

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1994

In 1994, 1,547, or 20.8% of the 7,424 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold 351, or 17.7%, of the 1,984 state senate seats and 1,196, or 22.0%, 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
1994	1,547	20.8

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 1994 is:

	Total Legislators		State Senators		State Reps.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	952	61.5	217	61.8	735	61.5
Republicans	582	37.6	122	34.8	460	38.5
Nonpartisans	11	0.7	11	3.1	---	---
Independents**	2	0.1	1	0.3	1	0.1
Total	1,547	99.9	351	100.0	1,196	100.1

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Washington	40.1	Maine	31.7
Colorado	35.0	Idaho	29.5
Arizona***	33.3	Kansas	28.5
Vermont***	33.3	Wisconsin	27.3
New Hampshire***	33.3	Minnesota	26.9

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Alabama	5.7	Arkansas***	11.1
Kentucky	5.8	Virginia	11.4
Oklahoma	8.7	Mississippi	11.5
Louisiana	9.0	New Jersey	11.7
Pennsylvania***	11.1	Tennessee	12.1

In 1994, no women legislators serve as senate presidents. Representative Ramona Barnes (R-AK) is the only woman serving as speaker of a state house. Including Representative Barnes, in the history of the United States, two women legislators have served as senate presidents and eight as speakers of a state house.

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. Hoily; 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.

**One Democratic incumbent California State Senator ran as an independent in 1992; one candidate ran on the Liberal Party ticket for the New York Assembly in a 1994 special election.

***States with the same exact percentage (AZ & VT) are given the same rank (3). Since there is a tie, there is no fourth rank. States which round out to the same figure (AZ/VT & NH; AR & PA), but are not exactly the same are ranked differently. Rankings for these states are: AZ/VT = 3; NH = 5; AR = 45; and PA = 46.

****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	1	1	2/35	6	0	6/105	8/140	5.7
AK	23	3	1	4/20	5	4	9/40	13/60	21.7
AZ	3 ⁺	3	6	9/30	9	12	21/60	30/90	33.3
AR	45	1	0	1/35	11	3	14/100	15/135	11.1
CA	19	2	2 (1 ind)	5/40	19	5	24/80	29/120	24.2
CO	2	4	5	9/35	15	11	26/65	35/100	35.0
CT	11	4	4	8/36	29	12	41/151	49/187	26.2
DE	36	3	1	4/21	2	4	6/41	10/62	16.1
FL	31	4	2	6/40	17	6	23/120	29/160	18.1
GA	33	4	2	6/56	23	12	35/180	41/236	17.4
HI	14	7	1	8/25	9	2	11/51	19/76	25.0
ID	7	6	3	9/35	5	17	22/70	31/105	29.5
IL	20	6	6	12/59	15	14	29/118	41/177	23.2
IN	29	7	6	13/50	7	9	16/100	29/150	19.3
IA	38	4	3	7/50	8	8	16/100	23/150	15.3
KS	8	3	11	14/40	19	14	33/125	47/165	28.5
KY	49	1	0	1/38	5	2	7/100	8/138	5.8
LA	47	1	0	1/39	10	2	12/105	13/144	9.0
ME	6	7	4	11/35	37	11	48/151	59/186	31.7
MD	16	10	0	10/47	31	5	36/141	46/188	24.5
MA	21	7	2	9/40	25	11	36/160	45/200	22.5
MI	25	2	1	3/38	16	12	28/110	31/148	20.9
MN	10	12	8	20/67	24	10	34/134	54/201	26.9
MS	43	3	1	4/52	14	2	16/122	20/174	11.5
MO	26	1	1	2/34	24	14	38/163	40/197	20.3
MT	24	8	2	10/50	14	8	22/100	32/150	21.3
NE	22	NONPARTISAN		11/49	UNICAMERAL			11/49	22.4
NV	13	3	2	5/21	8	3	11/42	16/63	25.4
NH	5	6	3	9/24	58	74	132/400	141/424	33.3
NJ	42	1	0	1/40	4	9	13/80	14/120	11.7
NM	28	6	2	8/42	9	5	14/70	22/112	19.6
NY	30	7	1	8/61	22	8 (1 Lib)	31/150	39/211	18.5
NC	32	6	1	7/50	15	8	23/120	30/170	17.6
ND	37	5	3	8/49	8	7	15/98	23/147	15.6
OH	18	2	5	7/33	15	10	25/99	32/132	24.2
OK	48	5	1	6/48	4	3	7/101	13/149	8.7
OR	12	6	1	7/30	10	6	16/60	23/90	25.6
PA	46	3	1	4/50	14	10	24/203	28/253	11.1
RI	15	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	27	6	1	7/35	3	11	14/70	21/105	20.0
TN	41	2	1	3/33	8	5	13/99	16/132	12.1
TX	35	2	2	4/31	19	8	27/150	31/181	17.1
UT	39	1	1	2/29	4	9	13/75	15/104	14.4
VT	3 ⁺	7	4	11/30	33	16	49/150	60/180	33.3
VA	44	3	1	4/40	9	3	12/100	16/140	11.4
WA	1	11	4	18/40	28	13	41/98	59/147	40.1
WV	34	4	1	5/34	15	3	18/100	23/134	17.2
WI	9	2	7	9/33	16	11	27/99	36/132	27.3
WY	17	1	4	5/30	6	11	17/60	22/90	24.4
TOTALS		217	122	351/1,984	735	460	1,196/5,440	1,547/7,424	20.8
		(11 nonpartisans)			(1 Liberal)				
		(1 independent)							

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