



WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1987

In 1987 women hold **15.7%** of all seats in state legislatures. 1168 of the 7461 state legislators serving in 1987 are women. Women hold 222, or 11.1% of the 1995 state senate seats and 946, or 17.3%, of the 5466 state house or assembly seats. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has almost quadrupled:

<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
1985	1103	14.8
1987	1168	15.7

The party breakdown for women serving in all state legislatures in 1987 is 679 Democrats (58%), 479 Republicans (41%), 9 nonpartisans (1%), and 1 Independent. The party breakdown in the senate is 127 Democrats (57%), 86 Republicans (39%), and 9 nonpartisans (4%). The party breakdown in the house is 552 Democrats (58%), 393 Republicans (42%), and 1 Independent. (The Nebraska legislature is unicameral and legislators are elected on a nonpartisan 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	32.5	Arizona	23.3
Maine	28.5	Wyoming	22.3
Colorado	28.0	Connecticut	21.9
Washington	25.2	Idaho	21.4
Vermont	24.4	Wisconsin	21.2

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	Arkansas	6.7
Louisiana	4.2	Virginia	7.1
Kentucky	5.1	South Carolina	7.6
Alabama	5.7	Utah	7.7
Pennsylvania	6.3	Oklahoma	8.7

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

According to the Joint Center for Political Studies, 93 Black women serve in the state legislature; 16 are senators and 77 are representatives. All but one, an Independent, are Democrats. Black women hold 1.2% (93 out of 7461) of all seats in state legislatures and constitute 8.0% (93 out of 1168) of the total seats held by women and 23.3% (93 out of 400) of the total seats held by Blacks. There are 31 states in which Black women serve in the legislature.

According to the Office of Vice Chair Polly Baca at the Democratic National Committee, 13 Hispanic women (10 Democrats and 3 Republicans) serve in the state legislature; 3 are senators and 10 are representatives. Hispanic women hold 0.2% (13 out of 7461) of all seats in state legislatures and constitute 1.1% (13 out of 1168) of the total seats held by women and 11.5% (13 out of 113) of the total seats held by Hispanics. There are seven states in which Hispanic women serve in the legislature.

In using data from our fact sheets, please credit the National Information Bank on Women in Public Office (NIB), a service of the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

1987

STATE	STATE RANK	STATE SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	STATE HOUSE		TOTAL/WOMEN TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS.	% OF WOMEN OVERALL
		D	R		D	R			
AL	47	0	1	1/35	7	0	7/105	8/140	5.7
AK	14 ⁺	1	2	3/20	5	4	9/ 40	12/ 60	20.0
AZ	6	2	4	6/30	6	9	15/ 60	21/ 90	23.3
AR	45	1	0	1/35	7	1	8/100	9/135	6.7
CA	30	2	2	4/40	8	5	13/ 80	17/120	14.2
CO	3	1	2	3/35	8	17	25/ 65	28/100	28.0
CT	8	4	2	6/36	19	16	35/151	41/187	21.9
DE	21	2	2	4/21	2	4	6/ 41	10/ 62	16.1
FL	13	6	4	10/40	13	10	23/120	33/160	20.6
GA	35	1	1	2/56	19	5	24/180	26/236	11.0
HI	11	4	3	7/25	7	2	9/ 51	16/ 76	21.1
ID	9	5	2	7/42	6	14	20/ 84	27/126	21.4
IL	19	6	6	12/59	9	11	20/118	32/177	18.1
IN	32	5	3	8/50	5	6	11/100	19/150	12.7
IA	29	2	2	4/50	11	7	18/100	22/150	14.7
KS	16	2	3	5/40	12	14	26/125	31/165	18.8
KY	48	2	0	2/38	3	2	5/100	7/138	5.1
LA	49	0	0	0/39	6	0	6/105	6/144	4.2
ME	2	4	6	10/35	24	19	43/151	53/186	28.5
MD	12	6	0	6/47	29	4	33/141	39/188	20.7
MA	17	5	1	6/40	22	9	31/160	37/200	18.5
MI	28	1	1	2/38	14	6	20/110	22/148	14.9
MN	26	6	3	9/67	15	7	22/134	31/201	15.4
MS	50	0	0	0/52	4	0	4/122	4/174	2.3
MO	24	1	1	2/34	22	7	29/163	31/197	15.7
MT	27	5	1	6/50	13	4	17/100	23/150	15.3
NE	18	NONPARTISAN		9/49	UNICAMERAL			9/ 49	18.4
NV	23	0	2	2/21	6	2	8/ 42	10/ 63	15.9
NH	1	3	5	8/24	50	80	130/400	138/424	32.5
NJ	37	2	1	3/40	2	7	9/ 80	12/120	10.0
NM	38	0	2	2/42	4	5	9/ 70	11/112	9.8
NY	36	4	1	5/61	15	3	18/150	23/211	10.9
NC	31	4	0	4/50	13	7	20/120	24/170	14.1
ND	33	3	1	4/53	8	8	16/106	20/159	12.6
OH	34	1	1	2/33	9	4	13/ 99	15/132	11.4
OK	41	4	2	6/48	6	1	7/101	13/149	8.7
OR	20	4	2	6/30	7	3	10/ 60	16/ 90	17.8
PA	46	2	0	2/50	5	9	14/203	16/253	6.3
RI	22	5	5	10/50	10	4	14/100	24/150	16.0
SC	43	1	1	2/46	9	2	11/124	13/170	7.6
SD	14 ⁺	3	2	5/35	5	11	16/ 70	21/105	20.0
TN	40	1	0	1/33	5	6	11/ 99	12/132	9.1
TX	39	2	1	3/31	10	4	14/150	17/181	9.4
UT	42	1	0	1/29	3	4	7/ 75	8/104	7.7
VT	5	3	0	3/30	22	19	41/150	44/180	24.4
VA	44	0	0	0/40	9	0	1* 10/100	10/140	7.1
WA	4	4	4	8/49	19	10	29/ 98	37/147	25.2
WV	25	2	1	3/34	17	1	18/100	21/134	15.7
WI	10	1	3	4/33	14	10	24/ 99	28/132	21.2
WY	7	3	0	3/30	8	10	18/ 64	21/ 94	22.3
TOTALS		127	86	222/1995	552	393	946/5466	1168/7461	15.7
		(9 nonpartisan)			*(1 Independent)				

*States with same percentage are given same rank.