

## WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2002

In 2002, 1,682, or 22.7% of the 7,424 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold 407, or 20.5%, of the 1,984 state senate seats and 1,275, 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.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Women Legislators</u>	<u>% of Total Legislators</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Women Legislators</u>	<u>% of Total Legislators</u>
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
1989	1,270	17.0	2002	1,682	22.7

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 2002 is:

	Total Legislators		State Senators		State Reps.	
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Democrats	1,020	60.6	252	61.9	768	60.2
Republicans	648	38.5	142	34.9	506	39.7
Nonpartisans*	10	0.6	10	2.5	---	---
Progressives	1	0.1	---	---	1	0.1
Independents	3	0.2	3	0.7	---	---
Total	1,682	100.0	407	100.0	1,275	100.0

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	38.8	Kansas	32.1
Arizona	35.6	Maryland	31.4
Nevada	34.9	Connecticut	30.5
Oregon	34.4	New Mexico	30.4
Colorado	34.0	Maine	29.6

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	Arkansas	14.1
Oklahoma	10.1	Pennsylvania	14.2
South Carolina	10.6	Louisiana	15.3
Kentucky	10.9	Wyoming	15.6
Mississippi	12.6	Virginia	15.7

### Women in State Legislative Leadership

One woman serves as president of a state senate: Mary Kramer (R-IA). One woman is speaker of a state house: Moira K. Lyons (D-CT).

### Women of Color in State Legislatures

Of the 1,682 women legislators serving nationwide, 277 or 16.5% are women of color. They include 78 senators and 199 representatives; all but 9 are Democrats. Women of color constitute 3.7% 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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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	35	2	1	3/20	4	4	8/40	11/60	18.3
AZ	2	6	5	11/30	10	11	21/60	32/90	35.6
AR	45	3	2	5/35	10	4	14/100	19/135	14.1
CA*	13	10	0	10/40	20	4	24/80	34/120	28.3
CO	5	7	3	10/35	13	11	24/65	34/100	34.0
CT	8	6	2	8/36	34	15	49/151	57/187	30.5
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	11	40/180	50/236	21.2
HI	19	6	0	6/25	7	6	13/51	19/76	25.0
ID	15	1	5	6/35	5	18	23/70	29/105	27.6
IL	16	6	6	12/59	20	15	35/118	47/177	26.6
IN	36	6	6	12/50	7	7	14/100	26/150	17.3
IA	28	4	7	11/50	13	9	22/100	33/150	22.0
KS	6	3	10	13/40	18	22	40/125	53/165	32.1
KY	47	0	4	4/38	9	2	11/100	15/138	10.9
LA	43	3	0	3/39	13	6	19/105	22/144	15.3
ME**	10	11	3 (1 ind)	15/35	27	13	40/151	55/186	29.6
MD	7	8	3	11/47	38	10	48/141	59/188	31.4
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	11	14	9 (2 IP)	25/67	21	13	34/134	59/201	29.4
MS	46	6	0	6/52	12	4	16/122	22/174	12.6
MO	23	2	4	6/34	25	15	40/163	46/197	23.4
MT	20	7	1	8/50	15	13	28/100	38/150	24.0
NE	31	NONPARTISAN		10/49	UNICAMERAL		10/49	10/49	20.4
NV	3	4	1	5/21	11	6	17/42	22/63	34.9
NH	12	5	2	7/24	69	48	117/400	124/424	29.2
NJ	40	3	2	5/40	10	4	14/80	19/120	15.8
NM	9	7	5	12/42	12	10	22/70	34/112	30.4
NY*	27	7	4	11/61	27	9	36/150	47/211	22.3
NC	32	5	1	6/50	14	14	28/120	34/170	20.0
ND	37	3	3	6/49	7	12	19/98	25/147	17.0
OH	28	2	1	3/33	14	12	26/99	29/132	22.0
OK	49	3	3	6/48	4	5	9/101	15/149	10.1
OR	4	7	1	8/30	14	9	23/60	31/90	34.4
PA	44	5	3	8/50	12	16	28/203	36/253	14.2
RI	25	8	2	10/50	20	4	24/100	34/150	22.7
SC	48	2	0	2/48	7	9	16/124	18/170	10.6
SD	38	0	6	6/35	4	7	11/70	17/105	16.2
TN	39	4	1	5/33	11	5	16/99	21/132	15.9
TX	33	2	2	4/31	16	15	31/150	35/181	19.3
UT	24	4	2	6/29	9	9	18/75	24/104	23.1
VT*	13	7	1	8/30	25	17 (1 Prg)	43/150	51/180	28.3
VA	41	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	34	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	42	3	2	5/30	4	5	9/60	14/90	15.6
		252	142	407/1,984	768	506	1,275/5,440	1,682/7,424	22.7
		(10 nonpartisans)			(1 Progressive)				
		(1 independent)							
		(2 Independence Party)							

\* States with the exact same percentages (CA & VT) would have the same rank. States which round out to the same figure (MI & NY), 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.