



WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1984

Women will hold 13.4% of all seats in state legislatures in 1984; as a result of the 1983 elections, there will be 996 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 1969-1984

<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
1984	996	13.4

Women hold 9.0% of all state senate seats (177 out of 1,986) and 15.0% of state house or assembly seats (819 out of 5,452).

59.0% of all women legislators are Democrats and 40.3% are Republicans. 58.2% of women in state senates and 59.2% of women in state houses or assemblies are Democrats. 38.4% of the women senators and 40.6% of the assemblywomen and women representatives are Republicans. (A few women are independents or nonpartisan.)

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	Maine	22.3
Colorado	25.0	Oregon	22.2
Wyoming	23.4	Arizona	21.1
Connecticut	23.0	Wisconsin	19.7
Hawaii	22.4	Washington	19.0

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

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
Mississippi	2.9	Tennessee	6.8
Pennsylvania	4.0	South Carolina	7.1
Louisiana	4.8	Texas	7.2
Arkansas	5.2	Kentucky	7.2
Alabama	6.4	Virginia	7.9

Every state has at least five women in its legislature, but four states (Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Virginia) have no women in the state senate.

Black women constitute 7% (70 out of 996) of women in state legislatures. Hispanic women constitute less than 1% (0.7% or 7 out of 996) of women state legislators.

Of the 805 state legislative leadership positions available in both houses, 82 or 10.2% are held by women.

Of the 1,954 committee chair positions in both houses, 181 or 9.3% are held by women.

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, the National Women's Education Fund and the Joint Center for Political Studies.

1984

STATE	STATE SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	STATE HOUSE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	% OF WOMEN OVERALL
	D	R		D	R		
AL	1	1	2/35	7	0	7/105	6.4
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	5	2	7/36	16	20	36/151	23.0
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	1	5/35	3	8	11/70	15.2
IL	4	4	8/59	7	13	20/118	15.8
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	10	20/125	13.9
KY	2	0	2/38	7	1	8/100	7.2
LA	0	0	0/39	5	0	5/105	4.8
ME	4	2	6/33	21	14	35/151	22.3
MD	2	0	2/47	29	4	33/141	18.6
MA	5	1	6/40	13	6	20/160	13.0
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	5	0	5/122	2.9
MO	2	0	2/34	16	7	23/163	12.7
MT	2	1	3/50	12	4	16/100	12.7
NE	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	2	1	3/40	5	3	8/80	9.2
NM	1	2	3/42	2	4	6/70	8.0
NY	4	1	5/61	16	2	18/150	10.9
NC	5	0	5/50	15	3	18/120	13.5
ND	2	2	4/53	6	7	13/106	10.7
OH	1	0	1/33	7	3	10/99	3.3
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	4.0
RI	1	8	9/50	10	3	13/100	14.7
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	15	13	28/150	17.8
VA	0	0	0/40	9	2	11/100	7.9
WA	5	3	8/49	13	7	20/98	19.0
WV	3	0	3/34	14	1	15/100	13.4
WI	0	2	2/33	12	12	24/99	19.7
WY	2	1	3/30	11	8	19/64	23.4
TOTALS	103	68	177/1986	485	333	819/5452	13.4
	(6 nonpartisan)			(*Independent)			