

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1993

In 1993, 1,524, or 20.5% of the 7,424 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold 342, or 17.2%, of the 1,984 state senate seats and 1,182, or 21.7%, of the 5,440 state house or assembly seats. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has increased five-fold.

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
1993	1,524	20.5

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 1993 is:

	Total Legislators		State Senators		State Reps.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	926	60.8	210	61.4	716	60.6
Republicans	587	38.5	121	35.4	466	39.4
Nonpartisans*	10	0.7	10	2.9	----	----
Independents	1	0.1	1	0.3	----	----
Total	1,524	100.1	342	100.0	1,182	100.0

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Washington	39.5	Maine	31.7
Arizona	35.6	Idaho	30.5
Colorado	35.0	Kansas	29.1
Vermont	33.9	Oregon	27.8
New Hampshire	33.5	Minnesota	27.4

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Kentucky	4.3	Pennsylvania	9.9
Alabama	5.0	Mississippi	10.9
Louisiana	7.6	Tennessee	12.1
Oklahoma	9.4	Virginia	12.1
Arkansas	9.6	New Jersey	12.5

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.

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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	49	1	1	2/35	5	0	5/105	7/140	5.0
AK	21	3	1	4/20	5	4	9/40	13/60	21.7
AZ	2	3	6	9/30	9	14	23/60	32/90	35.6
AR	46	1	0	1/35	10	2	12/100	13/135	9.6
CA	18	2	3 (1 ind)	6/40	18	4	22/80	28/120	23.3
CO	3	3	5	8/35	16	11	27/65	35/100	35.0
CT	13	4	4	8/36	27	12	39/151	47/187	25.1
DE	38	2	1	3/21	2	4	6/41	9/62	14.5
FL	31	4	2	6/40	16	6	22/120	28/160	17.5
GA	32	4	2	6/56	23	12	35/180	41/236	17.4
HI	17	5	1	6/25	10	2	12/51	18/76	23.7
ID	7	6	3	9/35	6	17	23/70	32/105	30.5
IL	19	5	6	11/59	15	15	30/118	41/177	23.2
IN	28	7	6	13/50	7	9	16/100	29/150	19.3
IA	37	4	2	6/50	8	8	16/100	22/150	14.7
KS	8	3	11	14/40	19	15	34/125	48/165	29.1
KY	50	1	0	1/38	3	2	5/100	6/138	4.3
LA	48	1	0	1/39	8	2	10/105	11/144	7.6
ME	6	7	4	11/35	36	12	48/151	59/186	31.7
MD	16	10	0	10/47	30	5	35/141	45/188	23.9
MA	20	7	2	9/40	25	12	37/160	46/200	23.0
MI	24	2	1	3/38	15	12	27/110	30/148	20.3
MN	10	12	8	20/67	25	10	35/134	55/201	27.4
MS	44	3	1	4/52	13	2	15/122	19/174	10.9
MO	29	0	1	1/34	22	14	36/163	37/197	18.8
MT	25 ⁺	7	2	9/50	13	8	21/100	30/150	20.0
NE	23	NONPARTISAN		10/49	UNICAMERAL		10/49	10/49	20.4
NV	12	3	2	5/21	9	3	12/42	17/63	27.0
NH	5	6	3	9/24	59	74	133/400	142/424	33.5
NJ	41	1	0	1/40	2	12	14/80	15/120	12.5
NM	27	6	2	8/42	9	5	14/70	22/112	19.6
NY	33	7	1	8/61	21	6	27/150	35/211	16.6
NC	30	6	1	7/50	15	9	24/120	31/170	18.2
ND	35	5	3	8/49	8	8	16/98	24/147	16.3
OH	22	1	4	5/33	13	10	23/99	28/132	21.2
OK	47	5	1	6/48	5	3	8/101	14/149	9.4
OR	9	7	1	8/30	11	6	17/60	25/90	27.8
PA	45	3	1	4/50	11	10	21/203	25/253	9.9
RI	14	9	2	11/50	18	8	26/100	37/150	24.7
SC	40	2	1	3/46	10	9	19/124	22/170	12.9
SD	25 ⁺	6	1	7/35	3	11	14/70	21/105	20.0
TN	43	2	1	3/33	8	5	13/99	16/132	12.1
TX	36	2	2	4/31	18	7	25/150	29/181	16.0
UT	39	1	1	2/29	4	8	12/75	14/104	13.5
VT	4	7	4	11/30	34	16	50/150	61/180	33.9
VA	42	3	1	4/40	10	3	13/100	17/140	12.1
WA	1	14	4	18/49	26	14	40/98	58/147	39.5
WV	34	4	1	5/34	14	3	17/100	22/134	16.4
WI	11	2	7	9/33	16	11	27/99	36/132	27.3
WY	15	1	4	5/30	6	11	17/60	22/90	24.4
TOTALS		210	121	342/1,984	716	466	1,182/5,440	1,524/7,424	20.5

(10 nonpartisans)

(1 independent)

+ States with the same exact percentage (MT & SD) are given the same rank. States which round out to the same figure (TN & VA), but are not exactly the same, are ranked differently.