

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP 2019

In 2019, **2,129**, or **28.8%** of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold **510**, or **25.9%**, of the 1,972 state senate seats and **1,619**, or **29.9%**, of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.

In 2019, of the **352** state legislators holding leadership positions¹ nationwide, **77**, or **21.9%**, are women. Women hold **38**, or **23.6%**, of the **161** leadership positions in state senates and **39**, or **20.4%**, of the **191** leadership positions in state houses. Women hold leadership positions in **29** state senates and in **28** state houses; in **12** 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 <u>Women</u>	Total <u>Leadership</u>	Percent <u>Women</u>	Total <u>Women</u>	Total <u>Leadership</u>	Percent <u>Women</u>	Total <u>Women</u>	Total <u>Leadership</u>	Percent <u>Women</u>
Total	77	352	21.9	38	161	23.6	39	191	20.4
D	58	163	35.6	28	72	38.9	30	91	33.0
R	19	187	10.2	10	88	11.4	9	99	9.1
I/NP ²	0	2	0.0	0	1	0.0	0	1	--

In 2019, **five** women serve as senate presidents and **twelve** women serve as senate presidents pro tempore; **seven** women serve as speakers, and **eleven** serve as speakers pro tempore of state houses. **Fourteen** women of color hold leadership positions. There are nine Black women (Buckner, Camper, Gibson, Jones, Lightford, Peoples-Stokes, Stapleton, Stewart-Cousins³, and Sykes), three Latina women (Benitez-Thompson, Fernandez, and Ruiz), one Asian woman (Belatti), and one multiracial woman (Kidani). Leadership positions are listed below with first year of service.

Senate Presidents 5 (2D, 3R)

AK Cathy Giessel (R) 2019
AZ Karen Fann (R) 2019
KS Susan Wagle (R) 2013
MA Karen Spilka (D) 2018
NH Donna Soucy (D) 2019

Senate Presidents Pro Tempore 12 (10D, 2R)

CA* Toni Atkins (D) 2018
CO Lois Court (D) 2019
HI Michelle N. Kidani (D) 2017
MD Katherine Klausmeier (D) 2019
MN Mary Kiffmeyer (R) 2019
NH Martha Fuller Clark (D) 2009-2010; 2019
NJ M. Teresa Ruiz (D) 2018
NM* Mary Kay Papen (D) 2013
NY³ Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D) 2019
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 7 (6D, 1R)

CO KC Becker (D) 2019
IA Linda L. Upmeyer (R) 2016
ME Sara Gideon (D) 2017
MD Adrienne Jones (D) 2019
MN Melissa Hortman (D) 2019
OR Tina Kotek (D) 2007-2011; 2013
VT Mitzi Johnson (D) 2017

Speakers Pro Tempore 11 (8D, 3R)

CO Janet Buckner (D) 2019
CT* Linda A. Orange (D) 2009
CT* Michelle Cook (D) 2018
FL MaryLynn Magar (R) 2019
GA Jan Jones (R) 2011
MA Patricia A. Haddad (D) 2011-2014; 2016
MN Jeanne Poppe (D) 2019
MN Liz Olson (D) 2019
MN Laurie Halverson (D) 2019
NH Lucy Weber (D) 2019
NC Sarah Stevens (R) 2017

**In CT and MN there are multiple speakers pro tempore*

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP (continued)

Senate Majority Leader 12 (8D, 4R)

AK	Mia Costello (R) 2019
DE	Nicole Poore (D) 2019
FL	Kathleen Passidomo (R) 2019
IL	Kimberly Lightford (D) 2019
MA	Cynthia Stone Creem (D) 2018
NJ	Loretta Weinberg (D) 2012
NV	Nicole Cannizzaro (D) 2019
NY ³	Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D) 2019
OK	Kim David (R) 2019
OR	GINNY BURDICK (D) 2015
SD	Kris Langer (R) 2019
VT	Rebecca Balint (D) 2017

Senate Minority Leader 9 (8D, 1R)

CA	Patricia Bates (R) 2018
FL	Audrey Gibson (D) 2019
IA	Janet Petersen (D) 2018
ID	Michelle Stennett (D) 2013
MO	Gina Walsh (D) 2017
ND	Joan Heckaman (D) 2017
OK	Kay Floyd (D) 2019
UT	Karen Mayne (D) 2019
WI	Jennifer Shilling (D) 2015

House Majority Leader 9 (8D, 1R)

DE	Valerie Longhurst (D) 2013
HI	Della Au Belatti (D) 2018
MD	Kathleen Dumais (D) 2019
NM	Sheryl W. Stapleton (D) 2017
NV	Teresa Benitez-Thompson (D) 2017
NY	Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes (D) 2019
OR	Jennifer A. Williamson (D) 2015
VT	Jill Krowiniski (D) 2017
WV	Amy Summers (R) 2019

House Minority Leader 12 (8D, 4R)

AZ	Charlene R. Fernandez (D) 2019
CA	Marie Waldron (R) 2019
CT	Themis Klarides (R) 2017
ME	Kathleen R.J. Dillingham (R) 2019
MI	Christine Greig (D) 2019
MO	Crystal Quade (D) 2019
OH	Emilia Sykes (D) 2019
OK	Emily Virgin (D) 2019
TN	Karen Camper (D) 2019
VA	Eileen Filler-Corn (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	66.7	Colorado	37.5
Oregon	50.0	Florida	37.5
California	42.9	Massachusetts	37.5
New York	42.9	Maryland	37.5
Oklahoma	42.9	New Hampshire	37.5
Minnesota	38.5		

Of the top states for women leaders, CO, MD, OR, and VT also rank in the top ten for the percentages of women serving in their legislatures. Twelve states have no women (0%) in leadership positions: AL, AR, IN, KY, LA, MS, MT, NE, PA, RI, SC, TX.

Of the worst states for women leaders, AL, KY, LA, MS, 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) 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.

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

State	Rank ¹	Senate					House			
		Total Leaders Who are Women		Majority Party	Women Leaders/ All Leaders		Majority Party	Women Leaders/ All Leaders		
		#	%		#	%		#	%	
AK	12	2/6	33.3%	R	2/3	66.7%	Split	0/3	0.0%	
AL	39	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	
AR	39	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	
AZ	19	2/8	25.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	
CA	3	3/7	42.9%	D	2/3	66.7%	D	1/4	25.0%	
CO	7	3/8	37.5%	D	1/4	25.0%	D	2/4	50.0%	
CT	23	3/14	21.4%	D	0/3	0.0%	D	3/11	27.3%	
DE	15	2/7	28.6%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	1/4	25.0%	
FL	7	3/8	37.5%	R	2/4	50.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	
GA	30	1/7	14.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	
HI	15	2/7	28.6%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	1/4	25.0%	
IA	19	2/8	25.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	
ID	24	1/6	16.7%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	
IL	24	1/6	16.7%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	0/3	0.0%	
IN	39	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	
KS	35	1/8	12.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	
KY	39	0/8	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	
LA	39	0/4	0.0%	R	0/2	0.0%	D	0/2	0.0%	
MA	7	3/8	37.5%	D	2/4	50.0%	D	1/4	25.0%	
MD	7	3/8	37.5%	D	1/4	25.0%	D	2/4	50.0%	
ME	12	2/6	33.3%	D	0/3	0.0%	D	2/3	66.7%	
MI	24	1/6	16.7%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	1/3	33.3%	
MN	6	5/13	38.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	D	4/9	44.4%	
MO	15	2/7	28.6%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	1/4	25.0%	
MS	39	0/3	0.0%	R	0/1	0.0%	R	0/2	0.0%	
MT	39	0/8	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	
NC	30	1/7	14.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	
ND	24	1/6	16.7%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	
NE	39	0/1	0.0%	NP	0/1	0.0%	UNICAMERAL			
NH	7	3/8	37.5%	D	2/4	50.0%	D	1/4	25.0%	
NJ	19	2/8	25.0%	D	2/4	50.0%	D	0/4	0.0%	
NM	12	2/6	33.3%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	1/3	33.3%	
NV	18	2/7	28.6%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	1/4	25.0%	
NY	3	3/7	42.9%	D	2/3	66.7%	D	1/4	25.0%	
OH	35	1/8	12.5%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	
OK	3	3/7	42.9%	R	2/3	66.7%	R	1/4	25.0%	
OR	2	4/8	50.0%	D	2/4	50.0%	D	2/4	50.0%	
PA	39	0/6	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	
RI	39	0/8	0.0%	D	0/4	0.0%	D	0/4	0.0%	
SC	39	0/7	0.0%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	
SD	30	1/7	14.3%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	0/4	0.0%	
TN	30	1/7	14.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	
TX	39	0/3	0.0%	R	0/1	0.0%	R	0/2	0.0%	
UT	24	1/6	16.7%	R	1/3	33.3%	R	0/3	0.0%	
VA	24	1/6	16.7%	R	0/3	0.0%	R	1/3	33.3%	
VT	1	4/6	66.7%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	3/3	100.0%	
WA	30	1/7	14.3%	D	1/3	33.3%	D	0/4	0.0%	
WI	35	1/8	12.5%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	0/4	0.0%	
WV	19	2/8	25.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	
WY	35	1/8	12.5%	R	0/4	0.0%	R	1/4	25.0%	
TOTALS		77/352	21.9%		38/161	23.6%		39/191	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 30.

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