

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP 2021

In 2021, **2,280**, or **30.9%** of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold **560**, or **28.4%**, of the 1,972 state senate seats and **1,720**, or **31.8%**, of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.

In 2021, of the **350** state legislators holding leadership positions¹ nationwide, **90**, or **25.7%**, are women. Women hold **39**, or **24.1%**, of the **162** leadership positions in state senates and **51**, or **27.1%**, of the **188** leadership positions in state houses. Women hold leadership positions in **31** state senates and in **32** state houses; in **9** 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	90	350	25.7	39	162	24.1	51	188	27.1
D	67	158	42.4	30	71	42.3	37	87	42.5
R	23	190	12.1	9	89	10.1	14	101	13.9
I/NP ²	0	2	0.0	0	2	0.0	0	0	--

In 2021, **two** women serve as senate presidents and **thirteen** women serve as senate presidents pro tempore; **seven** women serve as speakers, and **twelve** serve as speakers pro tempore of state houses. **Twenty-three** women of color hold leadership positions. There are thirteen Black women (Butler, Camper, Griffith, Herring, Jones, Lightford, Lucas, McClinton, Peoples-Stokes, Sample-Hughes, Stapleton, Stewart-Cousins³, and Sykes), six Latina women (Benavidez, Benitez-Thompson, Gomez-Reyes, Gonzalez, Rios, and Ruiz), one Asian woman (Belatti), and two multiracial women (Kidani, Okimoto). Leadership positions are listed below with first year of service.

Senate Presidents 2 (1D, 1R)

AZ Karen Fann (R) 2019
MA Karen Spilka (D) 2018

Senate Presidents Pro Tempore 13 (10D, 3R)

CA* Toni Atkins (D) 2018
CO Kerry Donovan (D) 2021
HI Michelle N. Kidani (D) 2017
LA Beth Mizell (R) 2020
MD Melony G. Griffith (D) 2020
NH Sharon M. Carson (R) 2021
NJ M. Teresa Ruiz (D) 2018
NM* Mimi Stewart (D) 2021
NY³ Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D) 2019
VA* Louise Lucas (D) 2020
VT* Rebecca Balint (D) 2021
WA* Karen Keiser (D) 2018
WV* Donna J. Boley (R) 2015

Speakers of the House 7 (6D, 1R)

AK Louise Stutes (R) 2021
MD Adrienne Jones (D) 2019
MN Melissa Hortman (D) 2019
OR Tina Kotek (D) 2007-2011; 2013
VA Eileen Filler-Corn (D) 2020
VT Jill Krowinski (D) 2021
WA Laurie Jinkins (D) 2020

Speakers Pro Tempore 12 (8D, 4R)

CO Adrienne Benavidez (D) 2021
CT* Michelle Cook (D) 2018
CT* Minnie Gonzalez (D) 2021
CT* Mary Mushinsky (D) 2020
GA Jan Jones (R) 2011
MA Kate Hogan (D) 2021
MD Sheree L. Sample-Hughes (D) 2019
MI Pamela Hornberger (R) 2021
MN Liz Olson (D) 2019
NC Sarah Stevens (R) 2017
NH Kimberly Rice (R) 2021
WA Tina Orwall (D) 2021

¹In these states, president pro tempore is the top leadership post held by a senator, the lieutenant governor serves as senate president.

²In CT and MN there are multiple speakers pro tempore.

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP (continued)

Senate Majority Leader 13 (8D, 5R)

AK	Shelley Hughes (R) 2021
FL	Debbie Mayfield (R) 2021
IL	Kimberly Lightford (D) 2019
MA	Cynthia Stone Creem (D) 2018
MD	Nancy J. King (D) 2020
ME	Eloise Vitelli (D) 2021
NC	Kathy Harrington (R) 2021
NJ	Loretta Weinberg (D) 2012
NV	Nicole Cannizzaro (D) 2019
NY ³	Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D) 2019
OK	Kim David (R) 2019
PA	Kim Ward (R) 2021
VT	Alison Clarkson (D) 2021

Senate Minority Leader 11 (11D)

AZ	Rebecca Rios (D) 2021
GA	Gloria Butler (D) 2021
ID	Michelle Stennett (D) 2013
KS	Dinah Sykes (D) 2021
MN	Susan Kent (D) 2020
MT	Jill Cohenour (D) 2021
ND	Joan Heckaman (D) 2017
NH	Donna Soucy (D) 2021
OK	Kay Floyd (D) 2019
UT	Karen Mayne (D) 2019
WI	Janet Bewley (D) 2020

House Majority Leader 14 (12D, 2R)

CA	Eloise Gomez Reyes (D) 2021
CO	Daneya Esgar (D) 2021
DE	Valerie Longhurst (D) 2013
HI	Della Au Belatti (D) 2018
MA	Claire D. Cronin (D) 2021
ME	Michelle Dunphy (D) 2021
MT	Sue Vinton (R) 2021
NM	Sheryl W. Stapleton (D) 2017
NV	Teresa Benitez-Thompson (D) 2017
NY	Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes (D) 2019
OR	Barbara Smith Warner (D) 2019
VA	Charniele Herring (D) 2020
VT	Emily Ling (D) 2021
WV	Amy Summers (R) 2019

House Minority Leader 18 (11D, 7R)

AK	Cathy Tilton (R) 2021
AR	Tippi McCullough (D) 2021
CA	Marie Waldron (R) 2019
HI	Val Okimoto (R) 2021
ID	Ilana Rubel (D) 2020
KY	Joni L. Jenkins (D) 2020
ME	Kathleen R.J. Dillingham (R) 2019
MI	Donna Lasinski (D) 2021
MO	Crystal Quade (D) 2019
MT	Kim Abbott (D) 2021
NV	Robin Titus (R) 2021
OH	Emilia Sykes (D) 2019
OK	Emily Virgin (D) 2019
OR	Christine Drazan (R) 2019
PA	Joanna McClinton (D) 2021
TN	Karen Camper (D) 2019
VT	Patricia McCoy (R) 2019
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>
Vermont	83.3		California	42.9
Alaska	50.0		Nevada	42.9
Massachusetts	50.0		New York	42.9
Maryland	50.0		Oklahoma	42.9
Maine	50.0		Washington	42.9
Virginia	50.0			

- Of the top states for women leaders, MD, ME, NV, and VT also rank in the top ten for the percentages of women serving in their legislatures.
- Nine states have no women (0%) in leadership positions: AL, IA, IN, MS, NE, RI, SC, SD, TX.
- Of the worst states for women leaders, AL, MS, and SC ranked among the ten states with the lowest percentages of women in their state legislatures.

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. Alaska has a Speaker of the House who is an Independent.

³In New York, the Senate President also serves as the Senate Majority Leader.

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP (continued)

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) was the first Latina to serve as a House Speaker, serving from 2017 to 2019. In 2013, Tina Kotek (D-OR) became the country's first openly lesbian state House speaker.

Women in State Legislative Leadership Summary by State

State	Rank ¹	Total Leaders		Majority Party	Senate		Majority Party	House	
		Who are Women			Women Leaders/ All Leaders			Women Leaders/ All Leaders	
		#	%		#	%		#	%
AK	2	3/6	50.0%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	2/3	66.7%
AL	42	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
AR	33	1/7	14.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
AZ	24	2/8	25.0%	R	2/4	50.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
CA	7	3/7	42.9%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	2/4	50.0%
CO	12	3/8	37.5%	D	1/4	25.0%	D	2/4	50.0%
CT	28	3/17	17.6%	D	0/3	0.0%	D	3/14	21.4%
DE	29	1/6	16.7%	D	0/3	0.0%	D	1/3	33.3%
FL	36	1/8	12.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
GA	22	2/7	28.6%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	1/4	25.0%
HI	12	3/8	37.5%	D	1/4	25.0%	D	2/4	50.0%
IA	42	0/8	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
ID	18	2/6	33.3%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	1/3	33.3%
IL	29	1/6	16.7%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	0/3	0.0%
IN	42	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
KS	36	1/8	12.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
KY	36	1/8	12.5%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
LA	24	1/4	25.0%	R	1/2	50.0%	R	0/2	0.0%
MA	2	4/8	50.0%	D	2/4	50.0%	D	2/4	50.0%
MD	2	4/8	50.0%	D	2/4	50.0%	D	2/4	50.0%
ME	2	3/6	50.0%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	2/3	66.7%
MI	18	2/6	33.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	2/3	66.7%
MN	12	3/8	37.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	D	2/4	50.0%
MO	33	1/7	14.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
MS	42	0/3	0.0%	R	0/1	0.0%	R	0/2	0.0%
MT	12	3/8	37.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	2/4	50.0%
NC	22	2/7	28.6%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	1/4	25.0%
ND	29	1/6	16.7%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	0/3	0.0%
NE	42	0/1	0.0%	NP	0/1	0.0%	UNICAMERAL		
NH	12	3/8	37.5%	D	2/4	50.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
NJ	24	2/8	25.0%	D	2/4	50.0%	D	0/4	0.0%
NM	18	2/6	33.3%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	1/3	33.3%
NV	7	3/7	42.9%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	2/4	50.0%
NY	7	3/7	42.9%	D	2/3	66.7%	D	1/4	25.0%
OH	36	1/8	12.5%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
OK	7	3/7	42.9%	R	2/3	66.7%	R	1/4	25.0%

Women in State Legislative Leadership (continued)

OR	12	3/8	37.5%	D	0/4	0.0%	D	3/4	75.0%
PA	18	2/6	33.3%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	1/3	75.0%
RI	42	/8	0.0%	D	0/4	0.0%	D	0/4	33.3%
SC	42	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
SD	42	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%
TN	33	1/7	14.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	1/4	0.0%
TX	42	0/3	0.0%	R	0/1	0.0%	R	0/2	25.0%
UT	29	1/6	16.7%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	0/3	0.0%
VA	2	3/6	50.0%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	2/3	0.0%
VT	1	5/6	83.3%	D	2/3	66.7%	D	3/3	66.7%
WA	7	3/7	42.9%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	2/4	100.0%
WI	36	1/8	12.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	0/4	50.0%
WV	24	2/8	25.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	1/4	0.0%
WY	36	1/8	12.5%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%
TOTALS		90/350	25.7		39/162	24.1		51/188	27.1

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 30.

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