

## WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2012

In 2012, **1,752**, or **23.7%** of the 7,382 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold **428**, or **21.7%**, of the 1,971 state senate seats and **1,324**, or **24.5%**, 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	2003	1,654	22.4
1973	424	5.6	1991	1,368	18.3	2004	1,659	22.5
1975	604	8.0	1993	1,524	20.5	2005	1,674	22.7
1977	688	9.1	1995	1,532	20.6	2006	1,681	22.8
1979	770	10.3	1997	1,605	21.6	2007	1,732	23.5
1981	908	12.1	1998	1,617	21.8	2008	1,751	23.7
1983	991	13.3	1999	1,664	22.4	2009	1,797	24.3
1985	1,103	14.8	2000	1,670	22.5	2010	1,809	24.5
1987	1,170	15.7	2001	1,666	22.4	2011	1,750	23.7
			2002	1,682	22.7	<b>2012</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>23.7</b>

The **party breakdown** for women serving in state legislatures in 2012 is:

	Total Legislators		State Senators		State Reps.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	1,054	60.2	263	61.4	791	59.7
Republicans	682	38.9	153	35.7	529	40.0
Nonpartisans*	11	0.6	11	2.6	---	---
Progressives	4	0.2	---	---	4	0.3
Independent	1	0.1	1	0.2	---	---
Total	1,752	100.0	428	99.9	1,324	100.0

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Colorado	40.0	Washington	32.0
Vermont	38.9	Illinois	31.1
Hawaii	35.5	Maryland	30.9
Arizona	33.3	Connecticut	29.9
Minnesota	32.8	New Jersey	29.2

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
South Carolina	10.0	Wyoming	15.6
Louisiana	11.1	Mississippi	16.1
Oklahoma	12.8	Utah	16.3
Alabama	13.6	Pennsylvania	17.0
North Dakota	15.6	Virginia	17.1

### Women in State Legislative Leadership

Three women serve as presidents of senates: Michelle L. Fischbach (R-MN), Therese Murray (D-MA), and M. Teresa Paiva-Weed (D-RI). Three women serve as speakers of state houses: Beth Harwell (R-TN), Rebecca Lockhart (R-UT) and Sheila Y. Oliver (D-NJ).

### Women of Color in State Legislatures

Of the 1,750 women legislators serving nationwide, **349** or **19.9%** are women of color. They include 98 senators and 251 representatives; 331 are Democrats, 16 are Republicans, and two are non-partisan. 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.<sup>+</sup>

\* 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 2012

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	5	14/105	19/140	13.6
AK	21	1	3	4/20	4	7	11/40	15/60	25.0
AZ	4	4	7	11/30	7	12	19/60	30/90	33.3
AR*	31	5	3	8/35	11	11	22/100	30/135	22.2
CA	13	9	3	12/40	16	6	22/80	34/120	28.3
CO	1	14	3	17/35	14	9	23/65	40/100	40.0
CT	9	8	1	9/36	32	15	47/151	56/187	29.9
DE	17	4	3	7/21	7	2	9/41	16/62	25.8
FL	19	7	7	14/40	12	15	27/120	41/160	25.6
GA	28	8	1	9/56	30	17	47/180	56/236	23.7
HI	3	9	0	9/25	14	4	18/51	27/76	35.5
ID	15	3	6	9/35	8	12	20/70	29/105	27.6
IL	7	10	6	16/59	28	11	39/118	55/177	31.1
IN*	33	4	7	11/50	11	10	21/100	32/150	21.3
IA*	33	4	4	8/50	16	8	24/100	32/150	21.3
KS	16	4	8	12/40	14	19	33/125	45/165	27.3
KY	38	3	3	6/38	11	9	20/100	26/138	18.8
LA	49	3	1	4/39	9	3	12/105	16/144	11.1
ME	11	5	3	8/35	27	19	46/151	54/186	29.0
MD	8	10	1	11/47	35	12	47/141	58/188	30.9
MA	24	11	0	11/40	32	6	38/160	49/200	24.5
MI	36	2	2	4/38	16	11	27/110	31/148	20.9
MN	5	11	10	21/67	27	18	45/134	66/201	32.8
MS	44	1	6	7/52	15	6	21/122	28/174	16.1
MO	27	4	2	6/34	23	18	41/163	47/197	23.9
MT	26	6	2	8/50	19	9	28/100	36/150	24.0
NE	30	NONPARTISAN		11/49	UNICAMERAL		11/49		22.4
NV	20	3	1	4/21	11	1	12/42	16/63	25.4
NH	23	3	3	6/24	40	58	98/400	104/424	24.5
NJ	10	8	3	11/40	15	9	24/80	35/120	29.2
NM	14	9	2	11/42	12	8	20/70	31/112	27.7
NY*	31	8	3	11/62	29	7	36/150	47/212	22.2
NC	22	3	3	6/50	23	13	36/120	42/170	24.7
ND*	45	3	4	7/47	3	12	15/94	22/141	15.6
OH	29	5	3	8/33	12	11	23/99	31/132	23.5
OK	48	3	2	5/48	4	10	14/101	19/149	12.8
OR	12	7	2	9/30	12	5	17/60	26/90	28.9
PA	42	5	5	10/50	14	19	33/203	43/253	17.0
RI	18	9	1	10/38	17	2	19/75	29/113	25.7
SC	50	0	0	0/46	8	9	17/124	17/170	10.0
SD	37	1	6	7/35	4	10	14/70	21/105	20.0
TN	39	4	3	7/33	11	6	17/99	24/132	18.2
TX	35	3	3	6/31	13	19	32/150	38/181	21.0
UT	43	4	1	5/29	8	4	12/75	17/104	16.3
VT	2	9	2	11/30	44	11 (4 Prg)	59/150	70/180	38.9
VA	41	5	1	6/40	11	7	18/100	24/140	17.1
WA	6	12	6	18/49	19	10	29/98	47/147	32.0
WV	40	0	2	2/34	15	7	22/100	24/134	17.9
WI	25	5	4	9/33	16	7	23/99	32/132	24.2
WY*	45	0	1	1/30	3	10	13/60	14/90	15.6
		263	153	428/1,971	791	529	1,324/5,411	1,752/7,382	23.7
		(11 nonpartisans (1 Independent)			(4 Progressives)				

\* States share the same rank if their proportions of women legislators are exactly equal or round off to be equal (AR, NY; IA, IN; ND, WY).