

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP 2020

In 2020, **2,151**, or **29.1%** of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold **516**, or **26.2%**, of the 1,972 state senate seats and **1,635**, or **30.2%**, of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.

In 2020, of the **352** state legislators holding leadership positions¹ nationwide, **84**, or **23.9%**, are women. Women hold **41**, or **28.0%**, of the **161** leadership positions in state senates and **43**, or **22.5%**, of the **191** leadership positions in state houses. Women hold leadership positions in **31** state senates and in **30** 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 | 84 | 352 | 23.9 | 41 | 161 | 25.5 | 43 | 191 | 22.5 |
| D | 64 | 165 | 38.8 | 30 | 74 | 40.5 | 34 | 91 | 37.4 |
| R | 20 | 185 | 10.8 | 11 | 86 | 12.8 | 9 | 99 | 9.1 |
| I/NP ² | 0 | 2 | 0.0 | 0 | 1 | 0.0 | 0 | 1 | -- |

In 2020, **five** women serve as senate presidents and **fifteen** women serve as senate presidents pro tempore; **eight** women serve as speakers, and **twelve** serve as speakers pro tempore of state houses. **Nineteen** women of color hold leadership positions. There are thirteen Black women (Buckner, Camper, Gibson, Griffith, Herring, Jones, Lightford, Lucas, Peoples-Stokes, Sample-Hughes, 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 15 (11D, 4R)

- CA* Toni Atkins (D) 2018
- CO Nancy Todd (D) 2020
- HI Michelle N. Kidani (D) 2017
- LA Beth Mizell (R) 2020
- MD Melony G. Griffith (D) 2020
- 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
- TX* Joan Huffman (R) 2019
- VA* Louise Lucas (D) 2020
- 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 8 (8D)

- CO KC Becker (D) 2019
- MD Adrienne Jones (D) 2019
- ME Sara Gideon (D) 2017
- MN Melissa Hortman (D) 2019
- OR Tina Kotek (D) 2007-2011; 2013
- VA Eileen Filler-Corn (D) 2020
- VT Mitzi Johnson (D) 2017
- WA Laurie Jenkins (D) 2020

Speakers Pro Tempore 12 (9D, 3R)

- CO Janet Buckner (D) 2019
- CT* Michelle Cook (D) 2018
- CT* Mary Mushinsky (D) 2020
- FL MaryLynn Magar (R) 2019
- GA Jan Jones (R) 2011
- MA Patricia A. Haddad (D) 2011-2014; 2016
- MD Sheree L. Sample-Hughes (D) 2019
- MN Jeanne Poppe (D) 2019
- MN Liz Olson (D) 2019
- MN Laurie Halverson (D) 2019
- NC Sarah Stevens (R) 2017
- NH Lucy Weber (D) 2019

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

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP (continued)

Senate Majority Leader 12 (9D, 3R)

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| DE | Nicole Poore (D) 2019 |
| FL | Kathleen Passidomo (R) 2019 |
| IL | Kimberly Lightford (D) 2019 |
| MA | Cynthia Stone Creem (D) 2018 |
| MD | Nancy J. King (D) 2020 |
| 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 | Shannon Grove (R) 2019 |
| FL | Audrey Gibson (D) 2019 |
| IA | Janet Petersen (D) 2018 |
| ID | Michelle Stennett (D) 2013 |
| MN | Susan Kent (D) 2020 |
| ND | Joan Heckaman (D) 2017 |
| OK | Kay Floyd (D) 2019 |
| UT | Karen Mayne (D) 2019 |
| WI | Janet Bewley (D) 2020 |

House Majority Leader 9 (8D, 1R)

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| DE | Valerie Longhurst (D) 2013 |
| HI | Della Au Belatti (D) 2018 |
| 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 | Jill Krowiniski (D) 2017 |
| WV | Amy Summers (R) 2019 |

House Minority Leader 14 (8D, 4R)

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| AZ | Charlene R. Fernandez (D) 2019 |
| CA | Marie Waldron (R) 2019 |
| CT | Themis Klarides (R) 2017 |
| ID | Ilana Rubel (D) 2020 |
| KY | Joni L. Jenkins (D) 2020 |
| 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 |
| OR | Christine Drazan (R) 2019 |
| 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 | 66.7 | | New York | 42.9 |
| Oregon | 62.5 | | Oklahoma | 42.9 |
| Maryland | 50.0 | | Colorado | 37.5 |
| Virginia | 50.0 | | Florida | 37.5 |
| Minnesota | 46.2 | | Massachusetts | 37.5 |
| California | 42.9 | | New Hampshire | 37.5 |

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.

Nine states have no women (0%) in leadership positions: AL, AR, IN, MS, MT, NE, PA, RI, SC.

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 | 26 | 1/6 | 16.7% | R | 1/3 | 33.3% | Split | 0/3 | 0.0% |
| AL | 42 | 0/7 | 0.0% | R | 0/3 | 0.0% | R | 0/4 | 0.0% |
| AR | 42 | 0/7 | 0.0% | R | 0/3 | 0.0% | R | 0/4 | 0.0% |
| AZ | 21 | 2/8 | 25.0% | R | 1/4 | 25.0% | R | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| CA | 6 | 3/7 | 42.9% | D | 2/3 | 66.7% | D | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| CO | 9 | 3/8 | 37.5% | D | 1/4 | 25.0% | D | 2/4 | 50.0% |
| CT | 25 | 3/14 | 21.4% | D | 0/3 | 0.0% | D | 3/11 | 27.3% |
| DE | 17 | 2/7 | 28.6% | D | 1/3 | 33.3% | D | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| FL | 9 | 3/8 | 37.5% | R | 2/4 | 50.0% | R | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| GA | 31 | 1/7 | 14.3% | R | 0/3 | 0.0% | R | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| HI | 17 | 2/7 | 28.6% | D | 1/3 | 33.3% | D | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| IA | 36 | 1/8 | 12.5% | R | 1/4 | 25.0% | R | 0/4 | 0.0% |
| ID | 13 | 2/6 | 33.3% | R | 1/3 | 33.3% | R | 1/3 | 33.3% |
| IL | 26 | 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 | 21 | 1/4 | 25.0% | R | 1/2 | 50.0% | D | 0/2 | 0.0% |
| MA | 9 | 3/8 | 37.5% | D | 2/4 | 50.0% | D | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| MD | 3 | 4/8 | 50.0% | D | 2/4 | 50.0% | D | 2/4 | 50.0% |
| ME | 13 | 2/6 | 33.3% | D | 0/3 | 0.0% | D | 2/3 | 66.7% |
| MI | 26 | 1/6 | 16.7% | R | 0/3 | 0.0% | R | 1/3 | 33.3% |
| MN | 5 | 6/13 | 46.2% | R | 2/4 | 50.0% | D | 4/9 | 44.4% |
| MO | 31 | 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 | 42 | 0/8 | 0.0% | R | 0/4 | 0.0% | R | 0/4 | 0.0% |
| NC | 31 | 1/7 | 14.3% | R | 0/3 | 0.0% | R | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| ND | 26 | 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 | 9 | 3/8 | 37.5% | D | 2/4 | 50.0% | D | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| NJ | 21 | 2/8 | 25.0% | D | 2/4 | 50.0% | D | 0/4 | 0.0% |
| NM | 13 | 2/6 | 33.3% | D | 1/3 | 33.3% | D | 1/3 | 33.3% |
| NV | 17 | 2/7 | 28.6% | D | 1/3 | 33.3% | D | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| NY | 6 | 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 | 6 | 3/7 | 42.9% | R | 2/3 | 66.7% | R | 1/4 | 25.0% |

Women in State Legislative Leadership (continued)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|---------------|--------------|---|---------------|--------------|---|---------------|--------------|
| OR | 2 | 5/8 | 62.5% | D | 2/4 | 50.0% | D | 3/4 | 75.0% |
| PA | 42 | 0/6 | 0.0% | R | 0/3 | 0.0% | R | 0/3 | 0.0% |
| RI | 42 | 0/8 | 0.0% | D | 0/4 | 0.0% | D | 0/4 | 0.0% |
| SC | 42 | 0/7 | 0.0% | R | 0/3 | 0.0% | R | 0/4 | 0.0% |
| SD | 31 | 1/7 | 14.3% | R | 1/3 | 33.3% | R | 0/4 | 0.0% |
| TN | 31 | 1/7 | 14.3% | R | 0/3 | 0.0% | R | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| TX | 13 | 1/3 | 33.3% | R | 1/1 | 100.0% | R | 0/2 | 0.0% |
| UT | 26 | 1/6 | 16.7% | R | 1/3 | 33.3% | R | 0/3 | 0.0% |
| VA | 3 | 3/6 | 50.0% | D | 1/3 | 33.3% | D | 2/3 | 66.7% |
| VT | 1 | 4/6 | 66.7% | D | 1/3 | 33.3% | D | 3/3 | 100.0% |
| WA | 17 | 2/7 | 28.6% | D | 1/3 | 33.3% | D | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| WI | 36 | 1/8 | 12.5% | R | 1/4 | 25.0% | R | 0/4 | 0.0% |
| WV | 21 | 2/8 | 25.0% | R | 1/4 | 25.0% | R | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| WY | 36 | 1/8 | 12.5% | R | 0/4 | 0.0% | R | 1/4 | 25.0% |
| TOTALS | | 84/352 | 23.9% | | 41/161 | 25.5% | | 43/191 | 22.5% |

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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