

Election 2000: Summary of Women Candidates

The 2000 elections will result in new record numbers of women in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, as well as an all-time high number of women serving as governors of states. However, it appears that the number of women in state legislatures will actually decline slightly for the first time since CAWP began tracking the number of women serving.

U.S. Senate

A record number of women will serve in the Senate beginning in 2001. The Senate will have 13 women (10D, 3R).

This figure includes newly-elected Democratic Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), as well as Jean Carnahan (D-MO) who was appointed to the Senate seat won by her late husband, effective January 3, 2001. Clinton won an open seat, while Cantwell and Stabenow defeated incumbents.

They joined three incumbents re-elected in 2000 - Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) - and six incumbents who did not face elections in 2000.

Every woman who earned a major party nomination for the Senate in 2000 won in the general election.

Three states will have 2 women each in the U.S. Senate (CA, ME, WA).

U.S. House

A record number of women serve in the House in the 107th Congress. As a result of the 2000 elections, the House includes 59 women (41D, 18R), as well as two women who are non-voting delegates from the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The newcomers to the House are: Democrats Hilda Solis (CA) and Betty McCollum (MN) who won open seats; and Susan Davis (CA) and Jane Harman (CA), who defeated incumbents; and Republicans Melissa Hart (PA), Shelley Moore Capito (WV) and JoAnn Davis (VA), all of whom won open seats.

In addition, all 52 incumbents who ran for re-election were victors.

Three states will send their first Republican women to Congress. The women are Melissa Hart (R-PA), Joann Davis (R-VA) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

Governors

The total number of women governors serving in 2001 is now 4, although until late January it was a record 5. New Hampshire's Governor Jeanne Shaheen (D) won re-election and women won gubernatorial races in Delaware (Ruth Ann Minner, D) and Montana (Judy Martz, R). They joined incumbents Christine Todd Whitman (R-NJ) and Jane Dee Hull (R-AZ) to make up the largest group of women ever serving as governors at one time. Whitman subsequently resigned to become EPA administrator in the Bush administration.

In addition, Sila Calderón of the PPD (Popular Democratic Party) will serve as the first woman governor of Puerto Rico, which is a U.S. territory.

Other Statewide Elective Executive Offices

Women will also hold the following statewide elective executive offices in 2001:

Lieutenant Governor 17 (7D, 9R, 1IP)	Commissioner of Insurance 2 (1D, 1R)
Attorney General 8 (5D, 3R)	Commissioner of Labor 2 (2R)
Secretary of State 13 (6D, 7R)	Corporation Commissioner 1 (1R)
State Treasurer (plus one elected by the state legislature) 11 (7D, 4R)	Public Service Commissioner 3 (2D, 1R)
State Auditor 6 (4D, 2R)	Public Utilities Commissioner 2 (1D, 1R)
State Comptroller/Controller 4 (2D, 2R)	Public Regulatory Commissioner 2 (2D)
Chief State Education Official (title varies from state to state) 10 (4D, 4R, 2NP)	Chief Agricultural Official (title varies from state to state) 3 (2D, 1R)
Commissioner of Elections 1 (1R)	

State Legislatures

The total number of women candidates for state legislatures in 2000 was 2,229. Of those, preliminary counts show that 1,387 won their races. Added to the 269 holdovers and several post-election changes (due to resignations and deaths), they will make up a total of 1,663 women in state legislatures in 2001, or 22.4% of the total.

This will be a drop from the 2000 figure of 1,672 (22.5%). Washington will continue to be the state with the highest proportion of women, and Alabama the lowest.

The states with the highest proportions of women state legislators in 2001 will be:

Washington 38.8%	Oregon 33.3%
Colorado 35.0%	New Mexico 31.3%
Nevada 34.9%	Maine 30.1%
Arizona 34.4%	New Hampshire 29.5%
Kansas 33.3%	Connecticut 29.4%

The states with the lowest proportions of women state legislators in 2001 will be:

Alabama 7.9%	Arkansas 13.3%
Oklahoma 10.1%	Pennsylvania 13.4%
South Carolina 10.6%	South Dakota 15.2%
Kentucky 10.9%	Wyoming 15.6%
Mississippi 12.6%	New Jersey 15.8%