



WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1988

In 1988 women hold 15.8% of all seats in state legislatures. 1176 of the 7461 state legislators serving in 1988 are women. Women hold 230, or 11.5%, 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	1170	15.7
1988	1176	15.8

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 1988 is 686 Democrats (58%), and 481 Republicans (41%). The Nebraska legislature is unicameral and legislators are elected on a nonpartisan basis; 9 women serve in the Nebraska Senate. The party breakdown in state senates is 132 Democrats (57%), and 89 Republicans (39%). The party breakdown in state houses is 554 Democrats (59%), and 392 Republicans (41%).

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	32.6	Arizona	23.3
Maine	28.5	Wyoming	22.3
Colorado	28.0	Idaho	21.4
Vermont	25.6	Connecticut	21.4
Washington	25.2	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>
Louisiana	2.8	Pennsylvania	6.7
Alabama	5.7	South Carolina	7.7
Mississippi	5.8	Utah	7.7
Kentucky	5.8	Oklahoma	8.7
Arkansas	6.7	Tennessee	9.1

Every state has at least four women in its state house, but only one state (Louisiana) has no women in its state senate.

Four women hold the highest ranking state legislative leadership positions in the country. Two women preside over senates: Senate President Jan Faiks (R-AK) and Senate President Pro Tem Mary McClure (R-SD). Two women are Speakers of Houses: Representative Vera Katz (D-OR) and Representative Debra Anderson (R-SD).

The latest Joint Center for Political Studies and CAWP figures show that 95 Black women serve in state legislatures. There are 18 senators and 77 representatives serving in 30 states; all are Democrats.

According to the Office of Vice Chair Polly Baca at the Democratic National Committee, 13 Hispanic women serve in state legislatures. There are 3 senators and 10 representatives serving in eight states; 11 are Democrats and 2 are Republicans. Asian-Pacific American women hold 14 seats in state legislatures. There are 7 senators and 7 representatives serving in 3 states; 10 are Democrats and 4 are Republicans. Native American women hold 6 seats in state legislatures. There are 2 senators and 4 representatives serving in 4 states; 5 are Democrats and 1 is a Republican.

A note to users of our fact sheets: Please credit the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), National Information Bank on Women in Public Office (NIB), Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

1988

STATE	STATE RANK	SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL
		D	R		D	R			
AL	49	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	46	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	3	4/35	7	17	24/ 65	20/100	28.0
CT	9	4	2	6/36	19	15	34/151	40/187	21.4
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	5	3	8/25	6	2	8/ 51	16/ 76	21.1
ID	8	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	47	2	0	2/38	3	3	6/100	8/138	5.8
LA	50	0	0	0/39	4	0	4/105	4/144	2.8
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	48	2	1	3/52	7	0	7/122	10/174	5.8
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	32.6
NJ	40	2	1	3/40	2	6	8/ 80	11/120	9.2
NM	38	0	2	2/42	4	5	9/ 70	11/112	9.8
NY	36	4	1	5/61	15	2	17/150	22/211	10.4
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	42	4	2	6/48	6	1	7/101	13/149	8.7
OR	20	4	1	5/30	7	3	10/ 60	15/ 90	16.7
PA	45	2	0	2/50	6	9	15/203	17/253	6.7
RI	22	5	5	10/50	10	4	14/100	24/150	16.0
SC	44	1	1	2/46	9	2	11/124	13/170	7.7
SD	14 ⁺	3	2	5/35	5	11	16/ 70	21/105	20.0
TN	41	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	43	1	0	1/29	3	4	7/ 75	8/104	7.7
VT	4	3	0	3/30	23	20	43/150	46/180	25.6
VA	37	2	1	3/40	9	2	11/100	14/140	10.0
WA	5	4	5	9/49	20	8	28/ 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		132	89	230/1995	554	392	946/5466	1176/7461	15.8
		(9 nonpartisans)							

*States with same percentage are given same rank.