

WOMEN IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2006

In 2006, **68** women hold seats in the House of Representatives, comprising **15.6%** of the 435 members. The women represent **26** states; **43** are Democrats and **25** are Republicans. Democratic women delegates also represent the District of Columbia, Guam and the Virgin Islands. The congresswomen include **20** women of color: **12** African American women, **1** Asian Pacific Islander, and **7** Latinas. The delegates include a Caribbean American and an African American.

Of the 60 women who served in the House in 2004, 3 did not seek re-election. The remaining 57 (37D, 20R) were re-elected.

Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), House Democratic Leader, holds the highest position achieved by a woman in Congress to date.

Of the 68 women who serve in the House in 2006, 55 first entered by winning regular general elections. Twelve others won special elections; Bono (CA), Capps (CA), Gibbs (TX), Herseth (SD), Lee (CA), Matsui (CA), Millender-McDonald (CA), Pelosi (CA), Ros-Lehtinen (FL), Schmidt (OH), Watson (CA), and Wilson (NM) succeeded others who died or resigned. Emerson (MO) won a regular election simultaneously with a special election to fill a vacancy. The DC, GU and VI Delegates won regular general elections.

Prior to entering Congress, 52, or 76.4%, of the 68 women lawmakers held previous elective offices; 27 of the 51 held more than one post. The positions include: statewide elective (2); state senator (17); state representative (30); county governing board member (9); mayor (2); council member (14); judge (5); school board member (3).

The women who serve in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2006 include:

| <u>Congresswomen</u> | <u>Routes to Office</u> | <u>Dates of Service</u> |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) | State representative; county board of supervisors. Elected to U.S. House in 1998. | 1/6/99 - present |
| Melissa Bean (D-IL) | Businesswoman. Unsuccessful 2002 congressional candidate. Elected to U.S. House in 2004. | 1/4/05 - present |
| Shelley Berkley (D-NV) | Nevada state assembly; vice chair, university board of regents; attorney. Elected to U.S. House in 1998. | 1/6/99 - present |
| Judy Biggert (R-IL) | State representative; planning commissioner; school board member; attorney. Elected to U.S. House in 1998. | 1/6/99 - present |
| Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) | State senator, state representative, executive director of Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission, businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 2002. | 1/7/03 - present |
| Mary Bono (R-CA) | Businesswoman; restaurateur. Won a special election in 1998 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband. | 4/21/98 - present |
| Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) | Lieutenant Governor, Guam senator, Guam's First Lady, community organizer. Elected to U.S. House in 2002. | 1/7/03 - present |
| Corrine Brown (D-FL) | State representative; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1992. | 1/5/93 - present |
| Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL) | State senator and senate president pro tempore, county commissioner, legislative staff member (NY). Elected to U.S. House in 2002. | 1/7/03 - present |
| Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) | State delegate; counselor; children's advocate. Elected to U.S. House in 2000. | 1/3/01 - present |
| Lois Capps (D-CA) | School nurse; educator; health consultant for child development programs. Won a special election in 1998 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband. | 3/17/98 - present |
| Julia Carson (D-IN) | State senator; state representative; human resources manager. Elected to U.S. House in 1996. | 1/7/97 - present |
| Donna Christian-Christensen (D-VI) | Acting commissioner of health; board of education member; Democratic party activist; physician. Elected as delegate from the Virgin Islands in 1996. | 1/7/97 - present |

A note to users of our fact sheets: Please credit the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Additional information from *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774 - 1989*, U.S. Government Printing Office, and *Women in the United States Congress*, Congressional Research Service.

| <u>Congresswomen</u> | <u>Routes to Office</u> | <u>Dates of Service</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Barbara Cubin (R-WY) | State senator; state representative; medical office manager. Elected to U.S. House in 1994. | 1/4/95 - present |
| Jo Ann Davis (R-VA) | State representative; co-founder of the International Military Relocation Center; businesswoman. First Republican woman to serve in Congress from Virginia. Elected to U.S. House in 2000. | 1/3/01 - present |
| Susan Davis (D-CA) | State assemblywoman; president, San Diego city school board. Elected to U.S. House in 2000. | 1/3/01 - present |
| Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) | Congressional aide; executive director of EMILY's List; community organizer. Elected to U.S. House in 1990. | 1/3/91 - present |
| Diana DeGette (D-CO) | State representative; state house assistant leader; Denver Democratic party resolutions chair; civil rights and employment lawyer. Elected to U.S. House in 1996. | 1/7/97 - present |
| Thelma Drake (R-VA) | State representative, chairwoman of Virginia Housing Commission; realtor. Elected to U.S. House in 2004. | 1/4/05 - present |
| Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) | Advisory board, Members & Family Room, U.S. House; small business advisory commission; business lobbyist. Elected concurrently to fill vacancy caused by her husband's death and to serve a full term in the U.S. House in 1996. | 11/25/96 - present |
| Anna Eshoo (D-CA) | San Mateo County supervisor and board president. Ran unsuccessfully for U.S. House in 1988. Elected to U.S. House in 1992. | 1/5/93 - present |
| Virginia Foxx (R-NC) | State senator; county board of education; college instructor and administrator. Elected to U.S. House in 2004. | 1/4/05 - present |
| Shelley Sekula Gibbs (R-TX) | Council member; businesswoman; medical doctor. Won a special election in 2006 to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation. | 11/13/06 - present |
| Kay Granger (R-TX) | Mayor of Fort Worth; board of trustees of the US Conference of Mayors; educator; small business owner. Elected to U.S. House in 1996. | 1/7/97 - present |
| Jane Harman (D-CA) | Gubernatorial candidate; U.S. representative 1992-98; special counsel to the Department of Defense during Carter administration; lawyer. Re-elected to the U.S. House in 2000. | 1/3/93 - 1/6/99 and 1/3/01 - present |
| Katherine Harris (R-FL) | Secretary of State, state senator, marketing executive and vice president of real estate firm. Elected to U.S. House in 2002. | 1/7/03 - present |
| Melissa Hart (R-PA) | State senator; chair of the Senate Finance Committee; lawyer. Elected to U.S. House in 2000. | 1/3/01 - present |
| Stephanie Herseth (D-SD) | Executive director, South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation; attorney; educator. Won a special election June 1, 2004, to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation. | 6/2/04 - present |
| Darlene Hooley (D-OR) | Clackamas County commissioner; state representative; councilwoman; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1996. | 1/7/97 - present |
| Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) | State senator; state representative; administrator in Department of Health, Education and Welfare; nurse; consultant. Elected to U.S. House in 1992. | 1/5/93 - present |
| Nancy Johnson (R-CT) | State senator; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1983. | 1/3/83 - present |
| Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH) | Cuyahoga county prosecutor; judge, common pleas; judge, municipal court; attorney. Elected to U. S. House in 1998. | 1/6/99 - present |
| Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) | Urban planner; White House domestic policy aide. Elected to U.S. House in 1982. | 1/3/83 - present |
| Sue Kelly (R-NY) | Businesswoman; educator; health care professional; campaign manager. Elected to U.S. House in 1994. | 1/4/95 - present |
| Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI) | State representative; Democratic whip; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1996. | 1/7/97 - present |
| Barbara Lee (D-CA) | State senator; state assemblywoman; senior advisor and administrative assistant to member of Congress. Won a special election in 1998 to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation. | 4/21/98 - present |
| Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) | Council member; municipal court associate judge; attorney; congressional committee counsel. Elected to U.S. House in 1994. | 1/4/95 - present |
| Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) | Santa Clara County Supervisor; attorney; law teacher; executive director of low-income housing development group; congressional aide. Elected to U.S. House in 1994. | 1/4/95 - present |

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|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Nita Lowey (D-NY) | Assistant New York secretary of state. Elected to U.S. House in 1988. | 1/3/89 - present |
| Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) | New York city council member; educator; administrator. Elected to U.S. House in 1992. | 1/5/93 - present |
| Doris Matsui (D-CA) | Public policy advocate; deputy assistant to the President and deputy director of public liaison in the Clinton administration. Won special election in 2005 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband. | 3/10/05 - present |
| Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) | Lobbyist on gun control issues; nurse. Elected to U.S. House in 1996. | 1/7/97 - present |
| Betty McCollum (D-MN) | State representative; North St. Paul City Councilwoman; educator; businesswoman. Elected to the U.S. House in 2000. | 1/3/01 - present |
| Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) | Member of Congress; state representative; attorney. First elected to House in 1992; defeated in 2002 primary. Re-elected to U.S. House in 2004. | 1/5/93 - 1/7/03 and 1/4/05 - present |
| Cathy McMorris (R-WA) | State representative and House Republican leader. Elected to U.S. House in 2004. | 1/4/05 - present |
| Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA) | State assemblywoman; Carson City Council member; teacher; textbook editor. Won special election in 1996 to fill a vacancy caused by resignation. | 4/16/96 - present |
| Candice Miller (R-MI) | Michigan Secretary of State, Macomb County Treasurer, Harrison Township Supervisor, Harrison Township Trustee. Elected to U.S. House in 2002. | 1/7/03 - present |
| Gwen Moore (D-WI) | State senator; assemblywoman; city and state government administrator. Elected to U.S. House in 2004. | 1/4/05 - present |
| Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO) | State senator, state representative, school board member. Elected to U.S. House in 2002. | 1/7/03 - present |
| Sue Myrick (R-NC) | Charlotte mayor; city council member; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1994. | 1/4/95 - present |
| Grace Napolitano (D-CA) | State assemblywoman; mayor, Norwalk; city council member; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1998. | 1/6/99 - present |
| Anne Meagher Northup (R-KY) | State representative; Jefferson County judge; Republican executive committeewoman; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1996. | 1/7/97 - present |
| Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) | Equal Employment Opportunity Commission chair; New York City Commission on Human Rights chair; law professor. Elected as delegate from the District of Columbia in 1990. | 1/3/91 - present |
| Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) | Chair of California Democratic party; Democratic National Committee member; party activist; public relations executive. Won special election in 1987 to fill a vacancy caused by death of Congresswoman Sala Burton. | 6/9/87 - present |
| Deborah Pryce (R-OH) | Municipal court judge; prosecutor. Elected to U.S. House in 1992. | 1/5/93 - present |
| Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) | State senator; state representative; educator; business-woman. Won special election in 1989 to fill a vacancy. | 9/6/89 - present |
| Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) | State assemblywoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1992. | 1/5/93 - present |
| Linda Sanchez (D-CA) | Executive secretary-treasurer for Orange County Central Labor Council, labor compliance officer, attorney. Elected to U.S. House in 2002. | 1/7/03 - present |
| Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) | Santa Ana businesswoman; financial consultant to local governments. Elected to U.S. House in 1996. | 1/7/97 - present |
| Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) | State representative; director, Illinois Public Action; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1998. | 1/6/99 - present |
| Jean Schmidt (R-OH) | State representative; trustee for Miami Township, Clermont County; Clermont County Republican chair. Won special election in 2005 to fill a vacancy. | 2005-present |
| Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) | State senator; state representative. Elected to U.S. House in 2004. | 1/4/05 - present |
| Allyson Schwartz (D-PA) | State senator; government agency and non-profit organization manager. Elected to U.S. House in 2004. | 1/4/05 - present |

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| Louise Slaughter (D-NY) | State assemblywoman; Monroe County legislator; gubernatorial staff member. Elected to U.S. House in 1986. | 1/3/87 - present |
| Hilda Solis (D-CA) | State senator; state assemblywoman; first Latina to be elected to California State Senate. White House Office of Hispanic Affairs during the Carter administration. Elected to U.S. House in 2000. | 1/3/01 - present |
| Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) | Democratic party activist; founder and president of child care registry; investment banker. Elected to U.S. House in 1996. | 1/7/97 - present |
| Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) | New York city council member; director of the Department of Puerto Rican Community Affairs; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1992. | 1/5/93 - present |
| Diane E. Watson (D-CA) | State senator; ambassador to Micronesia; educator; children's advocate. Won special election in 2001 to fill vacancy caused by death. | 6/7/01 - present |
| Maxine Waters (D-CA) | State assemblywoman; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1990. | 1/3/91 - present |
| Heather Wilson (R-NM) | New Mexico Secretary of Children, Youth and Families Department; Director, Defense Policy and Arms Control, National Security Council; Defense Planning Officer. Won special election in 1998 to fill a vacancy caused by death. | 6/25/98 - present |
| Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) | Petaluma city council member; vice mayor; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1992. | 1/5/93 - present |