



CENTER FOR THE AMERICAN WOMAN AND POLITICS

Eagleton Institute of Politics ** Rutgers University
 New Brunswick * New Jersey * 08901 ** (201) 932-9384

fact sheet

12-13

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1983

Women hold 13.3% of all seats in state legislatures; in January of 1983 there were 991 female state legislators out of a total of 7,438 legislators. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than tripled.

WOMEN STATE LEGISLATORS 1969-1983

<u>Year</u>	<u>Women 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
1983	991	13.3

In 1983, women hold 8.7% of all state Senate seats (173 out of 1,986) and 15.0% of state House or Assembly seats (818 out of 5,452).

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

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
New Hampshire	28.5	Hawaii	22.4
Colorado	25.0	Oregon	22.2
Connecticut	23.5	Arizona	21.1
Wyoming	23.4	Maryland	19.1
Maine	22.4	Wisconsin	18.9

The 11 states with the lowest percentages of women state legislators are:

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
Mississippi	1.7	Tennessee	6.8
Louisiana	2.1	South Carolina	7.1
Pennsylvania	3.9	Texas	7.2
Alabama	4.3	Kentucky	7.2
Arkansas	5.1	Georgia/Oklahoma	8.1

50 female legislators who served in 1971 are still in their state legislatures in 1983, including 10 who have moved from the state House to the state Senate and two who have moved from the state Senate to the state House.

Every state has at least three women in its legislature, but three states (Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas) have no women in the state Senate.

Black women constitute 6.0% (59 out of 991) of women in state legislatures. Hispanic women constitute less than 1 percent (0.7% or 7 out of 991) of women state legislators.

Women hold 2.5% (7 out of 279) of top legislative leadership positions. These positions include House speakers, Senate presidents, and majority and minority leaders in each house.

PARTY REPRESENTATION IN LEGISLATURES

<u>State</u>	<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	35.9%	35.7%	64.1%	61.5%
State House/ Assemblies	41.4%	36.7%	58.4%	63.1%

Sources of information include: the National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, a project of the Center for the American Woman and Politics; the Council of State Governments, the National Women's Political Caucus and the National Women's Education Fund.

STATE	SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	% OF WOMEN OVERALL
	D	R		D	R		
AL	0	1	1/35	5	0	5/105	4.3
AK	1	2	3/20	2	3	5/40	13.3
AZ	2	3	5/30	5	9	14/60	21.1
AR	1	0	1/35	4	2	6/100	5.2
CA	2	0	2/40	6	6	12/80	11.7
CO	2	3	5/35	9	11	20/65	25.0
CT	6	2	8/36	16	20	36/151	23.5
DE	2	1	3/21	3	4	7/41	16.1
FL	7	2	9/40	11	8	19/120	17.5
GA	2	0	2/56	14	3	17/180	8.1
HI	3	2	5/25	9	3	12/51	22.4
ID	4	0	4/35	3	9	12/70	13.3
IL	4	4	8/59	6	13	19/118	15.3
IN	2	2	4/50	6	8	14/100	12.0
IA	0	1	1/50	11	5	16/100	11.3
KS	2	1	3/40	10	11	21/125	14.5
KY	2	0	2/38	7	1	8/100	7.2
LA	0	0	0/39	3	0	3/105	2.1
ME	4	2	6/33	21	14	35/151	22.4
MD	3	0	3/47	29	4	33/141	19.1
MA	5	1	6/40	13	6	20/160	13.5
MI	1	1	2/38	10	4	14/110	10.8
MN	5	4	9/67	13	6	19/134	13.9
MS	0	0	0/52	3	0	3/122	1.7
MO	2	0	2/34	16	7	23/163	12.7
MT	2	1	3/50	12	4	16/100	12.6
NB	nonpartisan		6/49	unicameral			12.2
NV	1	1	2/21	2	2	4/42	9.5
NH	0	6	6/24	51	64	115/400	28.5
NJ	1	0	1/40	4	5	9/80	8.3
NM	1	2	3/42	2	4	6/70	9.8
NY	4	1	5/61	15	2	17/150	10.4
NC	5	0	5/50	16	3	19/120	14.1
ND	2	2	4/53	7	8	15/106	11.9
OH	1	0	1/33	7	4	11/99	9.1
OK	1	0	1/48	7	4	11/101	8.1
OR	4	2	6/30	8	6	14/60	22.2
PA	1	0	1/50	2	7	9/203	3.9
RI	4	1	5/50**	10	4	14/100	12.6
SC	2	1	3/46	9	0	9/124	7.1
SD	1	2	3/35	2	9	11/70	13.3
TN	1	0	1/33	3	5	8/99	6.8
TX	0	0	0/31	9	4	13/150	7.2
UT	0	1	1/29	3	5	8/75	8.7
VT	3	1	4/30	16	13	29/150	18.3
VA	1	1	2/40	10	1	11/100	9.3
WA	5	3	8/49	13	7	20/98	18.8
WV	3	0	3/34	13	1	14/100	12.7
WI	0	2	2/33	12	12	24/99	18.9
WY	2	1	3/30	11	8	19/64	23.4
TOTALS	107	60	173/1986	478	339	818/5452	

(6 nonpartisan)

(*1 Independent)

**11/82 RI Senate elections delayed until 6/83

1/30/83