

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2014

In 2014, 1,792, or 24.3% of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold 415, or 21.0%, of the 1,972 state senate seats and 1,377, or 25.4%, 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	1991	1,368	18.3	2004	1,659	22.5
1973	424	5.6	1993	1,524	20.5	2005	1,674	22.7
1975	604	8.0	1995	1,532	20.6	2006	1,681	22.8
1977	688	9.1	1997	1,605	21.6	2007	1,732	23.5
1979	770	10.3	1998	1,617	21.8	2008	1,751	23.7
1981	908	12.1	1999	1,664	22.4	2009	1,797	24.3
1983	991	13.3	2000	1,670	22.5	2010	1,809	24.5
1985	1,103	14.8	2001	1,666	22.4	2011	1,750	23.7
1987	1,170	15.7	2002	1,682	22.7	2012	1,752	23.7
1989	1,270	17.0	2003	1,654	22.4	2013	1,789	24.2
						2014	1,791	24.3

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 2014 is:

	Total Legislators		State Senators		State Reps.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	1,141	63.7	260	62.7	881	64.0
Republicans	640	35.7	144	34.8	496	36.0
Nonpartisans*	10	0.6	10	2.4	---	---
Independent	1	0.1	1	0.2	---	---
Total	1,792	100.1	415	100.0	1,377	100.0

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Colorado	41.0	Illinois	32.2
Vermont	39.4	Oregon	31.1
Arizona	35.6	New Jersey	30.8
Minnesota	33.8	Hawaii	30.3
New Hampshire	32.8	Maryland	30.3
Washington	32.7		

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Louisiana	12.5	Utah	16.3
South Carolina	12.9	West Virginia	16.4
Oklahoma	13.4	Tennessee	16.7
Alabama	14.3	Arkansas	17.0
Wyoming	15.6	Virginia	17.1

Women in State Legislative Leadership

Ten women serve as presidents of senates or as presidents pro tempore in states where that is the top senate leadership post: Morgan Carroll (D-CO), Patricia Blevins (D-DE), Donna Mercado Kim (D-HI), Pam Jochum (D-IA), Susan Wagle (R-KS), Therese Murray (D-MA), Sandra Pappas (DFL-MN), Tonya Schuitmaker (R-MI), Mary Kay Papen (D-NM), and M. Teresa Paiva-Weed (D-RI). Six women serve as speakers of state houses: Toni Atkins (D-CA), Marilyn Kirkpatrick (D-NV), Terie Norelli (D-NH), Tina Kotek (D-OR), Beth Harwell (R-TN), and Rebecca Lockhart (R-UT).

Women of Color in State Legislatures

Of the 1,792 women legislators serving nationwide, 377 or 21.0% are women of color. They include 96 senators and 281 representatives; 349 are Democrats, 27 are Republicans, and one is non-partisan. Women of color constitute 5.1% of the total 7,383 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 2014

STATE	STATE RANK	SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOM./ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL
		D	R		D	R			
AL	47	4	0(11)	5/35	9	6	15/105	20/140	14.3
AK*	17	1	3	4/20	2	10	12/40	16/60	26.7
AZ	3	7	6	13/30	11	8	19/60	32/90	35.6
AR	42	3	3	6/35	7	10	17/100	23/135	17.0
CA*	17	10	2	12/40	13	7	20/80	32/120	26.7
CO	1	11	2	13/35	18	10	28/65	41/100	41.0
CT	13	7	1	8/36	29	18	47/151	55/187	29.4
DE*	21	5	1	6/21	8	2	10/41	16/62	25.8
FL	23	6	6	12/40	16	13	29/120	41/160	25.6
GA	28	7	1	8/56	29	16	45/180	53/236	22.5
HI*	10	8	0	8/25	12	3	15/51	23/76	30.3
ID*	17	3	3	6/35	8	14	22/70	28/105	26.7
IL	7	11	4	15/59	32	10	42/118	57/177	32.2
IN*	33	3	5	8/50	13	10	23/100	31/150	20.7
IA	27	6	4	10/50	19	6	25/100	35/150	23.3
KS	24	4	9	13/40	16	13	29/125	42/165	25.5
KY	37	2	4	6/38	10	9	19/100	25/138	18.1
LA	50	3	1	4/39	10	4	14/105	18/144	12.5
ME	12	8	0	8/35	34	13	47/151	55/186	29.6
MD*	10	10	1	11/47	34	12	46/141	57/188	30.3
MA	25	12	0	12/40	31	7	38/160	50/200	25.0
MI	36	2	2	4/38	16	8	24/110	28/148	18.9
MN	4	15	8	23/67	28	17	45/134	68/201	33.8
MS	40	2	6	8/52	16	6	22/122	30/174	17.2
MO	29	5	0	5/34	19	20	39/163	44/197	22.3
MT	15	6	5	11/50	22	8	30/100	41/150	27.3
NE	35	NONPARTISAN		10/49	UNICAMERAL		10/49		20.4
NV	16	3	1	4/21	11	2	13/42	17/63	27.0
NH	5	6	3	9/24	98	32	130/400	139/424	32.8
NJ	9	8	3	11/40	16	10	26/80	37/120	30.8
NM	14	3	3	6/42	15	11	26/70	32/112	28.6
NY*	33	7	4	11/63	29	4	33/150	44/213	20.7
NC	31	5	5	10/50	14	13	27/120	37/170	21.8
ND	39	3	5	8/47	7	10	17/94	25/141	17.7
OH	26	5	3	8/33	11	12	23/99	31/132	23.5
OK	48	2	2	4/48	5	11	16/101	20/149	13.4
OR	8	5	2	7/30	15	6	21/60	28/90	31.1
PA	38	4	4	8/50	16	21	37/203	45/253	17.8
RI	20	9	0	9/38	19	2	21/75	30/113	26.5
SC	49	0	1	1/46	11	10	21/124	22/170	12.9
SD	30	1	5	6/35	6	11	17/70	23/105	21.9
TN	43	3	4	7/33	7	8	15/99	22/132	16.7
TX	32	4	3	7/31	17	15	32/150	39/181	21.5
UT	45	3	2	5/29	8	4	12/75	17/104	16.3
VT	2	6	2	8/30	51	12	63/150	71/180	39.4
VA	41	6	1	7/40	12	5	17/100	24/140	17.1
WA	6	10	8	18/49	21	9	30/98	48/147	32.7
WV	44	0	1	1/34	11	10	21/100	22/134	16.4
WI*	21	5	4	9/33	17	8	25/99	34/132	25.8
WY	46	1	1	2/30	2	10	12/60	14/90	15.6
		260	144	415/1,972	881	496	1,377/5,411	1,792/7,383	24.3
		(10 nonpartisans)							
		(1 Independent)							

* States share the same rank if their proportions of women legislators are exactly equal or round off to be equal (AK, CA, ID; DE, WI; HI, MD; IN, NY).