN – 24 (22D, 2R)

Of the 90 women serving in the 112th U.S. Congress, 24, or 27%, are women of color, all serving in the House; in addition, an African American woman and a Caribbean American woman serve as Delegates to the House from Washington, DC and the Virgin Islands, respectively. Women of color constitute 4.5% of the total 535 members of Congress. No women of color serve in the U.S. Senate.

African American – 13 (13D)

Representative Karen Bass (D-CA)
Representative Corrine Brown (D-FL)
Representative Yvette Clarke (D-NY)
Representative Donna Edwards (D-MD)
Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH)
Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI)
Representative Laura Richardson (D-CA)
Representative Terri Sewell (D-AL)
Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)
Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

Asian Pacific Islander – 4D

Representative Judy Chu (D-CA)
Representative Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI)
Representative Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA)

Latina – 7 (5D, 2R)

Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA)
Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
Representative Linda Sanchez (D-CA)
Representative Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)

DELEGATES

African American – 1D

Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)

Caribbean American – 1D

Delegate Donna Christensen (D-VI)

STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVES – 11 (6D, 4R, 1NP**)

Of the 74 women serving in statewide elective executive offices, 11, or 14.9%, are women of color. They include the first two women of color to serve as governors. Women of color constitute 3.5% of the total 317 statewide elective executives.

African American – 4 (3D, 1R)

Jennifer Carroll (R-FL), Lieutenant Governor
Kamala Harris (D-CA), Attorney General
Denise Nappier (D-CT), State Treasurer
Sandra Kennedy (D-AZ), Corp. Commissioner

Asian American – 1R

Nikki Haley (R-SC), Governor

Latina – 4 (1D, 2R, 1NP)

Susan Castillo (NP** -OR), Superintendent, Public Instruction
Dianna Duran (R-NM), Secretary of State
Susana Martinez (R-NM), Governor
Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Attorney General

Native American – 2D

Theresa Becenti-Aguilar (D-NM), Pub. Regulation Commissioner
Denise Juneau (D-MT), Superintendent, Public Instruction

STATE LEGISLATORS – 351 (333D, 16R, 2NP)

Of the 1,747 women state legislators serving nationwide, 351 or 20.1% are women of color. They include 99 senators and 252 representatives; 333 are Democrats, 16 are Republicans, and two are non-partisan. Women of color constitute 4.8% of the total 7,382 state legislators. The first woman of color to serve as speaker of a state house or assembly was Karen Bass (D), speaker of the California assembly, who is African American. In 2010, an African American woman, Sheila Y. Oliver (D), was selected as speaker of the New Jersey state assembly, the second African American woman to serve as a speaker of a lower house.

African American women hold 240 (235D, 3R, 2NP) seats in state legislatures. They include 68 senators and 174 representatives in 40 states.

Asian American/Pacific Islander women hold 36 (30D, 6R) seats in state legislatures. They include 9 senators and 26 representatives in 10 states (AZ, CA, HI, ID, MA, MD, NY, TX, VT, WA).

Latinas hold 66 (60D, 6R) seats in state legislatures. They include 21 senators and 45 representatives in 21 states (AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, IL, IN, MA, MD, MN, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, RI, TX, UT, WA, WI).

Native American women hold 9 (8D, 1R) seats in state legislatures. They include 3 senators and 6 representatives in 8 states (AZ, CO, KS, MN, MT, NV, NM, OK).

* We use "women of color" when referring to African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Caribbean American, Latina, and Native American women as a group. We understand that both the terms "women of color" and "minority women" are problematic, but know of no preferable inclusive term.

** NP = election was nonpartisan.

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WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2011 (continued)

MAYORS

In the nation's 100 largest cities, two women of color currently serve as mayors:

African American	Stephanie Rawlings-Blake	Baltimore, MD 2010-present
Asian American/Pacific Islander	Jean Quan	Oakland, CA 2011-present

HISTORY OF WOMEN OF COLOR IN U.S. POLITICS

U.S. SENATE

The only woman of color to serve in the U.S. Senate to date is Carol Moseley Braun (D-IL), an African American who was elected in 1992 and served from 1993-1999.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A total of 42 women of color have served in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition to the women currently serving (listed on the front of this fact sheet), they are:

African American – 15 (15D)

Shirley Chisholm (D-NY)	1969-83	Denise Majette (D-GA)	2003-2005
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (D-CA)	1973-79	Cynthia McKinney (D-GA)	1993-2003; 2005-2007
Barbara Jordan (D-TX)	1973-79	Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA)	1996-2007
Cardiss Collins (D-IL)	1973-97	Julia Carson (D-IN)	1996-2007
Katie Hall (D-IN)	1982-85	Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH)	1999-2008
Barbara-Rose Collins (D-MI)	1991-97	Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI)	1997-2011
Eva M. Clayton (D-NC)	1992-2003	Diane Watson (D-CA)	2001-2011
Carrie Meek (D-FL)	1993-2003		

Asian Pacific Islander – 2 (1D, 1R)

Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-HI)	1965-77, 1990-2002
Patricia Fukuda Saiki (R-HI)	1987-91

Latina – 1 (1D)

Hilda Solis (D-CA)	2001-2009
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STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Two women of color currently serve as governors, and four have been lieutenant governors. In addition to the women listed on the front of this fact sheet, women who have served in statewide elective executive offices include:

African American – 6 (3D, 3R)

Pamela Carter (D-IN)	Attorney General	1993-1999
Vikki Buckley (R-CO)	Secretary of State	1995-1999
Karen Freeman-Wilson (D-IN)	Attorney General	2000-2001
Jennette Bradley (R-OH)	Lieutenant Governor	2003-2005
Jennette Bradley (R-OH)	State Treasurer	2005-2007
Velda Jones Potter (D-DE)	State Treasurer	2009-2011

Asian Pacific Islander – 5 (5D)

March Fong Eu (D-CA)	Secretary of State	1975-1993
Jean Sadako King (D-HI)	Lieutenant Governor	1979-1982
Cheryl Lau (D-NV)	Secretary of State	1991-1995
Mazie Hirono (D-HI)	Lieutenant Governor	1995-2003
Mona Pasquill (D-CA)	Acting Lt. Governor	2010-2010

Latina – 5 (5D)

Soledad Chacon (D-NM)	Secretary of State	1923-1926
Margaret Baca (D-NM)	Secretary of State	1931-1934
Clara Padilla Jones (D-NM)	Secretary of State	1983-1986
Patricia Madrid (D-NM)	Attorney General	1999-2007
Rebecca Vigil-Giron (D-NM)	Secretary of State	1999-2007
Mary Herrera (D-NM)	Secretary of State	2007-2011

STATE LEGISLATURES*

The first women of color to serve in state legislatures, listed in chronological order, were:

African American	Minnie Buckingham Harper (R-WV House) appointed 1929 Crystal Dreda Bird Fauset (D-PA House) elected 1938
Asian Pacific Islander	Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-HI Senate) elected 1962
Latina	Fedolina Lucero Gallegos (R-NM House) and Porfirria Hidalgo Saiz (D-NM House) elected 1930
Native American	Cora Belle Reynolds Anderson (R-MI House) elected 1924

MAYORS

In the nation's 100 largest cities, in addition to the two women currently serving, women of color who have served as mayors are:

African American

Lottie Shackelford	Little Rock, AR	1987-1991	Shirley Franklin	Atlanta, GA	2001-2009
Carrie Saxon Perry	Hartford, CT	1987-1993	Yvonne Johnson	Greensboro, NC	2008-2010
Sharon Pratt Kelly	Washington, DC	1991-1995	Sheila Dixon	Baltimore, MD	2007-2010
Sharon Sayles Belton	Minneapolis, MN	1994-2001			

Latina

Heather Fargo	Sacramento, CA	2001-2009
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* State legislative information from Elizabeth M. Cox, *Women State and Territorial Legislators, 1895-1995*, McFarland & Company, Inc., 1996.