

WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2004*

CONGRESS, STATEWIDE, STATE LEGISLATURE

CONGRESSWOMEN — 18 (17D, 1R)

Of the 74 women serving in the 108th U.S. Congress, 18, or 24.3%, 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 3.4% of the total 535 members of Congress.

African American (11)

Representative Corrine Brown (D-FL)
Representative Julia M. Carson (D-IN)
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 Denise Majette (D-GA)
Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA)

Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)
Representative Diane E. Watson (D-CA)

Latina (7)

Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
Representative Linda Sanchez (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 — 5 (3D, 1R, 1NP**)

Of the 81 women serving in statewide elective executive offices, 5, or 6.2%, are women of color. In addition, Sila Calderón, a Latina, serves as governor of Puerto Rico. Women of color constitute 1.6% of the total 315 statewide elective executives.

African American (2)

Jennette Bradley (R-OH), Lieutenant Governor
Denise Nappier (D-CT), State Treasurer

Latina (3)

Susan Castillo (NP**-OR), Superintendent of Public Instruction
Patricia Madrid (D-NM), Attorney General
Rebecca Vigil-Giron (D-NM), Secretary of State

STATE LEGISLATORS — 306 (288D, 17R, 1I)

Of the 1,659 women state legislators serving nationwide, 306 or 18.4% are women of color. They include 85 senators and 221 representatives; all but 18 are Democrats. Women of color constitute 4.1% of the total 7,382 state legislators.

African American women hold 215 (211D, 4R) seats in state legislatures. They include 58 senators and 157 representatives serving in 37 states.

Asian American/Pacific Islander women hold 23 (18D, 5R) seats in state legislatures. They include 7 senators and 16 representatives serving in 7 states (CA, HI, IA, MD, MN, TX, WA).

Latinas hold 59 (52D, 7R) seats in state legislatures. They include 19 senators and 40 representatives serving in 14 states (AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, IL, MA, MD, NJ, NM, NV, NY, TX, WA).

Native American women hold 9 (7D, 1R, 1I) seats in state legislatures. They include one senator and 8 representatives in 4 states (AK, AZ, CO, MT). In addition, one woman in ME was elected as a non-voting member representing the Penobscot Nation.

MAYORS

In the nation's 100 largest cities, the women of color who currently serve as mayors are:

African American

Shirley Franklin Atlanta, GA 2001- present

Latina

Heather Fargo Sacramento, CA 2001 - present

* 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.

** NP= election was nonpartisan.

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HISTORY OF WOMEN OF COLOR IN U.S. POLITICS

U.S. SENATE

The only woman of color to serve in the U.S. Senate to date is Carol Moseley Braun (D-IL), an African American who was elected in 1992 and served from 1993-1999.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A total of 28 women of color have served in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition to the 18 women currently serving (listed on the front of this fact sheet), they are:

African American – Total 19 (19D)

Shirley Chisholm (D-NY)	1969-83
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (D-CA)	1973-79
Barbara Jordan (D-TX)	1973-79
Cardiss Collins (D-IL)	1973-97
Katie Hall (D-IN)	1982-85
Barbara-Rose Collins (D-MI)	1991-97
Cynthia McKinney (D-GA)	1993-2003
Carrie Meek (D-FL)	1993-2003

Asian Pacific Islander – Total 2 (1D, 1R)

Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-HI)	1965-77, 1990-2002
Patricia Fukuda Saiki (R-HI)	1987-91

STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE OFFICES

No woman of color has served as governor of any state, and only three as lieutenant governors. In addition to the women listed on the front of this fact sheet, women who have served in statewide elective executive offices include:

African American (Total 5)

Pamela Carter (D-IN)	Attorney General	1993-1999
Vikki Buckley (R-CO)	Secretary of State	1995-1999
Karen Freeman-Wilson (D-IN)	Attorney General	2000-2001

Asian Pacific Islander (Total 4)

March Fong Eu (D-CA)	Secretary of State	1975-1993
Jean Sadako King (D-HI)	Lieutenant Governor	1979-1982
Cheryl Lau (D-NV)	Secretary of State	1991-1995
Mazie Hirono (D-HI)	Lieutenant Governor	1995-2003

Latina (Total 5)

Soledad Chacon (D-NM)	Secretary of State	1923-1926
Margaret Baca (D-NM)	Secretary of State	1931-1934

STATE LEGISLATURES*

The first women of color to serve in state legislatures, listed in chronological order, were:

Native American	Cora Belle Reynolds Anderson (R-MI House) elected 1924
African American	Minnie Buckingham Harper (R-WV House) appointed 1929 Crystal Dreda Bird Fauset (D-PA House) elected 1938
Latina	Fedelina Lucero Gallegos (R-NM House) and Porfirria Hidalgo Saiz (D-NM House) elected 1930
Asian Pacific Islander	Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-HI Senate) elected 1962

MAYORS

In the nation's 100 largest cities, in addition to the two women currently serving, women of color who have served as mayors are:

African Americans

Lottie Shackelford	Little Rock, AR	1987-1991
Carrie Saxon Perry	Hartford, CT	1987-1993
Sharon Pratt Kelly	Washington, DC	1991-1995
Sharon Sayles Belton	Minneapolis, MN	1994-2001

* State legislative information from Elizabeth M. Cox, *Women State and Territorial Legislators, 1895-1995*, McFarland & Company, Inc., 1996.