

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP 2018

In 2018, **1,879**, or **25.5%** of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold **452**, or **22.9%**, of the 1,972 state senate seats and **1,427**, or **26.4%**, of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.

In 2018, of the **348** state legislators holding leadership positions¹ nationwide, **68**, or **19.5%**, are women. Women hold **30**, or **18.5%**, of the **162** leadership positions in state senates and **38**, or **20.4%**, of the **186** leadership positions in state houses. Women hold leadership positions in **23** state senates and in **25** state houses; in **15** 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	68	348	19.5	30	162	18.5	38	186	20.4
D	48	152	31.6	21	67	31.3	27	85	31.8
R	20	195	10.3	9	94	9.6	11	101	10.9
NP ²	0	1	0.0	0	1	0.0	--	--	--

In 2018, **three** women serve as senate presidents and **ten** women serve as senate presidents pro tempore; **six** women serve as speakers, and **twelve** serve as speakers pro tempore of state houses. **Eighteen** women of color hold leadership positions. There are six black women (Beatty, Henry, Jones, Stapleton, Stewart-Cousins, and Winters), eight Latina women (Adams, Benitez-Thompson, Cruz, Duran, Flores, Nuñez, Rios, and Ruiz), three Asian women (Belatti, Tupola, and Yee), and one multiracial woman (Kidani). Leadership positions are listed below with first year of service.

Senate Presidents 3 (1D, 2R)

KS Susan Wagle (R) 2013
 MA Karen Spilka (D) 2018
 MN Michelle Fischbach (R) 2011-2013; 2017

Senate Presidents Pro Tempore 10 (6D, 4R)

CA* Toni Atkins (D) 2018
 FL Anitere Flores (R) 2017
 HI Michelle N. Kidani (D) 2017
 MI* Tonya Schuitmaker (R) 2011
 NH Sharon M. Carson (R) 2015
 NJ M. Teresa Ruiz (D) 2018
 NM* Mary Kay Papen (D) 2013
 OR Laurie Monnes Anderson (D) 2017
 WA* Karen Keiser (D) 2018
 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 12 (8D, 4R)

CO Jesse Danielson (D) 2017
 CT* Linda M. Gentile (D) 2015
 CT* Linda A. Orange (D) 2009
 CT* Michelle Cook (D) 2018
 DE Helene Keeley (D) 2015
 FL Jeanette Nuñez (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
 NH Barbara J. Griffin (R) 2018
 NC Sarah Stevens (R) 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	Cynthia Stone Creem (D) 2018
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	Patricia Bates (R) 2018
ID	Michelle Stennett (D) 2013
IA	Janet Petersen (D) 2018
MO	Gina Walsh (D) 2017
ND	Joan Heckaman (D) 2017
NY	Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D) 2013
OR	Jackie Winters (R) 2018
WI	Jennifer Shilling (D) 2015

House Majority Leader 10 (9D, 1R)

CO	KC Becker (D) 2017
DE	Valerie Longhurst (D) 2013
HI	Della Au Belatti (D) 2018
IL	Barbara Flynn Currie (D) 2005
ME	Erin D. Herbig (D) 2017
MN	Joyce Peppin (R) 2015
NV	Teresa Benitez-Thompson (D) 2017
NM	Sheryl W. Stapleton (D) 2017
OR	Jennifer A. Williamson (D) 2015
VT	Jill Krowiniski (D) 2017

House Minority Leader 10 (6D, 4R)

AK	Charisse Millett (R) 2017
AZ	Rebecca Rios (D) 2017
CT	Themis Klarides (R) 2017
FL	Janet Cruz (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

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>
Oregon	62.5	Colorado	37.5
Vermont	50.0	Florida	37.5
Delaware	42.9	Massachusetts	37.5
Hawaii	42.9	Minnesota	37.5
Arizona	37.5		

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

Fifteen states have no women (0%) in leadership positions: AL, AR, IN, KY, LA, MS, NE, OH, 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.

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

Senate

House

State	Rank ¹	Total Leaders Who are Women		Majority Party	Women Leaders/ All Leaders		Majority Party	Women Leaders/ All Leaders	
		#	%		#	%		#	%
AK	10	2/6	33.3%	R	1/3	33.3%	D	1/3	33.3%
AL	36	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
AR	36	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
AZ	6	3/8	37.5%	R	2/4	50.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
CA	13	2/7	28.6%	D	2/3	66.7%	D	0/4	0.0%
CO	6	3/8	37.5%	R	0/4	0.0%	D	3/4	75.0%
CT	13	4/14	28.6%	D	0/3	0.0%	D	4/11	36.4%
DE	3	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	24	1/7	14.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
HI	3	3/7	42.9%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	2/4	50.0%
IA	18	2/8	25.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
ID	21	1/6	16.7%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	0/3	0.0%
IL	24	1/7	14.3%	D	0/4	0.0%	D	1/3	33.3%
IN	36	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
KS	29	1/8	12.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
KY	36	0/8	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
LA	36	0/4	0.0%	R	0/2	0.0%	R	0/2	0.0%
MA	6	3/8	37.5%	D	2/4	50.0%	D	1/4	25.0%
MD	29	1/8	12.5%	D	0/4	0.0%	D	1/4	25.0%
ME	10	2/6	33.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	D	2/3	66.7%
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%
MO	13	2/7	28.6%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	1/4	25.0%
MS	36	0/3	0.0%	R	0/1	0.0%	R	0/2	0.0%
MT	29	1/8	12.5%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
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%
NE	36	0/1	0.0%	NP	0/1	0.0%	UNICAMERAL		
NH	18	2/8	25.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
NJ	18	2/8	25.0%	D	2/4	50.0%	D	0/4	0.0%
NM	10	2/6	33.3%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	1/3	33.3%
NV	13	2/7	28.6%	D	0/3	0.0%	D	2/4	50.0%
NY	24	1/7	14.3%	R	1/3	33.3%	D	0/4	0.0%
OH	36	0/8	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
OK	36	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
OR	1	5/8	62.5%	D	3/4	75.0%	D	2/4	50.0%
PA	36	0/6	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%
RI	29	1/8	12.5%	D	0/4	0.0%	D	1/4	25.0%
SC	36	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
SD	36	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	36	0/3	0.0%	R	0/1	0.0%	R	0/2	0.0%
UT	36	0/6	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%
VA	36	0/6	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%
VT	2	3/6	50.0%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	2/3	66.7%
WA	13	2/7	28.6%	D	2/3	66.7%	D	0/4	0.0%
WI	29	1/8	12.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
WV	29	1/8	12.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
WY	29	1/8	12.5%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
TOTALS		68/348	19.5%		30/162	18.15		38/186	20.4%

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 36.

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