

WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2002*

CONGRESS, STATEWIDE, STATE LEGISLATURE

CONGRESSWOMEN — 19 (18D, 1R)

Of the 72 women serving in the 107th U.S. Congress, 19, or 26.4%, 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. Women of color constitute 3.6% of the total 535 members of Congress.

African American (13)

Representative Corrine Brown (D-FL)
Representative Julia M. Carson (D-IN)
Representative Eva Clayton (D-NC)
Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH)
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)
Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)
Representative Diane E. Watson (D-CA)

Latina (6)

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

DELEGATES

African American (1)

Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)

Caribbean American (1)

Delegate Donna Christian-Christensen (D-VI)

STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVES — 4 (4D)

Of the 88 women serving in statewide elective executive offices, 4, or 4.5%, are women of color. In addition, Sila Calderón, a Latina, serves as governor of Puerto Rico. Women of color constitute 1.2% of the total 321 statewide elective executives.

African American (1)

Denise Nappier (D-CT), State Treasurer

Asian American/Pacific Islander (1)

Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Lieutenant Governor

Latina (2)

Patricia Madrid (D-NM), Attorney General
Rebecca Vigil-Giron (D-NM), Secretary of State

STATE LEGISLATORS — 279 (269D, 10R)

Of the 1,682 women state legislators serving nationwide, 279 or 16.6% are women of color. They include 79 senators and 200 representatives; all but 10 are Democrats. Women of color constitute 3.8% of the total 7,424 state legislators.

African American women hold 190 (188D, 2R) seats in state legislatures. They include 50 senators and 140 representatives serving in 37 states.

Asian American/Pacific Islander women hold 22 (19D, 3R) seats in state legislatures. They include 8 senators and 14 representatives serving in 6 states (CA, HI, MD, MN, OR, WA).

Latinas hold 57 (53D, 4R) seats in state legislatures. They include 20 senators and 37 representatives serving in 16 states (AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, IL, MA, MI, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OR, TX, UT, WA).

Native American women hold 10 (9D, 1R) seats in state legislatures. They include one senator and 9 representatives in 5 states (AK, AR, AZ, CO, MT). In addition, one woman in ME was elected in November 1997 as a non-voting 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.

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