

WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2012*

CONGRESS, STATEWIDE, STATE LEGISLATURE

CONGRESSWOMEN – 24 (22D, 2R)

Of the 90 women serving in the 112th U.S. Congress, 24, or 27%, 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 4.5% of the total 535 members of Congress. No women of color serve in the U.S. Senate.

African American – 13 (13D)

Representative Karen Bass (D-CA)
Representative Corrine Brown (D-FL)
Representative Yvette Clarke (D-NY)
Representative Donna Edwards (D-MD)
Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH)
Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI)
Representative Laura Richardson (D-CA)
Representative Terri Sewell (D-AL)
Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)
Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

Asian Pacific Islander – 4D

Representative Judy Chu (D-CA)
Representative Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI)
Representative Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA)

Latina – 7 (5D, 2R)

Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA)
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 Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)

DELEGATES

African American – 1D

Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)

Caribbean American – 1D

Delegate Donna Christensen (D-VI)

STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVES – 11 (6D, 4R, 1NP**)

Of the 75 women serving in statewide elective executive offices, 11, or 14.7%, are women of color. They include the first two women of color to serve as governors. Women of color constitute 3.4% of the total 320 statewide elective executives.

African American – 4 (3D, 1R)

Jennifer Carroll (R-FL), Lieutenant Governor
Kamala Harris (D-CA), Attorney General
Denise Nappier (D-CT), State Treasurer
Sandra Kennedy (D-AZ), Corp. Commissioner

Asian American – 1R

Nikki Haley (R-SC), Governor

Latina – 4 (1D, 2R, 1NP)

Susan Castillo (NP** -OR), Superintendent, Public Instruction
Dianna Duran (R-NM), Secretary of State
Susana Martinez (R-NM), Governor
Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Attorney General

Native American – 2D

Theresa Becenti-Aguilar (D-NM), Pub. Regulation Commissioner
Denise Juneau (D-MT), Superintendent, Public Instruction

STATE LEGISLATORS – 347 (329D, 16R, 2NP)

Of the 1,752 women state legislators serving nationwide, 347 or 19.8% are women of color. They include 97 senators and 250 representatives; 329 are Democrats, 16 are Republicans, and two are non-partisan. Women of color constitute 4.7% of the total 7,382 state legislators. The first woman of color to serve as speaker of a state house or assembly was Karen Bass (D), speaker of the California assembly, who is African American. In 2010, an African American woman, Sheila Y. Oliver (D), was selected as speaker of the New Jersey state assembly, the second African American woman to serve as a speaker of a lower house.

African American women hold 237 (232D, 3R, 2NP) seats in state legislatures. They include 64 senators and 173 representatives in 40 states.

Asian American/Pacific Islander women hold 36 (30D, 6R) seats in state legislatures. They include 9 senators and 26 representatives in 10 states (AZ, CA, HI, ID, MA, MD, NY, TX, VT, WA).

Latinas hold 65 (59D, 6R) seats in state legislatures. They include 21 senators and 44 representatives in 21 states (AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, IL, IN, MA, MD, MN, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, RI, TX, UT, WA, WI).

Native American women hold 9 (8D, 1R) seats in state legislatures. They include 3 senators and 6 representatives in 8 states (AZ, CO, KS, MN, MT, NV, NM, OK).

* 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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WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2012 (continued)

MAYORS

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

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| African American | Stephanie Rawlings-Blake | Baltimore, MD | 2010-present |
| Asian American/Pacific Islander | Jean Quan | Oakland, CA | 2011-present |

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

African American – 15 (15D)

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Shirley Chisholm (D-NY) | 1969-83 | Denise Majette (D-GA) | 2003-2005 |
| Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (D-CA) | 1973-79 | Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) | 1993-2003; 2005-2007 |
| Barbara Jordan (D-TX) | 1973-79 | Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA) | 1996-2007 |
| Cardiss Collins (D-IL) | 1973-97 | Julia Carson (D-IN) | 1996-2007 |
| Katie Hall (D-IN) | 1982-85 | Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH) | 1999-2008 |
| Barbara-Rose Collins (D-MI) | 1991-97 | Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI) | 1997-2011 |
| Eva M. Clayton (D-NC) | 1992-2003 | Diane Watson (D-CA) | 2001-2011 |
| Carrie Meek (D-FL) | 1993-2003 | | |

Asian Pacific Islander – 2 (1D, 1R)

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

Latina – 1 (1D)

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|-----------|
| Hilda Solis (D-CA) | | | 2001-2009 |
|--------------------|--|--|-----------|

STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Two women of color currently serve as governors, and four have been 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 – 6 (3D, 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 |
| Velda Jones Potter (D-DE) | State Treasurer | 2009-2011 |

Asian Pacific Islander – 5 (5D)

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 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 |
| Mona Pasquill (D-CA) | Acting Lt. Governor | 2010-2010 |

Latina – 5 (5D)

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Soledad Chacon (D-NM) | Secretary of State | 1923-1926 |
| Margaret Baca (D-NM) | Secretary of State | 1931-1934 |
| Clara Padilla Jones (D-NM) | Secretary of State | 1983-1986 |
| Patricia Madrid (D-NM) | Attorney General | 1999-2007 |
| Rebecca Vigil-Giron (D-NM) | Secretary of State | 1999-2007 |
| Mary Herrera (D-NM) | Secretary of State | 2007-2011 |

STATE LEGISLATURES*

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

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

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 | Shirley Franklin | Atlanta, GA | 2001-2009 |
| Carrie Saxon Perry | Hartford, CT | 1987-1993 | Yvonne Johnson | Greensboro, NC | 2008-2010 |
| Sharon Pratt Kelly | Washington, DC | 1991-1995 | Sheila Dixon | Baltimore, MD | 2007-2010 |
| Sharon Sayles Belton | Minneapolis, MN | 1994-2001 | | | |

Latina

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| Heather Fargo | Sacramento, CA | 2001-2009 |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|

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