



## WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1985

Women hold 14.8% of all seats in state legislatures in 1985; as a result of the 1984 elections, there are 1,103 female state legislators out of a total of 7,461 legislators. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than tripled.

### WOMEN STATE LEGISLATORS 1969-1985

| <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                          |
| <b>1985</b> | <b>1,103</b>             | <b>14.8</b>                   |

Women hold 9.9% of all state senate seats (197 out of 1,995) and 16.6% of state house or assembly seats (906 out of 5,466).

54.3% of all women legislators are Democrats and 45.0% are Republicans. 55.4% of women in state senates and 53.8% of women in state houses or assemblies are Democrats. 40.1% of the women senators and 46.0% of the assemblywomen and women representatives are Republicans. (In Nebraska state legislators are elected on a non-partisan basis.)

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 | 33.0           | Maine        | 23.7           |
| Vermont       | 26.1           | Connecticut  | 21.9           |
| Wyoming       | 25.6           | Arizona      | 20.0           |
| Colorado      | 24.0           | Oregon       | 20.0           |
| Washington    | 23.8           | Florida      | 19.4           |

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    | 2.3            | Kentucky     | 6.5            |
| Louisiana      | 4.8            | Utah         | 6.7            |
| Pennsylvania   | 5.1            | Arkansas     | 7.4            |
| South Carolina | 5.8            | Virginia     | 7.9            |
| Alabama        | 6.4            | Tennessee    | 8.3            |

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

Black women constitute 6.7% (74 out of 1,103) of women in state legislatures; 11 Black women serve in senates and 63 serve in lower houses. Hispanic women constitute 1.2% (13 out of 1,103) of women legislators; 2 Hispanic women serve in senates and 11 serve in lower houses.

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| STATE  | STATE SENATE    |    | TOTAL WOMEN/<br>TOTAL SENATE | STATE HOUSE  |     | TOTAL WOMEN/<br>TOTAL HOUSE | % OF WOMEN<br>OVERALL |
|--------|-----------------|----|------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
|        | D               | R  |                              | D            | R   |                             |                       |
| AL     | 1               | 1  | 2/35                         | 7            | 0   | 7/105                       | 6.4                   |
| AK     | 1               | 3  | 4/20                         | 4            | 3   | 7/40                        | 18.3                  |
| AZ     | 1               | 3  | 4/30                         | 5            | 9   | 14/60                       | 20.0                  |
| AR     | 1               | 0  | 1/35                         | 8            | 1   | 9/100                       | 7.4                   |
| CA     | 2               | 2  | 4/40                         | 7            | 4   | 11/80                       | 12.5                  |
| CO     | 2               | 3  | 5/35                         | 6            | 13  | 19/65                       | 24.0                  |
| CT     | 2               | 3  | 5/36                         | 12           | 24  | 36/151                      | 21.9                  |
| DE     | 2               | 1  | 3/21                         | 3            | 4   | 7/41                        | 16.1                  |
| FL     | 7               | 2  | 9/40                         | 11           | 11  | 22/120                      | 19.4                  |
| GA     | 2               | 0  | 2/56                         | 17           | 4   | 21/180                      | 9.7                   |
| HI     | 4               | 2  | 6/25                         | 4            | 4   | 8/51                        | 18.4                  |
| ID     | 5               | 2  | 7/42                         | 4            | 13  | 17/84                       | 19.1                  |
| IL     | 4               | 6  | 10/59                        | 8            | 12  | 20/118                      | 16.9                  |
| IN     | 3               | 3  | 6/50                         | 7            | 6   | 13/100                      | 12.7                  |
| IA     | 1               | 2  | 3/50                         | 13           | 6   | 19/100                      | 14.7                  |
| KS     | 2               | 3  | 5/40                         | 11           | 14  | 25/125                      | 18.2                  |
| KY     | 2               | 0  | 2/38                         | 5            | 2   | 7/100                       | 6.5                   |
| LA     | 0               | 0  | 0/39                         | 5            | 0   | 5/105                       | 3.5                   |
| ME     | 6               | 3  | 9/35                         | 17           | 18  | 35/151                      | 23.7                  |
| MD     | 3               | 0  | 3/47                         | 29           | 4   | 33/141                      | 19.2                  |
| MA     | 4               | 1  | 5/40                         | 20           | 8   | 28/160                      | 16.5                  |
| MI     | 1               | 1  | 2/38                         | 9            | 5   | 14/110                      | 10.8                  |
| MN     | 5               | 4  | 9/67                         | 12           | 8   | 20/134                      | 14.4                  |
| MS     | 0               | 0  | 0/52                         | 4            | 0   | 4/122                       | 2.3                   |
| MO     | 1               | 1  | 2/34                         | 17           | 7   | 24/163                      | 13.2                  |
| MT     | 4               | 1  | 5/50                         | 13           | 4   | 17/100                      | 14.7                  |
| NE     | nonpartisan     |    | 8/49                         | unicameral   |     |                             | 16.3                  |
| NV     | 1               | 2  | 3/21                         | 3            | 4   | 7/42                        | 15.9                  |
| NH     | 0               | 7  | 7/24                         | 44           | 89  | 133/400                     | 33.0                  |
| NJ     | 2               | 1  | 3/40                         | 2            | 7   | 9/80                        | 10.0                  |
| NM     | 0               | 2  | 2/42                         | 1            | 10  | 11/70                       | 11.6                  |
| NY     | 4               | 1  | 5/61                         | 16           | 2   | 18/150                      | 10.9                  |
| NC     | 4               | 0  | 4/50                         | 9            | 7   | 16/120                      | 11.8                  |
| ND     | 3               | 0  | 3/53                         | 6            | 9   | 15/106                      | 11.9                  |
| OH     | 1               | 1  | 2/33                         | 7            | 3   | 10/99                       | 9.1                   |
| OK     | 2               | 1  | 3/48                         | 6            | 4   | 10/101                      | 8.7                   |
| OR     | 4               | 2  | 6/30                         | 8            | 4   | 12/60                       | 20.0                  |
| PA     | 2               | 0  | 2/50                         | 3            | 8   | 11/203                      | 5.1                   |
| RI     | 3               | 5  | 8/50                         | 11           | 4   | 15/100                      | 15.3                  |
| SC     | 2               | 0  | 2/46                         | 7            | 1   | 8/124                       | 5.8                   |
| SD     | 2               | 2  | 4/35                         | 1            | 10  | 11/70                       | 14.3                  |
| TN     | 1               | 0  | 1/33                         | 4            | 8   | 10/99                       | 8.3                   |
| TX     | 0               | 1  | 1/31                         | 10           | 5   | 15/150                      | 8.8                   |
| UT     | 0               | 1  | 1/29                         | 2            | 4   | 6/75                        | 6.7                   |
| VT     | 4               | 0  | 4/30                         | 23           | 20  | 43/150                      | 26.1                  |
| VA     | 0               | 0  | 0/40                         | 9            | 0   | 10/100                      | 7.1                   |
| WA     | 4               | 3  | 7/49                         | 16           | 12  | 28/98                       | 23.8                  |
| WV     | 2               | 1  | 3/34                         | 16           | 4   | 20/100                      | 17.2                  |
| WI     | 1               | 2  | 3/33                         | 12           | 10  | 22/99                       | 18.9                  |
| WY     | 2               | 0  | 2/30                         | 11           | 11  | 22/64                       | 25.6                  |
| TOTALS | 110             | 79 | 197/1,995                    | 485          | 418 | 904/5,466                   | 14.8                  |
|        | (8 nonpartisan) |    |                              | *Independent |     |                             |                       |

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