

WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2007*

CONGRESS, STATEWIDE, STATE LEGISLATURE

CONGRESSWOMEN — 20 (19D, 1R)

Of the 86 women serving in the 110th U.S. Congress, 20, or 23.3%, are women of color, all serving in the House; 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 3.7% of the total 535 members of Congress. No women of color serve in the U.S. Senate.

African American - 11 (10D)

Representative Corrine Brown (D-FL)
Representative Yvette Clarke (D-NY)
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 Gwen Moore (D-WI)
Representative Laura Richardson (D-CA)
Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)
Representative Diane E. Watson (D-CA)

Asian Pacific Islander - 2

Representative Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA)

Latina - 7 (6D, 1R)

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 Christensen (D-VI)

STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVES — 4 (3D, 1NP**)

Of the 76 women serving in statewide elective executive offices, 4, or 5.3%, are women of color. Women of color constitute 1.3% of the total 315 statewide elective executives.

African American - 1D

Denise Nappier (D-CT), State Treasurer

Latina - 3 (2D, 1NP)

Susan Castillo (NP**-OR), Superintendent of Public Instruction
Mary Herrera (D-NM), Secretary of State
Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Attorney General

STATE LEGISLATORS — 348 (323D, 25R)

Of the 1,732 women state legislators serving nationwide, 348 or 20.1% are women of color. They include 94 senators and 254 representatives; 323 are Democrats and 25 are Republicans. Women of color constitute 4.7% of the total 7,382 state legislators.

African American women hold 232 (229D, 3R) seats in state legislatures. They include 62 senators and 170 representatives serving in 39 states.

Asian American/Pacific Islander women hold 30 (22D, 8R) seats in state legislatures. They include 7 senators and 23 representatives serving in 9 states (CA, HI, IA, MD, MN, NV, NY, SC, WA).

Latinas hold 72 (60D, 12R) seats in state legislatures. They include 20 senators and 52 representatives serving in 22 states (AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, ID, IL, IN, KS, MA, MD, MN, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OH, RI, SC, TX, WA).

Native American women hold 14 (12D, 2R) seats in state legislatures. They include 5 senators and 9 representatives in 10 states (AK, CO, ID, MT, NM, ND, OK, SD, VT, WA).

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
Sheila Dixon	Baltimore, MD	2007 - present

Latina

Heather Fargo	Sacramento, CA	2001 - present
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* 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.

WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2007 (continued)

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 31 women of color have served in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition to the 20 women currently serving (listed on the front of this fact sheet), they are:

African American – 11 (11D)

Shirley Chisholm (D-NY)	1969-83	Eva M. Clayton (D-NC)	1992-2003
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (D-CA)	1973-79	Carrie Meek (D-FL)	1993-2003
Barbara Jordan (D-TX)	1973-79	Denise Majette (D-GA)	2003-2005
Cardiss Collins (D-IL)	1973-97	Cynthia McKinney (D-GA)	1993-2003; 2005-2007
Katie Hall (D-IN)	1982-85	Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA)	1996-2007
Barbara-Rose Collins (D-MI)	1991-97	Julia Carson (D-IN)	1996-2007

Asian Pacific Islander – 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 5 (2D, 3R)

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
Jennette Bradley (R-OH)	Lieutenant Governor	2003-2005
Jennette Bradley (R-OH)	State Treasurer	2005-2007

Asian Pacific Islander 4 (4D)

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 4 (4D)

Soledad Chacon (D-NM)	Secretary of State	1923-1926
Margaret Baca (D-NM)	Secretary of State	1931-1934
Patricia Madrid (D-NM)	Attorney General	1999-2007
Rebecca Vigil-Giron (D-NM)	Secretary of State	1999-2007

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 American

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.