

WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2003*

CONGRESS, STATEWIDE, STATE LEGISLATURE

CONGRESSWOMEN — 18 (17D, 1R)

Of the 73 women serving in the 108th U.S. Congress, 18, or 24.7%, are women of color; in addition, an African American woman and a Caribbean American woman serve as Delegates to the House from Washington, DC and the Virgin Islands, respectively. Women of color constitute 3.4% of the total 535 members of Congress.

African American (11)

Representative Corrine Brown (D-FL)
Representative Julia M. Carson (D-IN)
Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH)
Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Representative Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI)
Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Representative Denise Majette (D-GA)
Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA)
Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)
Representative Diane E. Watson (D-CA)

Latina (7)

Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
Representative Linda Sanchez (D-CA)
Representative Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
Representative Hilda Solis (D-CA)
Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)

DELEGATES

African American (1)

Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)

Caribbean American (1)

Delegate Donna Christian-Christensen (D-VI)

STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVES — 5 (3D, 1R, INP**)

Of the 81 women serving in statewide elective executive offices, 5, or 6.2%, are women of color. In addition, Sila Calderón, a Latina, serves as governor of Puerto Rico. Women of color constitute 1.6% of the total 316 statewide elective executives.

African American (2)

Jennette Bradley (R-OH), Lieutenant Governor
Denise Nappier (D-CT), State Treasurer

Latina (3)

Susan Castillo (NP** -OR), Superintendent of Public Instruction
Patricia Madrid (D-NM), Attorney General
Rebecca Vigil-Giron (D-NM), Secretary of State

STATE LEGISLATORS — 300 (282D, 18R)

Of the 1,654 women state legislators serving nationwide, 300 or 18.1% are women of color. They include 83 senators and 217 representatives; all but 18 are Democrats. Women of color constitute 4.1% of the total 7,382 state legislators.

African American women hold 209 (204D, 5R) seats in state legislatures. They include 56 senators and 153 representatives serving in 37 states.

Asian American/Pacific Islander women hold 23 (18D, 5R) seats in state legislatures. They include 7 senators and 16 representatives serving in 7 states (CA, HI, IA, MD, MN, TX, WA).

Latinas hold 59 (52D, 7R) seats in state legislatures. They include 19 senators and 40 representatives serving in 14 states (AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, IL, MA, MD, NJ, NM, NV, NY, TX, WA).

Native American women hold 9 (8D, 1R) seats in state legislatures. They include one senator and 8 representatives in 4 states (AK, AZ, CO, MT). In addition, one woman in ME was elected as a non-voting member representing the Penobscot Nation.

* We use "women of color" when referring to African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Caribbean American, Latina, and Native American women as a group. We understand that both the terms "women of color" and "minority women" are problematic, but know of no preferable inclusive term.

** NP= election was nonpartisan.

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