

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2001

In 2001, 1,666, or 22.4% of the 7,424 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold 398, or 20.1%, of the 1,984 state senate seats and 1,268, or 23.3%, 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	Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators
1969	301	4.0	1989	1,270	17.0
1971	344	4.5	1991	1,368	18.3
1973	424	5.6	1993	1,524	20.5
1975	604	8.0	1995	1,532	20.6
1977	688	9.1	1996	1,539	20.7
1979	770	10.3	1997	1,605	21.6
1981	908	12.1	1998	1,617	21.8
1983	991	13.3	1999	1,664	22.4
1985	1,103	14.8	2000	1,670	22.5
1987	1,170	15.7	2001	1,666	22.4

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 2001 is:

	Total Legislators		State Senators		State Reps.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	1,009	60.6	245	61.6	764	60.3
Republicans	645	38.7	142	35.7	503	39.7
Nonpartisans*	10	0.6	10	2.5	---	---
Progressives	1	0.1	---	---	1	0.1
Independents	1	0.1	1	0.3	---	---
Total	1,666	100.1	398	100.1	1,268	100.1

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Washington	38.8	Kansas	32.7
Arizona	35.6	New Mexico	30.4
Nevada	34.9	Maine	30.1
Colorado	34.0	Connecticut	29.9
Oregon	33.3	Maryland	29.3

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Alabama	7.9	Arkansas	13.3
Oklahoma	10.1	Pennsylvania	13.8
South Carolina	10.6	New Jersey	15.0
Kentucky	10.9	South Dakota	15.2
Mississippi	12.6	Wyoming	15.6

Women in State Legislative Leadership

Three women serve as presidents of state senates: Mary Kramer (R-IA); Karen K. Krebsbach (R-ND); and Rosa Franklin (D-WA). One woman is speaker of a state house: Moira K. Lyons (D-CT).

Women of Color in State Legislatures

Of the 1,666 women legislators serving nationwide, 267 or 16.0% are women of color. They include 74 senators and 193 representatives; all but 8 are Democrats. Women of color constitute 3.6% of the total 7,424 state legislators.

The First Women Legislators

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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WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2001

STATE	STATE RANK		SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL	
	D	R	D	R		D	R				
AL	50	2	1		3/35	6	2	8/105	11/140	7.9	
AK	32	2	1		3/20	4	5	9/40	12/60	20.0	
AZ	2	6	5		11/30	10	11	21/60	32/90	35.6	
AR	45	2	2		4/35	10	4	14/100	18/135	13.3	
CA	13	10	0		10/40	20	4	24/80	34/120	28.3	
CO	4	7	3		10/35	13	11	24/65	34/100	34.0	
CT	9	6	2		8/36	33	15	48/151	56/187	29.9	
DE	17	3	3		6/21	3	7	10/41	16/62	25.8	
FL	21	3	4		7/40	17	14	31/120	38/160	23.8	
GA	30	9	1		10/56	29	10	39/180	49/236	20.8	
HI	19	6	0		6/25	7	6	13/51	19/76	25.0	
ID	15	1	5		6/35	4	18	22/70	28/105	26.7	
IL	16	6	6		12/59	20	14	34/118	46/177	26.0	
IN	36	6	6		12/50	7	7	14/100	26/150	17.3	
IA*	27	3	8		11/50	12	10	22/100	33/150	22.0	
KS	6	3	10		13/40	19	22	41/125	54/165	32.7	
KY	47	0	4		4/38	9	2	11/100	15/138	10.9	
LA	38	3	0		3/39	14	6	20/105	23/144	16.0	
ME**	8	11	3 (1 ind)		15/35	28	13	41/151	56/186	30.1	
MD	10	7	2		9/47	37	9	46/141	55/188	29.3	
MA	18	11	1		12/40	32	7	39/160	51/200	25.5	
MI	26	3	3		6/38	15	12	27/110	33/148	22.3	
MN	12	12	11		23/67	22	13	35/134	58/201	28.9	
MS	46	6	0		6/52	12	4	16/122	22/174	12.6	
MO	24	1	4		5/34	25	15	40/163	45/197	22.8	
MT	20	7	1		8/50	15	13	28/100	36/150	24.0	
NE	31	NONPARTISAN			10/49	UNICAMERAL			10/49	20.4	
NV	3	4	1		5/21	11	6	17/42	22/63	34.9	
NH	11	5	2		7/24	69	48	117/400	124/424	29.2	
NJ	43	1	2		3/40	10	5	15/80	18/120	15.0	
NM	7	7	5		12/42	12	10	22/70	34/112	30.4	
NY	29	7	3		10/61	26	10	36/150	46/211	21.8	
NC*	33	4	1		5/50	14	13	27/120	32/170	18.8	
ND	37	3	3		6/49	7	12	19/98	25/147	17.0	
OH*	28	3	1		4/33	13	12	25/99	29/132	22.0	
OK	49	3	3		6/48	4	5	9/101	15/149	10.1	
OR	5	7	1		8/30	12	10	22/60	30/90	33.3	
PA	44	5	3		8/50	12	15	27/203	35/253	13.8	
RI	25	8	2		10/50	20	4	24/100	34/150	22.7	
SC	48	2	0		2/46	7	9	16/124	18/170	10.6	
SD	42	0	5		5/35	4	7	11/70	16/105	15.2	
TN	39	4	1		5/33	11	5	16/99	21/132	15.9	
TX*	34	2	2		4/31	16	14	30/150	34/181	18.8	
UT	23	4	2		6/29	9	9	18/75	24/104	23.1	
VT	14	8	1		9/30	25	15 (1 Prg)	41/150	50/180	27.8	
VA	40	7	0		7/40	7	8	15/100	22/140	15.7	
WA	1	17	6		23/49	21	13	34/98	57/147	38.8	
WV	35	2	3		5/34	17	3	20/100	25/134	18.7	
WI	22	3	7		10/33	10	11	21/99	31/132	23.5	
WY	41	3	2		5/30	4	5	9/60	14/90	15.6	
		245	142		398/1,984	764	503	1,268/5,440	1,666/7,424	22.4	
		(10 nonpartisans)			(1 Progressive)						
		(1 independent)									

* States with the exact same percentages would have the same rank. States which round out to the same figure (IA & OH; NC & 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.