

WOMEN STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2017¹

In August 2017, 1,844, or 25.0%, of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold **444 (254D, 175R, 14 nonpartisans, 1 Independent)**, or **22.5%**, of the 1,972 state senate seats and **1,400 (860D, 532R, 3 Independent, 4 Progressive, 1WFP)**, or **25.9%**, of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats.

In August 2017, of the 2,257 state legislators chairing standing committees nationwide, **483**, or **21.4%**, are women. Women hold 219, or 21.9%, of the 1,002 committee chair positions in state senates and 264, or 21.0%, of the 1,255 committee chair positions in state houses. Women chair committees in 48 state senates and in 44 state houses.

The **party breakdown** for women chairing standing committees is:

	Total Legislature			State Senate			State House		
	Total Women	Total Comm. Chairs	Percent Women	Total Women	Total Comm. Chairs	Percent Women	Total Women	Total Comm. Chairs	Percent Women
Total	483	2,257	21.4	219	1,002	21.9	264	1,255	21.0
D	255	805	31.7	96	319	30.1	159	486	32.7
R	225	1432	15.7	120	666	18.0	105	766	13.7
NP ²	3	14	21.4	3	14	21.4	--	--	--

The 10 states with the **highest percentages** of women committee chairs (senate and house combined) are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
Nevada	47.6	Oregon	37.8
Vermont	45.5	Washington	37.1
Illinois	44.0	New Mexico	34.8
Maryland	40.8	Arizona	32.0
Colorado	38.5	Alaska	31.0

AZ, CO, IL, MD, NV, OR, VT and WA also rank among the ten states with the highest percentages of women serving in their state legislatures.

The 10 states with the **lowest percentages** of women committee chairs (senate and house combined) are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
Wyoming	0.0	South Carolina	7.1
Virginia	3.8	Ohio	7.9
Tennessee	4.0	Indiana	9.1
Alabama	5.0	Montana	9.4
Iowa	5.7	Georgia	10.9

AL, SC, TN and WY also rank among the ten states with the lowest percentages of women serving in their state legislatures.

¹ Chairs and co-chairs of all senate, house, and joint standing committees are included in these figures, as are chairs and co-chairs of joint statutory committees and joint commissions as listed in *State Legislative Leadership, Committees & Staff 2017*, Council of State Governments, Lexington, Kentucky, 2017. Chairs and co-chairs of central staff services committees are not included. Members of senates chairing joint committees are counted as senate committee chairs, and members of houses chairing joint committees are counted as house committee chairs. The total number of committee chairs includes six vacancies.

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

2017 State Legislative Committee Chairs

State	Rank ¹	-- Senate and House Combined --		Majority Party	-- Senate --		Majority Party	-- House --	
		Women Leaders/ Total Leaders			Women Leaders/ Total Leaders			Women Leaders/ Total Leaders	
		#	%		#	%		#	%
AK	10	9/29	31.0%	R	5/14	35.7%	R	4/15	26.7%
AL	47	2/40	5.0%	R	0/17	0.0%	R	2/23	8.7%
AR	29	7/37	18.9%	R	5/18	27.8%	R	2/19	10.5%
AZ	9	8/25	32.0%	R	5/10	50.0%	R	3/15	20.0%
CA	22	15/62	24.2%	D	6/26	23.1%	D	9/36	25.0%
CO	5	10/26	38.5%	R	3/13	23.1%	D	7/13	53.8%
CT	15	21/76	27.6%	D	13/50	26.0%	D	8/26	30.8%
DE	13	13/46	28.3%	D	3/19	15.8%	D	10/27	37.0%
FL	18	8/31	25.8%	R	8/19	42.1%	R	0/12	0.0%
GA	41	7/64	10.9%	R	2/27	7.4%	R	5/37	13.5%
HI	19	9/35	25.7%	D	6/15	40.0%	D	3/20	15.0%
IA	46	2/35	5.7%	R	1/16	6.3%	R	1/19	5.3%
ID	17	9/34	26.5%	R	4/15	26.7%	R	5/19	26.3%
IL	3	37/84	44.0%	D	10/27	37.0%	D	27/57	47.4%
IN	43	4/44	9.1%	R	3/23	13.0%	R	1/21	4.8%
KS	27	11/54	20.4%	R	9/19	47.4%	R	2/35	5.7%
KY	30	6/34	17.6%	R	2/15	13.3%	R	4/19	21.1%
LA	37	4/33	12.1%	R	2/17	11.8%	R	2/16	12.5%
MA	12	24/80	30.0%	D	15/40	37.5%	D	9/40	22.5%
MD	4	20/49	40.8%	D	8/25	32.0%	D	12/24	50.0%
ME	24	10/46	21.7%	R	4/23	17.4%	D	6/23	26.1%
MI	31	8/47	17.0%	R	2/22	9.1%	R	6/25	24.0%
MN	11	14/46	30.4%	R	7/22	31.8%	R	7/24	29.2%
MO	28	11/58	19.0%	R	2/26	7.7%	R	9/32	28.1%
MS	40	10/86	11.6%	R	5/39	12.8%	R	5/47	10.6%
MT	42	3/32	9.4%	R	2/16	12.5%	R	1/16	6.3%
NC	32	23/147	15.6%	R	9/48	18.8%	R	14/99	14.1%
ND	38	3/25	12.0%	R	3/11	27.3%	R	0/14	0.0%
NE	25	3/14	21.4%	NP	3/14	21.4%	U N I C A M E R A L		
NH	21	9/37	24.3%	R	4/13	30.8%	R	5/24	20.8%
NJ	20	10/41	24.4%	D	4/16	25.0%	D	6/25	24.0%
NM	8	8/23	34.8%	D	2/9	22.2%	D	6/14	42.9%
NV	1	10/21	47.6%	D	5/10	50.0%	D	5/11	45.5%
NY	16	19/71	26.8%	R	8/34	23.5%	D	11/37	29.7%
OH	44	3/38	7.9%	R	1/15	6.7%	R	2/23	8.7%
OK	36	5/39	12.8%	R	1/13	7.7%	R	4/26	15.4%
OR	6	17/45	37.8%	D	5/21	23.8%	D	12/24	50.0%
PA	39	11/94	11.7%	R	8/44	18.2%	R	3/50	6.0%
RI	14	7/25	28.0%	D	4/12	33.3%	D	3/13	23.1%
SC	45	2/28	7.1%	R	1/15	6.7%	R	1/13	7.7%
SD	23	6/26	23.1%	R	3/13	23.1%	R	3/13	23.1%
TN	48	1/25	4.0%	R	1/10	10.0%	R	0/15	0.0%
TX	26	11/52	21.2%	R	4/14	28.6%	R	7/38	18.4%
UT	35	5/33	15.2%	R	3/14	21.4%	R	2/19	10.5%
VA	49	1/26	3.8%	R	1/12	8.3%	R	0/14	0.0%
VT	2	15/33	45.5%	D	5/16	31.3%	D	10/17	58.8%
WA	7	13/35	37.1%	R	5/15	33.3%	D	8/20	40.0%
WI	34	13/85	15.3%	R	5/31	16.1%	R	8/54	14.8%
WV	33	6/39	15.4%	R	2/18	11.1%	R	4/21	19.0%
WY	50	0/22	0.0%	R	0/11	0.0%	R	0/11	0.0%
TOTALS		483/2257	21.4%		219/1002	21.9%		264/1255	21.0%

¹ Rank is for standing committee chairs only and is based on combined senate and house figures. States with the exact same percentages are given the same rank.