

## WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1999

In 1999, **1,664**, or **22.4%** of the 7,424 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold **388**, or **19.6%**, of the 1,984 state senate seats and **1,276**, or **23.5%**, of the 5,440 state house or assembly seats. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has increased more than five-fold.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Women Legislators</u>	<u>% of Total Legislators</u>
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
1993	1,524	20.5
1995	1,532	20.6
1996	1,539	20.7
1997	1,605	21.6
1998	1,617	21.8
<b>1999</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>22.4</b>

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 1999 is:

	<u>Total Legislators</u>		<u>State Senators</u>		<u>State Reps.</u>	
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Democrats	997	59.9	235	60.6	763	59.8
Republicans	652	39.2	140	36.1	511	40.0
Nonpartisans*	12	0.7	12	3.1	---	---
Independents	3	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
Washington	40.8	New Hampshire	31.8
Nevada	36.5	Vermont	31.7
Arizona	35.6	Oregon	30.0
Colorado	34.0	Connecticut	29.4
Kansas	33.3	Maryland	29.3

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

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
Alabama	7.9	Pennsylvania	12.6
Oklahoma	10.1	South Dakota	13.3
South Carolina	11.2	Louisiana	13.9
Kentucky	11.6	Arkansas	14.8
Mississippi	12.1	Virginia	15.7

Arkansas's state senate is the only legislative body that has no women.

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 Cannon, was elected to the Utah State Senate in 1896.\*\*

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

\*\* Source: 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	50	2	1	3/35	6	2	8/105	11/140	7.9
AK	33	1	2	3/20	3	5	8/40	11/60	18.3
AZ	3	4	3	7/30	9	16	25/60	32/90	35.6
AR	42	0	0	0/35	16	4	20/100	20/135	14.8
CA	15	9	1	10/40	16	4 (1 ind)	21/80	31/120	25.8
CO	4	5	7	12/35	10	12	22/65	34/100	34.0
CT	9	5	4	9/36	33	13	46/151	55/187	29.4
DE	22	3	3	6/21	2	7	9/41	15/62	24.2
FL	23	3	4	7/40	20	11	31/120	38/160	23.8
GA	32	8	1	9/56	24	11	35/180	44/236	18.6
HI	25	5	0	5/25	7	5	12/51	17/76	22.4
ID	18	2	4	6/35	5	15	20/70	26/105	24.8
IL	16	5	7	12/59	19	14	33/118	45/177	25.4
IN	35	7	6	13/50	7	7	14/100	27/150	18.0
IA	27	4	7	11/50	10	11	21/100	32/150	21.3
KS	5	4	10	14/40	17	24	41/125	55/165	33.3
KY	47	0	4	4/38	10	2	12/100	16/138	11.6
LA	43	2	0	2/39	14	4	18/105	20/144	13.9
ME**	12	12	3 (1 ind)	16/35	22	13 (1 ind)	36/151	52/186	28.0
MD	10	7	2	9/47	37	9	46/141	55/188	29.3
MA	14	9	1	10/40	33	9	42/160	52/200	26.0
MI	21	2	3	5/38	18	13	31/110	36/148	24.3
MN	11	14	8	22/67	20	15	35/134	57/201	28.4
MS	46	3	0	3/52	14	4	18/122	21/174	12.1
MO	26	1	4	5/34	22	16	38/163	43/197	21.8
MT	19	8	0	8/50	18	11	29/100	37/150	24.7
NE	20	NONPARTISAN		12/49	UNICAMERAL		12/49	12/49	24.5
NV	2	4	1	5/21	12	6	18/42	23/63	36.5
NH	6	5	3	8/24	70	57	127/400	135/424	31.8
NJ	40	1	2	3/40	9	7	16/80	19/120	15.8
NM	13	7	3	10/42	10	11	21/70	31/112	27.7
NY	30	5	3	8/61	26	10	36/150	44/211	20.9
NC	34	5	2	7/50	12	12	24/120	31/170	18.2
ND*	37	3	3	6/49	10	10	20/98	26/147	17.7
OH*	28	3	2	5/33	10	13	23/99	28/132	21.2
OK	49	4	2	6/48	5	4	9/101	15/149	10.1
OR	8	6	2	8/30	11	8	19/60	27/90	30.0
PA	45	4	3	7/50	12	13	25/203	32/253	12.6
RI	17	9	2	11/50	22	5	27/100	38/150	25.3
SC	48	2	1	3/46	6	10	16/124	19/170	11.2
SD	44	1	4	5/35	4	5	9/70	14/105	13.3
TN	39	4	1	5/33	12	5	17/99	22/132	16.7
TX*	38	2	2	4/31	16	12	28/150	32/181	17.7
UT*	29	3	1	4/29	8	10	18/75	22/104	21.2
VT	7	9	1	10/30	34	13	47/150	57/180	31.7
VA	41	6	1	7/40	8	7	15/100	22/140	15.7
WA	1	18	5	23/49	22	15	37/98	60/147	40.8
WV	36	2	2	4/34	14	6	20/100	24/134	17.9
WI	24	4	7	11/33	10	10	20/99	31/132	23.5
WY	31	3	2	5/30	8	5	13/60	18/90	20.0
		235	140	388/1,984	763	511	1,276/5,440	1,664/7,424	22.4
		(12 nonpartisans)			(2 independent)				
		(1 independent)							

\* States with the exact same percentages would have the same rank. States which round out to the same figure (OH & UT; ND & TX), but are not exactly the same, are ranked differently.

\*\* In addition, one woman in Maine was elected in November 1997 as a non-voting member representing the Penobscot Nation.