

## WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1992

In 1992, 1,375, or 18.4%, of the 7,461 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold 300, or 15.0%, of the 1,995 state senate seats and 1,075, or 19.7%, of the 5,466 state house or assembly seats. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quadrupled.

Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators
1969	301	4.0
1971	344	4.5
1973	424	5.6
1975	604	8.0
1977	688	9.1
1979	770	10.3
1981	908	12.1
1983	991	13.3
1985	1,103	14.8
1987	1,170	15.7
1989	1,270	17.0
1991	1,368	18.3
1992	1,375	18.4

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 1992 is:

	Total Legislatures		State Senates		State Houses	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	827	60.1	195	65.0	632	58.8
Republicans	539	39.2	96	32.0	443	41.2
Nonpartisans*	9	0.7	9	3.0	-----	-----
Total	1,375	100.0	300	100.0	1,075	100.0

The ten states with the highest percentages of women state legislators are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
Arizona	34.4	New Hampshire	30.9
Washington	32.7	Idaho	28.6
Maine	32.3	Hawaii	27.6
Vermont	31.1	Kansas	27.3
Colorado	31.0	South Dakota	24.8

The ten states with the lowest percentages of women state legislators are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
Alabama	5.7	Oklahoma	8.7
Kentucky	5.8	Pennsylvania	9.5
Mississippi	6.9	Tennessee	11.4
Louisiana	6.9	Utah	11.5
Arkansas	7.4	Virginia	12.1

Four women currently hold the highest ranking legislative leadership positions in state senates: Senate President Pro Tempore Ellen Craswell (R-WA); Senate President Pro Tempore Bonnie Heinrich (D-ND); Senate President Pro Tempore Jean Lloyd-Jones (D-IA); and Senate President Gwen Margolis (D-FL). This is a record number of women to serve in top senate posts. Two women serve as speakers of houses: Representative Jane Hull (R-AZ) and Representative Dee Long (DFL-MN).

In 1894, the first women state legislators were elected to serve in the United States. Three Republican women were elected to the Colorado House of Representatives: Clara Cressingham; Carrie C. Holly; Frances Klock. The first woman state senator, Democrat Martha Hughes Canon, was elected to the Utah State Senate in 1896.\*\*

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

\*\*Utah Governor's Commission for Women.

A note to users of our fact sheets: Please credit the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

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STATE	STATE RANK	SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL
		D	R		D	R			
AL	50	0	1	1/35	7	0	7/105	8/140	5.7
AK	15	1	3	4/20	5	5	10/ 40	14/ 60	23.3
AZ	1	4	4	8/30	10	13	23/ 60	31/ 90	34.4
AR	46	1	0	1/35	7	2	9/100	10/135	7.4
CA	25	3	2	5/40	10	7	17/ 80	22/120	18.3
CO	5	3	5	8/35	11	12	23/ 65	31/100	31.0
CT	16	4	3	7/36	21	15	36/151	43/187	23.0
DE	37	3	1	4/21	1	3	4/ 41	8/ 62	12.9
FL	21	8	2	10/40	11	9	20/120	30/160	18.8
GA	34	2	1	3/56	25	6	31/180	34/236	14.4
HI	8	6	1	7/25	11	3	14/ 51	21/ 76	27.6
ID	7	10	2	12/42	10	14	24/ 84	36/126	28.6
IL	22	6	6	12/59	11	10	21/118	33/177	18.6
IN	26	7	5	12/50	7	7	14/100	26/150	17.3
IA	32	4	2	6/50	11	5	16/100	22/150	14.7
KS	9	5	4	9/40	18	18	36/125	45/165	27.3
KY	49	1	0	1/38	3	4	7/100	8/138	5.8
LA	47	1	0	1/39	7	2	9/105	10/144	6.9
ME	3	6	6	12/35	33	15	48/151	60/186	32.3
MD	14	9	0	9/47	30	5	35/141	44/188	23.4
MA	23	3	3	6/40	23	8	31/160	37/200	18.5
MI	30	2	1	3/38	10	9	19/110	22/148	14.9
MN	17 <sup>+</sup>	9	5	14/67	17	11	28/134	42/201	20.9
MS	48	2	1	3/52	8	1	9/122	12/174	6.9
MO	28	1	1	2/34	21	8	29/163	31/197	15.7
MT	19	7	1	8/50	18	5	23/100	31/150	20.7
NE	24	NONPARTISAN		9/49	UNICAMERAL		9/ 49		18.4
NV	20	2	2	4/21	6	2	8/ 42	12/ 63	19.0
NH	6	4	3	7/24	45	79	124/400	131/424	30.9
NJ	40	1	1	2/40	2	11	13/ 80	15/120	12.5
NM	35	3	1	4/42	7	5	12/ 70	16/112	14.3
NY	38	5	1	6/61	17	4	21/150	27/211	12.8
NC	31	4	1	5/50	13	7	20/120	25/170	14.7
ND	33	3	3	6/53	8	9	17/106	23/159	14.5
OH	29	1	3	4/33	12	4	16/ 99	20/132	15.2
OK	45	5	0	5/48	5	3	8/101	13/149	8.7
OR	12	6	1	7/30	9	6	15/ 60	22/ 90	24.4
PA	44	3	1	4/50	9	11	20/203	24/253	9.5
RI	27	7	2	9/50	11	5	16/100	25/150	16.7
SC	36	1	1	2/46	13	7	20/124	22/170	12.9
SD	10	9	2	11/35	5	10	15/ 70	26/105	24.8
TN	43	2	1	3/33	5	7	12/ 99	15/132	11.4
TX	39	3	1	4/31	13	6	19/150	23/181	12.7
UT	42	2	1	3/29	4	5	9/ 75	12/104	11.5
VT	4	7	0	7/30	27	22	49/150	56/180	31.1
VA	41	3	1	4/40	10	3	13/100	17/140	12.1
WA	2	7	5	12/49	23	13	36/ 98	48/147	32.7
WV	17 <sup>+</sup>	5	1	6/34	16	6	22/100	28/134	20.9
WI	13	1	4	5/33	19	8	27/ 99	32/132	24.2
WY	11	3	0	3/30	7	13	20/ 64	23/ 94	24.5
TOTALS		195	96	300/1,995	632	443	1,075/5,466	1,375/7,461	18.4

(9 nonpartisans)

<sup>+</sup>States with the same percentage are given the same rank