

## WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP 2017

In 2017, **1,840**, or **24.9%** of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold **442**, or **22.4%**, of the 1,972 state senate seats and **1,398**, or **25.8%**, of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.

In 2017, of the **348** state legislators holding leadership positions<sup>1</sup> nationwide, **67**, or **19.3%**, are women. Women hold **28**, or **17.3%**, of the **162** leadership positions in state senates and **39**, or **21.0%**, of the **186** leadership positions in state houses. Women hold leadership positions in **24** state senates and in **26** state houses; in **14** states, women do not hold leadership positions in either chamber.

The **party breakdown** for women serving in state legislative leadership positions is:

	Total Legislature			State Senate			State House		
	Total Women	Total Leadership	Percent Women	Total Women	Total Leadership	Percent Women	Total Women	Total Leadership	Percent Women
<b>Total</b>	67	348	19.3	28	162	17.3	39	186	21.0
D	46	152	30.3	18	67	27.9	28	85	32.9
R	21	195	10.8	10	94	10.6	11	101	10.9
NP <sup>2</sup>	0	1	0.0	0	1	0.0	--	--	--

In 2017, **two** women serve as senate presidents and **nine** women serve as senate presidents pro tempore; **six** women serve as speakers, and **eleven** serve as speakers pro tempore of state houses. Leadership positions are listed below with first year of service.

### Senate Presidents 2 (2R)

KS Susan Wagle (R) 2013  
 MN Michelle Fischbach (R) 2011-2013; 2017

### Senate Presidents Pro Tempore 9 (4D, 5R)

AZ Debbie Lesko (R) 2017  
 FL Anitere Flores (R) 2017  
 HI Michelle N. Kidani (D) 2017  
 MI\* Tonya Schuitmaker (R) 2011  
 NH Sharon M. Carson (R) 2015  
 NJ Nia Gill (D) 2011  
 NM\* Mary Kay Papen (D) 2013  
 OR Laurie Monnes Anderson (D) 2017  
 WV\* Donna J. Boley (R) 2015

*\*In these states, president pro tempore is the top leadership post held by a senator; the lieutenant governor serves as senate president*

### Speakers of the House 6 (4D, 2R)

CO Crisanta Duran (D) 2017  
 IA Linda L. Upmeyer (R) 2016  
 ME Sara Gideon (D) 2017  
 OR Tina Kotek (D) 2007-2011; 2013  
 TN Beth Harwell (R) 2011  
 VT Mitzi Johnson (D) 2017

### Speakers Pro Tempore 11 (8D, 3R)

CO Jesse Danielson (D) 2017  
 CT\* Linda M. Gentile (D) 2015  
 CT\* Linda A. Orange (D) 2009  
 DE Helene Keeley (D) 2015  
 FL Jeanette Nunez (R) 2017  
 GA Jan Jones (R) 2011  
 MD Adrienne A. Jones (D) 2003  
 MA Patricia A. Haddad (D) 2011  
 NV Irene Bustamante Adams (D) 2017  
 NC Sarah Stevens (R) 2017  
 WA Tina Orwall (D) 2017

*\*In CT there are multiple speakers pro tempore*

## WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP (continued)

### Senate Majority Leader 7 (6D, 1R)

AZ Kimberly Yee (R) 2017  
DE Margaret Rose Henry (D) 2017  
MA Harriette Chandler (D) 2015  
NJ Loretta Weinberg (D) 2012  
OR Ginny Burdick (D) 2015  
VT Rebecca Balint (D) 2017  
WA Sharon K. Nelson (D) 2017

### Senate Minority Leader 10 (8D, 2R)

AK Berta Gardner (D) 2015  
AZ Katie Hobbs (D) 2015  
CA Jean L. Fuller (R) 2015  
CO Lucia Guzman (D) 2013  
ID Michelle Stennett (D) 2013  
IL Christine Radogno (R) 2009  
MO Gina Walsh (D) 2017  
ND Joan Heckaman (D) 2017  
NY Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D) 2013  
WI Jennifer Shilling (D) 2015

### House Majority Leader 11 (9D, 2R)

CO KC Becker (D) 2017  
DE Valerie Longhurst (D) 2013  
IL Barbara Flynn Currie (D) 2005  
ME Erin D. Herbig (D) 2017  
MD Anne R. Kaiser (D) 2015  
MN Joyce Peppin (R) 2015  
NV Teresa Benitez-Thompson (D) 2017  
NM Sheryl W. Stapleton (D) 2017  
OH Dorothy Pelanda (R) 2017  
OR Jennifer A. Williamson (D) 2015  
VT Jill Krowinski

### House Minority Leader 11 (7D, 4R)

AK Charisse Millett (R) 2017  
AZ Rebecca Rios (D) 2017  
CT Themis Klarides (R) 2017  
FL Janet Cruz (D) 2017  
GA Stacey Y. Abrams (D) 2017  
HI Andria Tupola (R) 2017  
MN Melissa Hortman (D) 2017  
MO Gail McCann Beatty (D) 2017  
MT Jenny Eck (D) 2017  
RI Patricia L. Morgan (R) 2017  
WY Catherine Connolly (D) 2017

---

<sup>1</sup>Leadership positions include: senate presidents and presidents pro tempore; house speakers and speakers pro tempore; majority and minority leaders of the senate and house as listed on each state legislature's website. When the position of senate president is filled by the lieutenant governor, it is not included in these totals.

<sup>2</sup>In Nebraska, where the legislature is unicameral, legislators are elected on a nonpartisan basis.

## WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP (continued)

The states with the **highest percentages** of women in leadership positions (senate and house combined) are:

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
Arizona	50.0	Florida	37.5
Colorado	50.0	Minnesota	37.5
Oregon	50.0	Alaska	33.3
Vermont	50.0	Maine	33.3
Delaware	42.9	New Mexico	33.3

Of the top states for women leaders, AZ, CO, OR, VT, ME and MN also rank in the top ten for the percentages of women serving in their legislatures.

Fourteen states have no women (0%) in leadership positions: AL, AR, IN, KY, LA, MS, NE, OK, PA, SC, SD, TX, UT, VA.

Of the worst states for women leaders, AL, KY, LA, MS, OK, and SC ranked among the ten states with the lowest percentages of women in their state legislatures.

### History of Leadership Positions

The first woman senate president was Vesta Roy (R-NH). The first woman to serve as speaker of a state house was Minnie Davenport Craig (R-ND).

State senator Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI) was the first woman of color and the first Asian Pacific Islander woman to lead either house of a state legislature; she served as Hawaii's Senate president from 2007-2011. Karen Bass (D-CA) was the first woman of color and first Black woman to serve as a House speaker, leading California's Assembly from 2008-2010. Crisanta Duran (D-CO) is the first Latina to serve as a House Speaker, assuming that office in 2017. In 2013, Tina Kotek (D-OR) became the country's first openly lesbian state House speaker.

## Women in State Legislative Leadership

### Senate

### House

State	Rank <sup>1</sup>	Total Leaders Who are Women		Majority Party	Women Leaders/ All Leaders		Majority Party	Women Leaders/ All Leaders	
		#	%		#	%		#	%
AL	37	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
AK	8	2/6	33.3%	R	1/3	33.3%	D	1/3	33.3%
AZ	1	4/8	50.0%	R	3/4	75.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
AR	37	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
CA	24	1/7	14.3%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	0/4	0.0%
CO	1	4/8	50.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	D	3/4	75.0%
CT	20	3/14	21.4%	D	0/3	0.0%	D	3/11	27.3%
DE	5	3/7	42.9%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	2/4	50.0%
FL	6	3/8	37.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	2/4	50.0%
GA	11	2/7	28.6%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	2/4	50.0%
HI	11	2/7	28.6%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	1/4	25.0%
ID	21	1/6	16.7%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	0/3	0.0%
IL	11	2/7	28.6%	D	1/4	25.0%	D	1/3	33.3%
IN	37	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
IA	28	1/8	12.5%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
KS	28	1/8	12.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
KY	37	0/8	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
LA	37	0/4	0.0%	R	0/2	0.0%	R	0/2	0.0%
ME	8	2/6	33.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	D	2/3	66.7%
MD	17	2/8	25.0%	D	0/4	0.0%	D	2/4	50.0%
MA	17	2/8	25.0%	D	1/4	25.0%	D	1/4	25.0%
MI	21	1/6	16.7%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	0/3	0.0%
MN	6	3/8	37.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	2/4	50.0%
MS	37	0/3	0.0%	R	0/1	0.0%	R	0/2	0.0%
MO	11	2/7	28.6%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	1/4	25.0%
MT	28	1/8	12.5%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
NE	37	0/1	0.0%	NP	0/1	0.0%	UNICAMERAL		
NV	11	2/7	28.6%	D	0/3	0.0%	D	2/4	50.0%
NH	28	1/8	12.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
NJ	17	2/8	25.0%	D	2/4	50.0%	D	0/4	0.0%
NM	8	2/6	33.3%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	1/3	33.3%
NY	24	1/7	14.3%	R	1/3	33.3%	D	0/4	0.0%
NC	24	1/7	14.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
ND	21	1/6	16.7%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	0/3	0.0%
OH	28	1/8	12.5%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
OK	37	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
OR	1	4/8	50.0%	D	2/4	50.0%	D	2/4	50.0%
PA	37	0/6	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%
RI	28	1/8	12.5%	D	0/4	0.0%	D	1/4	25.0%
SC	37	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
SD	37	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
TN	24	1/7	14.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
TX	37	0/3	0.0%	R	0/1	0.0%	R	0/2	0.0%
UT	37	0/6	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%
VT	1	3/6	50.0%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	2/3	66.7%
VA	37	0/6	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%
WA	11	2/7	28.6%	R	1/3	33.3%	D	1/4	25.0%
WV	28	1/8	12.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
WI	28	1/8	12.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
WY	28	1/8	12.5%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>67/348</b>	<b>19.3%</b>		<b>28/162</b>	<b>17.3%</b>		<b>39/186</b>	<b>21.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rank is for leadership positions only and is based on combined senate and house figures. States with the exact same percentages are given the same rank; states with no women in leadership positions share the rank of 37.

Reproduction of this entire document or any part of it for non-commercial purposes is encouraged, provided credit is given to Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Any information reproduced must include footnotes/endnotes that apply to that information. Commercial reproduction requires prior permission in writing from Center for American Women and Politics.