

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1991

In 1991, **1,365**, or **18.3%**, of the 7,461 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold 299, or 15.0%, of the 1,995 state senate seats and 1,066, or 19.5%, of the 5,466 state house or assembly seats. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than 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	1,103	14.8
1987	1,170	15.7
1989	1,270	17.0
1991	1,365	18.3

The **party breakdown** for women serving in state legislatures in 1991 is:

	<u>Total Legislatures</u>		<u>State Senates</u>		<u>State Houses</u>	
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Democrats	824	60.4	193	64.6	631	59.2
Republicans	532	39.0	97	32.4	435	40.8
Nonpartisans*	9	0.7	9	3.0	-----	-----
Total	1,365	100.1	299	100.0	1,066	100.0

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

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
Arizona	34.4	Colorado	31.0
Maine	32.8	Idaho	28.6
New Hampshire	31.8	Hawaii	27.6
Vermont	31.7	Kansas	26.7
Washington	31.3	South Dakota	24.8

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	Oklahoma	8.7
Kentucky	5.1	Pennsylvania	9.5
Alabama	5.7	New Jersey	10.8
Mississippi	6.9	South Carolina	11.2
Arkansas	7.4	Tennessee	11.4

Every state has at least three women in its state house and one woman in its state senate.

Three women currently hold the highest ranking legislative leadership positions in state senates: Senate President Pro Tempore Ellen Craswell (R-WA); Senate President Pro Tempore Bonnie Heinrich (D-ND); and Senate President Gwen Margolis (D-FL).** This is a record number of women to serve in top senate posts. Representative Jane Hull (R-AZ) is the only woman serving as speaker of a house.**

In 1894, the first women state legislators were elected to serve in the United States. Three Republican women were elected to the Colorado House of Representatives: Clara Cressingham; Carrie C. Holly; Frances Klock. The first woman state senator, Democrat Martha Hughes Canon, was elected to the Utah State Senate in 1896.***

*In Nebraska, where the legislature is unicameral, legislators are elected on a nonpartisan basis.

**National Conference of State Legislatures.

***Utah Governor's Commission for Women.

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, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

STATE	STATE RANK	SENATE D	SENATE R	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE D	HOUSE R	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL
AL	48	0	1	1/35	7	0	7/105	8/140	5.7
AK	14 ⁺	1	3	4/20	5	5	10/ 40	14/ 60	23.3
AZ	1	4	4	8/30	10	13	23/ 60	31/ 90	34.4
AR	46	1	0	1/35	7	2	9/100	10/135	7.4
CA	25	3	2	5/40	9	7	16/ 80	21/120	17.5
CO	6	3	5	8/35	11	12	23/ 65	31/100	31.0
CT	16	4	3	7/36	21	15	36/151	43/187	23.0
DE	37	3	1	4/21	1	3	4/ 41	8/ 62	12.9
FL	22	8	2	10/40	11	9	20/120	30/160	18.8
GA	34	2	1	3/56	24	6	30/180	33/236	14.0
HI	8	6	1	7/25	11	3	14/ 51	21/ 76	27.6
ID	7	10	2	12/42	10	14	24/ 84	36/126	28.6
IL	23	6	6	12/59	11	10	21/118	33/177	18.6
IN	26	7	5	12/50	7	7	14/100	26/150	17.3
IA	31	4	2	6/50	11	5	16/100	22/150	14.7
KS	9	5	4	9/40	17	18	35/125	44/165	26.7
KY	49	1	0	1/38	2	4	6/100	7/138	5.1
LA	50	1	0	1/39	3	0	3/105	4/144	2.8
ME	2	6	6	12/35	34	15	49/151	61/186	32.8
MD	12	9	0	9/47	31	5	36/141	45/188	23.9
MA	21	3	4	7/40	23	8	31/160	38/200	19.0
MI	30	2	1	3/38	11	8	19/110	22/148	14.9
MN	17	9	5	14/67	18	11	29/134	43/201	21.4
MS	47	3	1	4/52	8	0	8/122	12/174	6.9
MO	27	1	1	2/34	22	8	30/163	32/197	16.2
MT	19	7	1	8/50	18	5	23/100	31/150	20.7
NE	24	NONPARTISAN		9/49	UNICAMERAL			9/ 49	18.4
NV	20	2	2	4/21	6	2	8/ 42	12/ 63	19.0
NH	3	4	3	7/24	49	79	128/400	135/424	31.8
NJ	43	1	1	2/40	4	7	11/ 80	13/120	10.8
NM	35	3	1	4/42	6	5	11/ 70	15/112	13.4
NY	36	5	1	6/61	18	4	22/150	28/211	13.3
NC	32	4	1	5/50	13	7	20/120	25/170	14.7
ND	33	3	3	6/53	8	9	17/106	23/159	14.5
OH	29	1	3	4/33	12	4	16/ 99	20/132	15.2
OK	45	5	0	5/48	5	3	8/101	13/149	8.7
OR	14 ⁺	6	1	7/30	8	6	14/ 60	21/ 90	23.3
PA	44	3	1	4/50	9	11	20/203	24/253	9.5
RI	28	6	2	8/50	11	5	16/100	24/150	16.0
SC	42	1	1	2/46	12	5	17/124	19/170	11.2
SD	10	9	2	11/35	5	10	15/ 70	26/105	24.8
TN	41	2	1	3/33	5	7	12/ 99	15/132	11.4
TX	38	3	1	4/31	13	6	19/150	23/181	12.7
UT	40	2	1	3/29	4	5	9/ 75	12/104	11.5
VT	4	7	0	7/30	27	23	50/150	57/180	31.7
VA	39	2	1	3/40	9	5	14/100	17/140	12.1
WA	5	6	5	11/49	22	13	35/ 98	46/147	31.3
WV	18	5	1	6/34	16	6	22/100	28/134	20.9
WI	13	1	4	5/33	19	7	26/ 99	31/132	23.5
WY	11	3	0	3/30	7	13	20/ 64	23/ 94	24.5
TOTALS		193	97	299/1,995	631	435	1,066/5,466	1,365/7,461	18.3

(9 nonpartisans)

*States with the same percentage are given the same rank