



WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1981

Women hold 12.1% of all seats in state legislatures; there are 908 female state legislators out of a total of 7482 legislators. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has nearly tripled.

WOMEN STATE LEGISLATORS 1969-1981

	<u>Female Legislators</u>	<u>% of Total Legislators</u>
1969	301	4.0
1971	344	4.5
1973	424	5.6
1975	604	8.0
1977	688	9.1
1979	770	10.3
1981	908	12.1

In 1981, women are 7% of all state senators (138 out of 1981) and 14% of state House or Assembly members (770 out of 5501).

The average proportion of female state legislators is 11.7%. The ten states with the highest proportions of female state legislators (including upper and lower houses) are all in New England or the West. They are:

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
New Hampshire	29.2	Oregon	22.2
Washington	23.8	Vermont	21.7
Connecticut	23.5	Arizona	18.9
Colorado	23.0	Wyoming	18.5
Maine	22.8	Hawaii	18.4

Of the ten states with the lowest proportions of female state legislators (listed below) eight are in the South.

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
Mississippi	1.1	Pennsylvania	4.7
Louisiana	1.4	New Mexico	6.3
Arkansas	3.7	Virginia	6.4
Alabama	4.3	South Carolina	6.5
Tennessee	4.5	Texas	6.6

Of the 15 states which have not yet ratified the Federal Equal Rights Amendment, 12 have fewer than the average proportion of female legislators.

63 female legislators serving in 1971 are still in their state legislatures in 1981; this includes 42 still in state Houses, 10 still in state Senates, 9 who moved up from House to Senate and two who moved from Senate to House.

All states have at least one female member in the lower house. There is at least one female Democrat in every lower house; all but three states have at least one female Republican in the lower house.

All but four states (Alabama, Louisiana, Michigan and Mississippi) have at least one woman in the Senate. 22 states have no Republican women in their Senates; 11 states have no Democratic women in their Senates.

PARTY REPRESENTATION IN LEGISLATURES

	<u>Republican Women/ All Female Members</u>	<u>Republicans/ All Members</u>	<u>Democratic Women/ All Female Members</u>	<u>Democrats/ All Members</u>
State Senates	37%	37%	59%	60%
State Houses/ Assemblies	45%	40%	55%	60%

Sources of information include: the National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, a project of the Center for the American Woman and Politics; State Elective Officials and the Legislatures 1981-82 (Council of State Governments, 1981); and the National Women's Education Fund.

1981

STATE	STATE SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	STATE HOUSE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	% OF WOMEN OVERALL
	D	R		D	R		
Ala.	0	0	0/35	5	1	6/105	4.3
Alaska	1	1	2/20	3	1	4/40	10.0
Ariz.	3	2	5/30	4	8	12/60	18.9
Ark.	1	0	1/35	2	2	4/100	3.7
Ca.	2	0	2/40	4	6	10/80	10.0
Colo.	2	2	4/35	9	10	19/65	23.0
Conn.	6	2	8/36	14	22	36/151	23.5
Del.	1	1	2/21	4	3	7/41	14.5
Fla.	2	2	4/40	9	4	13/120	10.6
Ga.	2	0	2/56	12	3	15/180	7.2
Hawaii	1	3	4/25	6	4	10/51	18.4
Idaho	1	1	2/35	2	6	8/70	9.5
Ill.	2	2	4/59	10	18	28/177	13.6
Ind.	2	2	4/50	3	5	8/100	8.0
Iowa	0	2	2/50	6	10	16/100	12.0
Kansas	2	2	4/40	9	9	18/125	13.3
Ky.	2	0	2/38	7	1	8/100	7.2
La.	0	0	0/39	2	0	2/105	1.4
Maine	4	2	6/33	18	18	36/151	22.8
Md.	3	0	3/47	21	4	25/141	14.9
Mass.	5	0	5/40	7	6 1*	14/160	9.5
Mich.	0	0	0/38	10	6	16/110	10.8
Minn.	3	2	5/67	13	6	19/134	11.9
Miss.	0	0	0/52	2	0	2/122	1.1
Mo.	2	0	2/34	16	4	20/163	11.2
Mont.	3	1	4/50	6	7	13/100	11.3
Neb.	nonpartisan		5/49	unicameral			10.2
Nev.	1	1	2/20	3	2	5/40	11.7
N. H.	0	3	3/24	52	69	121/400	29.2
N. J.	1	0	1/40	3	4	7/80	6.7
N. M.	0	2	2/42	2	3	5/70	6.3
N. Y.	3	1	4/60	9	5	14/150	8.6
N. C.	3	0	3/50	15	4	19/120	12.9
N. Dak.	0	3	3/50	3	12	15/100	12.0
Ohio	1	0	1/33	3	6	9/99	7.6
Okla.	1	0	1/48	6	5	11/101	8.1
Ore.	1	0	1/30	12	7	19/60	22.2
Pa.	1	0	1/50	2	9	11/203	4.7
R. I.	4	1	5/50	8	2	10/100	10.0
S. C.	1	1	2/46	8	1	9/124	6.5
S. Dak.	1	2	3/35	3	5	8/70	10.5
Tenn.	1	0	1/33	2	3	5/99	4.5
Texas	0	1	1/31	10	1	11/150	6.6
Utah	1	1	2/29	3	3	6/75	7.7
Vt.	3	1	4/30	20	15	35/150	21.7
Va.	0	1	1/40	8	0	8/100	6.4
Wash.	4	4	8/49	17	10	27/98	23.8
W. Va.	2	0	2/34	12	2	14/100	11.9
Wisc.	0	2	2/33	11	7	18/99	15.2
Wyo.	2	1	3/30	6	8	14/62	18.5
TOTALS	81	52	138/1981	422	347	770/5501	

(5 nonpartisan)

(* 1 Independent)