

WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 1998*

CONGRESS, STATEWIDE, STATE LEGISLATURE

CONGRESSWOMEN — 19 (18D, 1R)

Of the 63 women serving in the 105th U.S. Congress, 17, or 27%, are women of color; in addition, an African American woman and a Caribbean American woman serve as Delegates to the House from Washington, DC and the Virgin Islands, respectively.

African American (13)

Senator Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL)
Representative Corrine Brown (D-FL)
Representative Julia M. Carson (D-IN)
Representative Eva Clayton (D-NC)
Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Representative Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI)
Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA)
Representative Cynthia McKinney (D-GA)
Representative Carrie Meek (D-FL)
Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)

Caribbean American (1)

Delegate Donna Christian-Green (D-VI)

Asian American/Pacific Islander (1)

Representative Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-HI)

Latina (4)

Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
Representative Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)

STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVES — 3 (2D, 1R)

Of the 82 women serving in statewide elective executive offices, 3, or 3.7%, are women of color. In 1994, Vikki Buckley (CO) became the first Republican African American woman elected to a statewide office.

African American (1)

Vikki Buckley (R-CO), Secretary of State

Asian American/Pacific Islander (1)

Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI), Lieutenant Governor

Latina (1)

Stephanie Gonzales (D-NM), Secretary of State

STATE LEGISLATORS — 232 (226D, 5R, 1I)

Of the 1,617 women state legislators serving nationwide, 232, or 14.3%, are women of color. There are 60 senators and 172 representatives; all but 6 (5R, 1Ind.) are Democrats.

African American women hold 167 (165D, 1R, 1Ind.) seats in state legislatures. There are 43 senators and 125 representatives serving in 35 states.

Asian American/Pacific Islander women hold 11 (10D, 1R) seats in state legislatures. There are 5 senators and 6 representatives serving in 3 states (HI, OR, WA).

Latinas hold 46 (44D, 2R) seats in state legislatures. There are 11 senators and 35 representatives serving in 15 states (AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, IL, MN, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OR, TX, UT, WA).

Native American women hold 8 (7D, 1R) seats in state legislatures. One senator and 7 representatives serve in 6 states (AK, AZ, CO, GA, NM, OR). In addition, one woman in ME was elected in November 1997 as a non-voting tribal member representing the Penobscot Nation.

* We use "women of color" when referring to African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Caribbean American, Latina, and Native American women as a group. We understand that both the terms "women of color" and "minority women" are problematic, but know of no preferable inclusive term.