

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2009

In 2009, **1,797**, or **24.3%** of the 7,382 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold **433**, or **22.0%**, of the 1,971 state senate seats and **1,364**, or **25.2%**, of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.

Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators	Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators	Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators
1971	344	4.5	1989	1,270	17.0	2002	1,682	22.7
1973	424	5.6	1991	1,368	18.3	2003	1,654	22.4
1975	604	8.0	1993	1,524	20.5	2004	1,659	22.5
1977	688	9.1	1995	1,532	20.6	2005	1,674	22.7
1979	770	10.3	1997	1,605	21.6	2006	1,681	22.8
1981	908	12.1	1998	1,617	21.8	2007	1,732	23.5
1983	991	13.3	1999	1,664	22.4	2008	1,751	23.7
1985	1,103	14.8	2000	1,670	22.5	2009	1,797	24.3
1987	1,170	15.7	2001	1,666	22.4			

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 2009 is:

	Total Legislators		State Senators		State Reps.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	1,267	70.5	306	70.7	961	70.5
Republicans	516	28.7	117	27.0	399	29.3
Nonpartisans*	10	0.6	10	2.3	---	---
Progressives	4	0.2	---	---	4	0.3
Total	1,797	100.0	433	100.0	1,364	100.1

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
New Hampshire	37.5	Washington	32.7
Vermont	37.2	Nevada	31.7
Colorado	37.0	Connecticut	31.6
Minnesota	34.8	Arizona	31.1
Hawaii	32.9	Maryland	30.9

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
South Carolina	10.0	Kentucky	15.9
Oklahoma	11.4	Louisiana	16.0
Alabama	12.9	North Dakota	16.3
Mississippi	14.4	West Virginia	16.4
Pennsylvania	14.6	Wyoming	16.7

Women in State Legislative Leadership

Five women serve as presidents of senates: Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI), Elizabeth H. Mitchell (D-ME), Therese Murray (D-MA), Sylvia Larsen (D-NH), and M. Teresa Paiva-Weed (D-RI). Five women serve as speakers of state houses: Karen Bass (D-CA), Hannah Pingree (D-ME), Barbara Buckley (D-NV), Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-MN), and Terie Norelli (D-NH).

Women of Color in State Legislatures

Of the 1,797 women legislators serving nationwide, **350** or **19.5%** are women of color. They include 101 senators and 249 representatives; 330 are Democrats, 18 are Republicans and two are non-partisans. Women of color constitute 4.7% of the total 7,382 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 2009

STATE	STATE	SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOM./ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL
	RANK	D	R		D	R			
AL	48	4	1	5/35	10	3	13/105	18/140	12.9
AK	32	1	2	3/20	4	6	10/40	13/60	21.7
AZ	9	7	5	12/30	9	7	16/60	28/90	31.1
AR	28	4	2	6/35	16	9	25/100	31/135	23.0
CA	16	12	1	13/40	16	4	20/80	33/120	27.5
CO	3	11	1	12/35	19	6	25/65	37/100	37.0
CT	8	7	1	8/36	40	11	51/151	59/187	31.6
DE	21	5	3	8/21	5	3	8/41	16/62	25.8
FL	27	5	4	9/40	14	14	28/120	37/160	23.1
GA	38	7	1	8/56	27	11	38/180	46/236	19.5
HI	5	7	0	7/25	13	5	18/51	25/76	32.9
ID	23	3	5	8/35	11	7	18/70	26/105	24.8
IL	15	10	3	13/59	25	11	36/118	49/177	27.7
IN*	33	6	6	12/50	13	7	20/100	32/150	21.3
IA	26	6	3	9/50	20	6	26/100	35/150	23.3
KS	13	5	8	13/40	20	15	35/125	48/165	29.1
KY	45	3	4	7/38	11	4	15/100	22/138	15.9
LA	44	6	2	8/39	11	4	15/105	23/144	16.0
ME	14	6	2	8/35	36	10	46/151	54/186	29.0
MD	10	9	1	10/47	38	10	48/141	58/188	30.9
MA*	18	12	0	12/40	37	3	40/160	52/200	26.0
MI	22	6	3	9/38	22	6	28/110	37/148	25.0
MN	4	19	8	27/67	33	10	43/134	70/201	34.8
MS	47	3	1	4/52	17	4	21/122	25/174	14.4
MO*	33	5	3	8/34	25	9	34/163	42/197	21.3
MT*	18	8	2	10/50	23	6	29/100	39/150	26.0
NE	36	NONPARTISAN		10/49	UNICAMERAL		10/49	10/49	20.4
NV	7	6	1	7/21	11	2	13/42	20/63	31.7
NH	1	11	2	13/24	103	43	146/400	159/424	37.5
NJ	12	6	2	8/40	19	9	28/80	36/120	30.0
NM	11	8	3	11/42	13	10	23/70	34/112	30.4
NY	24	8	2	10/62	36	6	42/150	52/212	24.5
NC	20	4	2	6/50	26	12	38/120	44/170	25.9
ND	43	4	2	6/47	7	10	17/94	23/141	16.3
OH	35	5	2	7/33	16	5	21/99	28/132	21.2
OK	49	5	0	5/48	3	9	12/101	17/149	11.4
OR	17	8	1	9/30	12	3	15/60	24/90	26.7
PA	46	4	6	10/50	11	16	27/203	37/253	14.6
RI*	29	8	0	8/38	17	0	17/75	25/113	22.1
SC	50	0	0	0/46	9	8	17/124	17/170	10.0
SD	37	6	1	7/35	5	9	14/70	21/105	20.0
TN	39	4	4	8/33	11	5	16/99	24/132	18.2
TX	25	3	3	6/31	24	13	37/150	43/181	23.8
UT*	29	4	1	5/29	11	7	18/75	23/104	22.1
VT	2	9	1	10/30	42	11 (4 Prg)	57/150	67/180	37.2
VA	40	7	1	8/40	12	4	16/100	24/140	17.1
WA	6	13	6	19/49	21	8	29/98	48/147	32.7
WV	42	0	2	2/34	15	5	20/100	22/134	16.4
WI	31	4	3	7/33	16	6	22/99	29/132	22.0
WY	41	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2/30</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>13/60</u>	<u>15/90</u>	<u>16.7</u>
		306	117	433/1,971	961	399	1,364/5,411	1,797/7,382	24.3
		(10 nonpartisans)			(4 Progressives)				

* States share the same rank if their proportions of women legislators are exactly equal or round off to be equal (IN, MO; MA, MT; RI, UT).