

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 positions¹ 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 |
| Total | 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 ² | 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

¹Leadership 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.

²In 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 ¹ | 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% |
| TOTALS | | 67/348 | 19.3% | | 28/162 | 17.3% | | 39/186 | 21.0% |

¹ 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.

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