

## WOMEN IN NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT

**CONGRESS** Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12), elected in 2014, and Mikie Sherrill (D-11), elected in 2018, currently represent New Jersey in Congress. New Jersey has sent a total of seven women (4D, 3R) to the U.S. House of Representatives and no women to the U.S. Senate. The New Jersey congresswomen who previously served were:

**Marge Roukema** (R), 1981-2003

**Florence Price Dwyer** (R), 1957-1973

**Millicent Fenwick** (R), 1975-1983

**Mary Teresa Norton** (D), 1925-1951

**Helen Stevenson Meyner** (D), 1975-1979

**STATEWIDE** In 2018, **Sheila Oliver** (D) took office as New Jersey's second lieutenant governor, a newly-created position. She was the first Black woman election to statewide office in NJ. In New Jersey, the governor and lieutenant governor, elected together, are the only statewide elected officials. **Christine Todd Whitman**, New Jersey's first (and to date, only) woman governor, served from 1994-2001.

**CABINET MEMBERS** Governor Phil Murphy has eleven women in his cabinet. This represents 52.4% of his 21-member cabinet.

|                                  |                                       |                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Sheila Oliver</b>             | Community Affairs Commissioner        | 1/17/18-present |
| <b>Elizabeth Muoio</b>           | State Treasurer                       | 4/13/18-present |
| <b>Tahesha Way</b>               | Secretary of State                    | 2/9/18-present  |
| <b>Marlene Caride</b>            | Banking & Insurance Commissioner      | 6/26/18-present |
| <b>Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti</b> | Transportation Commissioner           | 6/20/18-present |
| <b>Catherine McCabe</b>          | Environmental Protection Commissioner | 6/19/18-present |
| <b>Carole Johnson</b>            | Human Service Commissioner            | 4/3/18-present  |
| <b>Christine Norbut Beyer</b>    | Commissioner of Children and Families | 6/20/18-present |
| <b>Sue Fulton</b>                | Motor Vehicle Commission Chair        | 4/19/18-present |
| <b>Deirdre Webster Cobb</b>      | Civil Service Commission Chair        | 4/13/18-present |
| <b>Zakiya Smith Ellis</b>        | Higher Education Secretary            | 6/17/18-present |

**STATE LEGISLATURE** In 2019, **37** women serve in New Jersey's state legislature, holding **30.8%** of the 120 available seats. Nationally women hold **28.6%** of all state legislative seats; New Jersey ranks 20th among the 50 states in the proportion of women serving in its legislature. Women of color make up 51.4% of all women in the New Jersey legislature: 60% of women in the Senate and 48.1% of women in the Assembly.

**Senate** In 2019, of the 40 (25D, 15R) seats in the New Jersey State Senate, **10** are held by women (25.0%). Eight are Democrats and two are Republicans:

**Dawn Marie Addiego** (R-8)

**Nia H. Gill** (D-34)

**Shirley K. Turner** (D-15)

**Kristin Corrado** (R-40)

**Linda R. Greenstein** (D-14)

**Loretta Weinberg** (D-37)

**Nilsa Cruz-Perez** (D-5)

**Nellie Pou** (D-35)

**Sandra B. Cunningham** (D-31)

**M. Teresa Ruiz** (D-29)

Loretta Weinberg serves as the Senate majority leader and M. Teresa Ruiz serves as Senate president pro tempore. Three Black women (Cunningham, Gill, and Turner) and three Latinas (Cruz-Perez, Pou and Ruiz) currently serve in the New Jersey Senate.

**Assembly** In 2019, of the 80 (54D, 26R) members of the State Assembly, **27**, or **33.8%**, are women. Twenty-one are Democrats and six are Republicans:

|                                       |  |                                   |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Linda Carter (D-22)</b>            | <b>Angelica M. Jimenez (D-32)</b>      | <b>Nancy J. Pinkin (D-18)</b>     |
| <b>Annette Chaparro (D-33)</b>        | <b>Patricia Egan Jones (D-5)</b>       | <b>Eliana Pintor Marin (D-29)</b> |
| <b>BettyLou DeCroce (R-26)</b>        | <b>Pamela R. Lampitt (D-6)</b>         | <b>Annette Quijano (D-20)</b>     |
| <b>Serena DiMaso (R-13)</b>           | <b>Yvonne Lopez (D-19)</b>             | <b>Holly T. Schepisi (R-39)</b>   |
| <b>Joann Downey (D-11)</b>            | <b>Angela McKnight (D-31)</b>          | <b>Shanique Speight (D-29)</b>    |
| <b>DiAnne C. Gove (R-9)</b>           | <b>Gabriela M. Mosquera (D-4)</b>      | <b>Shavonda E. Sumter (D-35)</b>  |
| <b>Amy H. Handlin (R-13)</b>          | <b>Nancy F. Muñoz (R-21)</b>           | <b>Lisa Swain (D-38)</b>          |
| <b>Valerie Vainieri Huttle (D-37)</b> | <b>Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D-15)</b> | <b>Britnee Timberlake (D-34)</b>  |
| <b>Mila M. Jasey (D-27)</b>           | <b>Carol Murphy (D-7)</b>              | <b>Cleopatra G. Tucker (D-28)</b> |

Five Latinas (Chaparro, Jimenez, Lopez, Mosquera, and Quijano) and eight Black women (Carter, Jasey, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson, Speight, Sumter, Timberlake, and Tucker) currently serve in the Assembly.

Sheila Y. Oliver (D), served as speaker of the Assembly from 2011-2013. Oliver is only the second Black woman in the nation to serve as a speaker of a lower house. One woman previously served as speaker of the New Jersey Assembly. **Marion West Higgins** (R) became speaker in 1965, only the third woman in the nation to be speaker of a state house. She served as acting governor on occasion when Governor Richard Hughes traveled out of state.

**WOMEN IN LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP**

|                 |                              |                                |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Senate</b>   | Majority Leader              | Loretta Weinberg (D-37)        |
|                 | President Pro Tempore        | M. Teresa Ruiz (D-29)          |
|                 | Assistant Majority Leader    | Linda R. Greenstein (D-14)     |
|                 | Deputy Majority Leader       | Sandra B. Cunningham (D-31)    |
|                 | Deputy Republican Whip       | Dawn Marie Addiego (R-8)       |
| <b>Assembly</b> | Majority Conference Leader   | Shavonda E. Sumter (D-35)      |
|                 | Deputy Speaker               | Pamela R. Lampitt (D-6)        |
|                 | Deputy Speaker               | Mila M. Jasey (D-27)           |
|                 | Deputy Speaker               | Valerie Vainieri Huttle (D-37) |
|                 | Deputy Majority Leader       | Annette Quijano (D-20)         |
|                 | Deputy Republican Whip       | Nancy F. Munoz (R-21)          |
|                 | Deputy Republican Leader     | Amy H. Handlin (R-13)          |
|                 | Assistant Republican Leader  | BettyLou DeCroce (R-26)        |
|                 | Assistant Republican Leaders | Holly T. Schepisi (R-39)       |
|                 | Policy Co-chair              | DiAnne C. Gove (R-9)           |

**WOMEN COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

|                 |  |                                |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>Senate</b>   | Commerce                                 | Nellie Pou (D-35)              |
|                 | Economic Growth                          | Nilsa Cruz Perez (D-5)         |
|                 | Education                                | M. Teresa Ruiz (D-29)          |
|                 | Higher Education                         | Sandra B. Cunningham (D-31)    |
|                 | Law and Public Safety                    | Linda Greenstein (D-14)        |
| <b>Assembly</b> | Budget                                   | Eliana Pintor Marin (D-29)     |
|                 | Education                                | Pamela Lampitt (D-6)           |
|                 | Environment and Solid Waste              | Nancy J. Pinkin (D-18)         |
|                 | Higher Education                         | Mila M. Jasey (D-27)           |
|                 | Homeland Security and State Preparedness | Valerie Vainieri Huttle (D-37) |
|                 | Human Services                           | Joann Downey (D-11)            |
|                 | Judiciary                                | Annette Quijano (D-20)         |
|                 | Military and Veterans Affairs            | Cleopatra G. Tucker (D-28)     |
|                 | Women and Children                       | Gabriela M. Mosquera (D-4)     |

**COUNTY EXECUTIVES**

In 2019, among the five counties in New Jersey that elect executives, no woman holds that title.

**COUNTY FREEHOLDERS** In 2019, **43**, or **31.9%**, of the 135 (84D, 49R, two vacancies) county freeholders in New Jersey are women; five women serve as freeholder chairs, directors or presidents. Women serve as freeholders in 19 of the state's 21 counties; 29 Democrats and 14 Republicans currently serve. The two counties with no women freeholders are Salem and Warren.

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Ashley Bennett (D-Atlantic)         | Lucy Walter (D-Mercer)                  |
| Caren Fitzpatrick (D-Atlantic)      | Leslie Koppel (D-Middlesex)             |
| Amy L. Gatto (R-Atlantic), Chair    | Shanti Narra (D-Middlesex)              |
| Maureen Kern (R-Atlantic)           | Blanquita Valenti (D-Middlesex)         |
| Mary Amoroso (D-Bergen)             | Lillian G. Burry (R-Monmouth)           |
| Germaine M. Ortiz (D-Bergen), Chair | Susan M. Kiley (R-Monmouth)             |
| Joan Voss (D-Bergen)                | Heather Darling (R-Morris)              |
| Tracy Silna Zur (D-Bergen)          | Kathryn A. DeFillippo (R-Morris)        |
| Felicia Hopson (D-Burlington),      | Christine Myers (R-Morris)              |
| Susan Shin Angulo (D-Camden)        | Deborah Smith (R-Morris)                |
| Carmen Rodriguez (D-Camden)         | Virginia Haines (R-Ocean), Director     |
| E. Marie Hayes (R-Cape May)         | Cassandra Lazzara (D-Passaic), Director |
| Darlene Barber (D-Cumberland)       | Shanel Robinson (D-Somerset)            |
| Carol Musso (D-Cumberland)          | Sara Soeey (D-Somerset)                 |
| Tyshammie L. Cooper (D-Essex)       | Dawn Fantasia (R-Sussex)                |
| Patricia Sebold (D-Essex)           | Sylvia Petillo (R-Sussex)               |
| Heather Simmons (D-Gloucester)      | Angela Garretson (D-Union)              |
| Caridad Rodriguez (D-Hudson)        | Bette Jane Kowalski (D-Union), Chair    |
| Suzanne Lagay (R-Hunterdon)         | Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded (D-Union)      |
| Susan Soloway (D-Hunterdon)         | Andrea Staten (D-Union)                 |
| Ann Cannon (D-Mercer)               | Rebecca Williams (D-Union)              |
| Nina Melker (D-Mercer)              |   |

Seven Black women (Bennett, Cooper, Garretson, Hopson, Robinson, Staten, and Williams), five Latinas (Ortiz, Carmen Rodriguez, Caridad Rodriguez, Soeey, and Valenti) and two Asian Pacific Islander women (Narra and Shin Angulo) currently serve as freeholders.

**COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS** In 2019, **23** women serve as elected constitutional officers in New Jersey's counties. They hold 35.4% of the 65 available positions. These women officials include: 12 county clerks, 2 registers, 2 sheriffs and 7 surrogates.

**County Clerks**

Joanne Schwartz (D-Burlington)  
Rita Marie Fulginiti (R-Cape May)  
Celeste Riley (D-Cumberland)  
Mary Melfi (R-Hunterdon)  
Paula Sollami-Covello (D-Mercer)  
Elaine Flynn (D-Middlesex)  
Christine Giordano Hanlon (R-Monmouth)  
Ann F. Grossi (R-Morris)  
Danielle Ireland-Imhof (D-Passaic)  
Gilda T. Gill (R-Salem)  
Joanne Rajoppi (D-Union)  
Holly Mackey (R-Warren)

**Register**

Diane Coleman (D-Hudson)  
Dana Rone (D-Essex)

**Sheriffs**

Jean Stanfield (R-Burlington)  
Mildred S. Scott (D-Middlesex)

**Surrogates**

Mary Anne O'Brien (R-Burlington)  
Michelle Gentek-Meyer (D-Camden)  
Susan Hoffman (R-Hunterdon)  
Diane Gerofsky (D-Mercer)  
Rosemarie Peters (R-Monmouth)  
Bernice Toledo (D-Passaic)  
Nicki A. Burke (D-Salem)

Four Black women (Coleman, Ireland-Imhof, Rone, Scott) and one Latina (Toledo) currently serve in county constitutional offices.

**WOMEN MAYORS** As of January 2018, among the 75 cities with populations over 30,000 in New Jersey, 11 (14.7%) have women mayors. One Black woman (Jane E. Williams-Warren, Paterson) and one Latina (Wilda Diaz, Perth Amboy) serve as big city mayors.

| <u>Name</u>             | <u>Municipality</u>   | <u>Population</u> | <u>County</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Jane E. Williams-Warren | Paterson              | 146,199           | Passaic       |
| Kelly Yaede             | Hamilton Township     | 88,464            | Mercer        |
| Stephanie C. Murray     | Middletown Township   | 66,522            | Monmouth      |
| Suzette Cavadas         | Union Township        | 56,642            | Union         |
| Theresa Berger          | Howell Township       | 51,075            | Monmouth      |
| Wilda Diaz              | Perth Amboy City      | 50,814            | Middlesex     |
| Joann Gattinelli        | Washington Township   | 48,559            | Gloucester    |
| Gloria McCauley         | Hillsborough Township | 38,303            | Somerset      |
| Lisa Swain              | Fair Lawn Borough     | 32,457            | Bergen        |
| Liz Lempert             | Princeton             | 31,249            | Mercer        |
| Michelle W. Brindle     | Westfield             | 30,639            | Union         |

As of January 2018, of the 491 New Jersey municipalities with populations less than 30,000, 64 or 13.0% have women mayors.

| <u>Name</u>             | <u>Municipality</u>           | <u>County</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Lisa Jiampetti          | Egg Harbor City               | Atlantic      |
| Beth Holtzman           | Ventnor City                  | Atlantic      |
| Elizabeth White         | Allendale Borough             | Bergen        |
| Ann Subrizi             | New Milford Borough           | Bergen        |
| Linda H. Schwager       | Oakland Borough               | Bergen        |
| Dianne Camelo Didio     | Oradell Borough               | Bergen        |
| Deirdre A. Dillon       | Ramsey Borough                | Bergen        |
| Susan Knudsen           | Ridgewood Village             | Bergen        |
| Joanne Minichetti       | Upper Saddle River Borough    | Bergen        |
| Deborah Buzby-Cope      | Bass River Township           | Burlington    |
| Kate Fitzpatrick        | Delanco Township              | Burlington    |
| Linda Bobo              | Mount Laurel Township         | Burlington    |
| Michelle Arnold         | Palmyra Borough               | Burlington    |
| Lorraine M. Hatcher     | Riverside Township            | Burlington    |
| Suzanne Cairns-Wells    | Riverton Borough              | Burlington    |
| Stacey F. Jordan        | Moorestown Township           | Burlington    |
| Phyllis A. Magazzu      | Berlin Township               | Camden        |
| Theresa Branella        | Brooklawn Borough             | Camden        |
| Meredith Dobbs          | Hi-Nella Borough              | Camden        |
| Mary Ann Wardlow        | Lawnside Borough              | Camden        |
| Bettyann Cowling-Carson | Magnolia Borough              | Camden        |
| Judith Davies-Dunhour   | Stone Harbor Borough          | Cape May      |
| Carol Sabo              | West Cape May Borough         | Cape May      |
| Abigail O'Brien         | Deerfield Township            | Cumberland    |
| Patricia Gross          | Maurice River Township        | Cumberland    |
| Ann Dassing             | Caldwell Borough              | Essex         |
| Cheryl Burstein         | Millburn Township             | Essex         |
| Sheena Collum           | South Orange Village Township | Essex         |
| Leah Vassallo           | Franklin Township             | Gloucester    |
| Denice Dicarlo          | West Deptford Township        | Gloucester    |

**WOMEN MAYORS** (continued)

| <b><u>Name</u></b>    | <b><u>Municipality</u></b>    | <b><u>County</u></b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Jessica M. Floyd      | Woodbury City                 | Gloucester           |
| Martha Tersigni       | Bloomsbury Borough            | Hunterdon            |
| Janice Kovach         | Clinton Town                  | Hunterdon            |
| Betty Ann Fort        | Readington Township           | Hunterdon            |
| Janice S. Mironov     | East Windsor Township         | Mercer               |
| Gayle Brill Mittler   | Highland Park Borough         | Middlesex            |
| Marlene Lowande       | Jamesburg Borough             | Middlesex            |
| Rhonda Legrice        | Atlantic Highlands Borough    | Monmouth             |
| Susan Howard          | Monmouth Beach Borough        | Monmouth             |
| Peggy Malkin          | Roosevelt Borough             | Monmouth             |
| Dina Long             | Sea Bright Borough            | Monmouth             |
| Jennifer Naughton     | Spring Lake Borough           | Monmouth             |
| Janet W. Tucci        | West Long Branch Borough      | Monmouth             |
| Janet Hoven           | Chester Borough               | Morris               |
| Marcia Asdal          | Chester Township              | Morris               |
| Lauren Barnett        | Mountain Lakes Borough        | Morris               |
| Catherine Winterfield | Pequannock Township           | Morris               |
| Nancy Davis           | Beach Haven Borough           | Ocean                |
| Debra A. Rivas        | Eagleswood Township           | Ocean                |
| Susan R. Marshall     | Tuckerton Borough             | Ocean                |
| Bettina A. Bieri      | West Milford Township         | Passaic              |
| Ellen B. Pompper      | Lower Alloways Creek Township | Salem                |
| Caryl Shoffner        | South Bound Brook Borough     | Somerset             |
| Janis McGovern        | Andover Borough               | Sussex               |
| Rosemarie Maio        | Stanhope Borough              | Sussex               |
| Lisa Chamings         | Stillwater Township           | Sussex               |
| Katherine Little      | Sussex Borough                | Sussex               |
| Rachel Slater         | Ogdensburg Borough            | Sussex               |
| Colleen Mahr          | Fanwood Borough               | Union                |
| Dahlia Vertreese      | Hillside Township             | Union                |
| Christine Dansereau   | Roselle Borough               | Union                |
| Nora G. Radest        | Summit City                   | Union                |
| Maria Digiovanni      | Hackettstown Township         | Warren               |
| Adele Starrs          | Knowlton Township             | Warren               |

**STATE SUPREME COURT** Two women currently serve on New Jersey's seven-member Supreme Court: Justice Jaynee LaVecchia, appointed by Governor Christine Todd Whitman and sworn in on January 26, 2000 and Justice Anne Patterson, appointed by Governor Chris Christie and sworn in on September 1, 2011.

The first woman to head New Jersey's highest court was Chief Justice Deborah Poritz; appointed by Governor Whitman, she served from 1996 until she retired in 2006. Whitman also appointed Justice Virginia Long, who served from September 14, 1999 until she retired in March, 2012. Governor Jon Corzine appointed Justice Helen E. Hoens, who served from October 26, 2006 until October 26, 2013. Judge Mary Catherine Cuff was assigned temporarily to serve on the Court by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner in October 2012. The first woman member of New Jersey's Supreme Court was Justice Marie L. Garibaldi, who was appointed by Governor Thomas Kean and served from 1982 until 2000.

**WOMEN IN THE STATE PARTIES** **Democrats:** The chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee is a man (John Currie). In the 21 counties, five women serve as county chairs:

**Amy DeGise** (Hudson)  
**Arlene Perez** (Hunterdon)  
**Janice S. Mironov** (Mercer)  
**Peg Schaffer** (Somerset)  
**Leslie Huhn** (Sussex)

**Republicans:** The chair of the New Jersey Republican State Committee is a man (Doug Steinhardt). In the 21 counties, four women serves as a county chairs:

**Jacci Vigilante** (Gloucester)  
**Lisa Richford** (Mercer)  
**Lucille Panos** (Middlesex)  
**Linda DuBois** (Salem)

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