

WOMEN IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2008

In 2008, 88 women serve in the U.S. Congress. Sixteen women serve in the Senate and 72 women serve in the House. The number of women in statewide elective executive posts is 73, while the proportion of women in state legislatures is 23.7 percent.

CONGRESS In 2008, women hold **88**, or **16.4%**, of the 535 seats in the 110th U.S. Congress — **16**, or **16.0%**, of the 100 seats in the Senate and **72**, or **16.6**, of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) is Speaker of the House and second in the presidential line of succession. She is the first woman to hold the top House post.

Sixteen women serve in the Senate: **Barbara Boxer** (D-CA); **Maria Cantwell** (D-WA); **Hillary Rodham Clinton** (D-NY); **Susan Collins** (R-ME); **Elizabeth Dole** (R-NC); **Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA); **Kay Bailey Hutchison** (R-TX); **Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN); **Mary Landrieu** (D-LA); **Blanche Lincoln** (D-AR); **Claire McCaskill** (D-MO); **Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD); **Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK); **Patty Murray** (D-WA); **Olympia Snowe** (R-ME); and **Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI).

Seventy-two women from 30 states serve in the House of Representatives; **52** are Democrats and **20** are Republicans. In addition, three Democratic women serve as the Delegates to the House from Guam, the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC.

STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE OFFICES In 2008, **73** women hold statewide elective executive offices across the country; women hold **23.2%** of the 315 available positions. Among these women, **43** are Democrats, **27** are Republicans, and **3** were elected in nonpartisan races.

GOVERNORS — 8(5D, 3R)

Sarah Palin (R-AK)
Janet Napolitano (D-AZ)
Ruth Ann Minner (D-DE)
Linda Lingle (R-HI)
Kathleen Sebelius (D-KS)
Jennifer Granholm (D-MI)
M. Jodi Rell (R-CT)
Christine Gregoire (D-WA)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS — 9 (7D, 2R)

Barbara O'Brien (D-CO)
Patty Judge (D-IA)
Becky Skillman (R-IN)
Carol L. Molnau (R-MN)
Beverly Perdue (D-NC)
Diane D. Denish (D-NM)
Jari Askins (D-OK)
Elizabeth Roberts (D-RI)
Barbara Lawton (D-WI)

Attorney General - 4 (4D)

Secretary of State - 12 (7D, 5R)

State Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer - 11 (7D, 4R)

State Comptroller - 4 (2D, 2R)

State Auditor - 6 (3D, 3R)

Chief State Education Official — 8 (3D, 2R, 3NP*) *(title varies from state to state)*

Commissioner of Insurance - 2 (1D, 1R)

Commissioner of Labor - 1R

Corporation Commissioner - 1R

Public Service Commissioner - 5 (3D, 2R)

Public Regulation Commissioner - 1D

Railroad Commissioner - 1R

* NP = election was nonpartisan.

WOMEN IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2008 (continued)

STATE LEGISLATURES In 2008, **1,751**, or **23.7%**, of the 7,382 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold **425**, or **21.6%**, of the 1,971 state senate seats and **1,326**, or **24.5%**, of the 5,411 state house seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.

The states with the **highest percentages** of women state legislators are:

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
Vermont	38.3	Arizona	34.4
Colorado	36.0	Hawaii	32.9
Washington	35.4	Oregon	32.2
New Hampshire	35.4	Maryland	31.4
Minnesota	34.8	Maine	31.2

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS As of July 2008, among the 100 largest cities in the U.S., **11** had women mayors. Three are African American (Shirley Franklin, Atlanta; Sheila Dixon, Baltimore; and Yvonne J. Johnson, Greensboro) and one is Latina (Heather Fargo, Sacramento). In order of city population,¹ the mayors are:

<u>City</u>	<u>Mayor</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Baltimore, MD	Sheila Dixon	21
Sacramento, CA	Heather Fargo	38
Virginia Beach, VA	Meyera E. Oberndorf	42
Atlanta, GA	Shirley Franklin	43
Tulsa, OK	Kathryn L. Taylor	46
Tampa, FL	Pam Iorio	60
Greensboro, NC	Yvonne J. Johnson	81
Plano, TX	Pat Evans	83
Glendale, AZ	Elaine M. Scruggs	85
Chula Vista, CA	Cheryl Cox	93
Scottsdale, AZ	Mary Manross	94

As of July 2008, of the 243 mayors of U.S. cities with populations over 100,000, **36**, or **15.2%**, were women, including five African Americans and one Latina. Of the 1121 mayors of U.S. cities with populations over 30,000, **182**, or **16.2%**, were women.²

PERCENTAGES OF WOMEN IN ELECTIVE OFFICES

<u>Year</u>	<u>U.S. Congress</u>	<u>Statewide Elective</u>	<u>State Legislatures</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>U.S. Congress</u>	<u>Statewide Elective</u>	<u>State Legislatures</u>
1979	3%	11%	10%	1997	11.0%	25.4%	21.6%
1981	4%	11%	12%	1999	12.1%	27.6%	22.4%
1983	4%	11%	13%	2001	13.6%	27.6%	22.4%
1985	5%	14%	15%	2003	13.6%	26.0%	22.4%
1987	5%	14%	16%	2004	13.8%	26.0%	22.5%
1989	5%	14%	17%	2005	15.0%	25.7%	22.7%
1991	6%	18%	18%	2006	15.0%	25.1%	22.8%
1993	10.1%	22.2%	20.5%	2007	16.1%	24.1%	23.5%
1995	10.3%	25.9%	20.6%	2008	16.5%	23.2%	23.7%

¹ According to data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

² Information was compiled using the United States Conference of Mayors' 2008 website directory, www.usmayors.org/uscm/meet_mayors, as the primary reference.