

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1995

In 1995, 1,532, or 20.6% of the 7,424 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold 341, or 17.2%, of the 1,984 state senate seats and 1,191, or 21.9%, of the 5,440 state house or assembly seats. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has increased five-fold.

<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	1,368	18.3
1992	1,375	18.4
1993	1,524	20.5
1994	1,547	20.8
1995	1,532	20.6

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 1995 is:

	<u>Total Legislators</u>		<u>State Senators</u>		<u>State Reps.</u>	
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Democrats	843	55.0	190	55.7	653	54.8
Republicans	673	43.9	137	40.2	536	45.0
Nonpartisans*	12	0.8	12	3.5	---	---
Independents	<u>4</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0.2</u>
Total	1,532	100.0	341	100.0	1,191	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>
Washington	39.5	New Hampshire	29.7
Nevada	34.9	Oregon	28.9
Colorado	31.0	Maryland	28.7
Arizona**	30.0	Kansas	27.9
Vermont**	30.0	Idaho	27.6

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

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
Alabama	3.6	Mississippi	11.5
Kentucky	8.0	Pennsylvania	11.9
Louisiana	9.7	South Carolina	12.4
Oklahoma	10.7	Arkansas	12.6
Virginia	11.4	New Jersey	13.3

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.

** States with the exact same percentage (AZ & VT) are given the same rank; since there is a tie, no state is ranked fifth. States which round out to the same figure, but are not exactly the same, are ranked differently.

*** Source: 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.

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STATE	STATE RANK	SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL
		D	R		D	R			
AL	50	1	0	1/35	4	0	4/105	5/140	3.6
AK	20	2	2	4/20	4	5 (1 ind)	10/ 40	14/ 60	23.3
AZ*	4	3	5	8/30	7	12	19/ 60	27/ 90	30.0
AR	42	0	1	1/35	14	2	16/100	17/135	12.6
CA	26	3	1 (1 ind)	5/40	16	4	20/ 80	25/120	20.8
CO	3	5	5	10/35	10	11	21/ 65	31/100	31.0
CT	11	4	4	8/36	30	12	42/151	50/187	26.7
DE	25	2	4	6/21	0	7	7/ 41	13/ 62	21.0
FL	30	3	3	6/40	20	5	25/120	31/160	19.4
GA	32	6	2	8/56	23	12	35/180	43/236	18.22
HI	29	5	0	5/25	6	4	10/ 51	15/ 76	19.7
ID	10	4	3	7/35	5	17	22/ 70	29/105	27.6
IL	21	5	5	10/59	15	16	31/118	41/177	23.2
IN	23	7	7	14/50	6	13	19/100	33/150	22.0
IA	35	4	6	10/50	7	10	17/100	27/150	18.00
KS	9	3	11	14/40	12	20	32/125	46/165	27.9
KY	49	0	2	2/38	5	4	9/100	11/138	8.0
LA	48	2	0	2/39	10	2	12/105	14/144	9.7
ME	12	7	3 (1 ind)	11/35	22	15	37/151	48/186	25.8
MD	8	6	1	7/47	36	11	47/141	54/188	28.7
MA*	17	6	2	8/40	27	13	40/160	48/200	24.0
MI	22	2	1	3/38	17	13	30/110	33/148	22.3
MN	13	11	7	18/67	19	13	32/134	50/201	24.9
MS	45	3	1	4/52	14	2	16/122	20/174	11.5
MO	28	0	3	3/34	18	18	36/163	39/197	19.8
MT*	17	7	2	9/50	11	16	27/100	36/150	24.0
NE	14	NONPARTISAN		12/49	UNICAMERAL		12/ 49		24.5
NV	2	2	3	5/21	9	8	17/ 42	22/ 63	34.9
NH	6	3	3	6/24	45	75	120/400	126/424	29.7
NJ	41	1	0	1/40	6	9	15/ 80	16/120	13.3
NM	27	6	2	8/42	9	6	15/ 70	23/112	20.5
NY	34	8	1	9/61	21	8	29/150	38/211	18.01
NC	36	3	3	6/50	7	15	22/120	28/170	16.5
ND	37	5	4	9/49	4	9	13/ 98	22/147	15.0
OH*	15	3	5	8/33	10	13 (1 ind)	24/ 99	32/132	24.2
OK	47	5	2	7/48	6	3	9/101	16/149	10.7
OR	7	4	3	7/30	11	8	19/ 60	26/ 90	28.9
PA	44	3	1	4/50	12	14	26/203	30/253	11.9
RI*	17	8	2	10/50	20	6	26/100	36/150	24.0
SC	43	2	1	3/46	8	10	18/124	21/170	12.4
SD	33	4	1	5/35	4	10	14/ 70	19/105	18.1
TN	40	2	1	3/33	11	4	15/ 99	18/132	13.6
TX	31	2	2	4/31	18	11	29/150	33/181	18.23
UT	39	1	0	1/29	4	10	14/ 75	15/104	14.4
VT*	4	5	6	11/30	29	14	43/150	54/180	30.0
VA	46	3	1	4/40	9	3	12/100	16/140	11.4
WA	1	14	6	20/49	20	18	38/ 98	58/147	39.5
WV	38	3	2	5/34	10	5	15/100	20/134	14.9
WI*	15	2	6	8/33	15	9	24/ 99	32/132	24.2
WY	24	0	1	1/30	7	11	18/ 60	19/ 90	21.1
TOTALS		190	137	341/1,984	653	536	1,191/5,440	1,532/7,424	20.6
		(12 nonpartisans)			(2 independents)				
		(2 independent)							

* States with the exact same percentage (AZ & VT=4; OH & WI=15; MA, MT & RI=17) are given the same rank; since there is a tie, no states are ranked 5th, 16th, 18th or 19th. States which round out to the same figure (GA & TX; IA & NY), but are not exactly the same, are ranked differently.