

## WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2000

In 2000, **1,672**, or **22.5%** of the 7,424 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold **401**, or **30.2%**, of the 1,984 state senate seats and **1,271**, or **23.4%**, 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.

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
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
1999	1,664	22.4
2000	1,672	22.5

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 2000 is:

	Total Legislators		State Senators		State Reps.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	1,007	60.2	248	62.0	759	59.7
Republicans	650	38.9	139	34.8	511	40.2
Nonpartisans*	12	0.7	12	3.0	---	---
Independents	3	0.2	1	0.3	2	0.2
Total	1,672	100.0	400	100.1	1,272	100.1

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Washington	40.8	New Hampshire	31.8
Arizona	35.6	Vermont	31.7
Nevada	34.9	Oregon	30.0
Colorado	34.0	Connecticut	29.9
Kansas	32.7	Maryland	29.3

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Alabama	7.9	Pennsylvania	12.6
Oklahoma	10.1	South Dakota	14.3
South Carolina	10.6	Arkansas	15.6
Kentucky	11.6	New Jersey	15.8
Mississippi	12.6	Virginia	16.4

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 D	SENATE R	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE D	HOUSE R	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL
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	2	4	3	7/30	9	16	25/60	32/90	35.6
AR	43	0	2	2/35	15	4	19/100	21/135	15.6
CA	15	10	1	11/40	15	4 (1 ind)	20/80	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	14	47/151	56/187	29.9
DE	22	3	3	6/21	2	7	9/41	15/62	24.2
FL	23	3	4	7/40	21	11	32/120	39/160	24.4
GA	31	9	1	10/56	26	10	36/180	46/236	19.5
HI	25	5	0	5/25	7	5	12/51	17/76	22.4
ID	17	2	4	6/35	6	15	21/70	27/105	25.7
IL	16	6	6	12/59	18	14	32/118	44/177	24.9
IN	35	7	6	13/50	7	7	14/100	27/150	18.0
IA	29	4	7	11/50	9	11	20/100	31/150	20.7
KS	5	4	10	14/40	17	23	40/125	54/165	32.7
KY	47	0	4	4/38	10	2	12/100	16/138	11.6
LA	39	3	0	3/39	14	6	20/105	23/144	16.0
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	10	1	11/40	32	9	41/160	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	6	0	6/52	12	4	16/122	22/174	12.6
MO	26	2	4	6/34	22	16	38/163	44/197	22.3
MT	17	8	0	8/50	18	11	29/100	37/150	24.7
NE	20	<b>NONPARTISAN</b>		12/49	<b>UNICAMERAL</b>		12/49	24.5	
NV	3	4	1	5/21	11	6	17/42	22/63	34.9
NH	6	5	3	8/24	70	57	127/400	135/424	31.8
NJ	42	1	2	3/40	10	6	16/80	19/120	15.8
NM	13	7	3	10/42	10	11	21/70	31/112	27.7
NY	27	6	3	9/61	26	10	36/150	45/211	21.3
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*	30	3	2	5/33	10	12	22/99	27/132	20.5
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	19	9	2	11/50	22	4	26/100	37/150	24.7
SC	48	2	0	2/46	7	9	16/124	18/170	10.6
SD	44	1	4	5/35	4	6	10/70	15/105	14.3
TN	39	5	1	6/33	12	5	17/99	23/132	17.4
TX*	38	2	2	4/31	16	13	29/150	33/181	18.2
UT*	28	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	8	0	8/40	7	8	15/100	23/140	16.4
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	32	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5/30</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12/60</u>	<u>17/90</u>	<u>18.9</u>
		248	139	400/1,984	759	511	1,272/5,440	1,672/7,424	22.5
		(12 nonpartisans)			(2 independent)				
		(1 independent)							

\* States with the exact same percentages (ID & MT; LA & TN) would have the same rank. States which round out to the same figure (MS & PA; 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.