

## WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1998

In 1998, **1,617**, or **21.8%** of the 7,424 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold **366**, or 18.4%, of the 1,984 state senate seats and **1,251**, or 23.0%, of the 5,440 state house or assembly seats. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has increased more than 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
1993	1,524	20.5
1995	1,532	20.6
1996	1,539	20.7
1997	1,605	21.6
<b>1998</b>	<b>1,617</b>	<b>21.8</b>

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 1998 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	948	58.6	213	58.2	735	58.8
Republicans	652	40.3	139	38.0	513	41.0
Nonpartisans*	13	0.8	13	3.6	---	---
Independents	<u>4</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0.2</u>
Total	1,617	99.9	366	100.0	1,251	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	Minnesota	31.3
Colorado	37.0	New Hampshire	30.9
Arizona	36.7	Maryland	29.8
Nevada	33.3	Kansas	29.7
Vermont	33.3	Connecticut	28.9

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	4.3	Pennsylvania	12.3
Kentucky	9.4	Mississippi	12.6
Oklahoma	10.1	Alaska	13.3
South Carolina	11.8	Tennessee	13.6
Louisiana	11.8	West Virginia	14.9

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 Cannon, was elected to the Utah State Senate in 1896.\*\*

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

\*\* Source: Utah Governor's Commission for Women.

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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	2	0	2/35	4	0	4/105	6/140	4.3
AK	43	1	2	3/20	1	4	5/40	8/60	13.3
AZ	2	4	4	8/30	8	17	25/60	33/90	36.7
AR	36	0	1	1/35	20	2	22/100	23/135	17.0
CA	25	5	1	6/40	17	3	20/80	26/120	21.7
CO	3	5	5	10/35	10	17	27/65	37/100	37.0
CT	10	5	4	9/36	32	13	45/151	54/187	28.9
DE*	15	3	4	7/21	2	7	9/41	16/62	25.8
FL	19	2	4	6/40	23	9	32/120	38/160	23.8
GA	38	6	1	7/56	23	10	33/180	40/236	16.9
HI	34	5	0	5/25	5	3	8/51	13/76	17.1
ID	18	2	4	6/35	4	15	19/70	25/105	23.8
IL	17	4	7	11/59	18	16	34/118	45/177	25.4
IN	29	7	7	14/50	6	9	15/100	29/150	19.3
IA	26	5	7	12/50	10	10	20/100	32/150	21.3
KS	9	4	10	14/40	15	20	35/125	49/165	29.7
KY	49	0	2	2/38	7	4	11/100	13/138	9.4
LA	46	2	0	2/39	12	2 (1 ind)	15/105	17/144	11.8
ME**	15	9	3 (1 ind)	13/35	23	11 (1 ind)	35/151	48/186	25.8
MD	8	7	1	8/47	37	11	48/141	56/188	29.8
MA	20	7	0	7/40	30	10	40/160	47/200	23.5
MI	23	2	1	3/38	17	14	31/110	34/148	23.0
MN	6	14	8	22/67	26	15	41/134	63/201	31.3
MS	44	3	0	3/52	15	4	19/122	22/174	12.6
MO	27	0	3	3/34	21	18	39/163	42/197	21.3
MT	22	8	1	9/50	15	11	26/100	35/150	23.3
NE	13	NONPARTISAN		13/49	UNICAMERAL			13/49	26.5
NV	4	3	2	5/21	10	6	16/42	21/63	33.3
NH	7	5	3	8/24	64	58 (1 ind)	123/400	131/424	30.9
NJ	39	2	2	4/40	9	7	16/80	20/120	16.7
NM	11	7	3	10/42	10	10	20/70	30/112	26.8
NY	28	7	1	8/61	25	10	35/150	43/211	20.4
NC	32	4	2	6/50	11	13	24/120	30/170	17.6
ND	37	2	4	6/49	8	11	19/98	25/147	17.0
OH	24	3	3	6/33	9	14	23/99	29/132	22.0
OK	48	4	2	6/48	6	3	9/101	15/149	10.1
OR	12	6	4	10/30	8	6	14/60	24/90	26.7
PA	45	3	3	6/50	12	13	25/203	31/253	12.3
RI	14	8	3	11/50	22	6	28/100	39/150	26.0
SC	47	2	1	3/46	6	11	17/124	20/170	11.8
SD	35	2	3	5/35	5	8	13/70	18/105	17.1
TN	42	3	0	3/33	12	3	15/99	18/132	13.6
TX	31	1	2	3/31	19	11	30/150	33/181	18.2
UT	33	1	0	1/29	6	11	17/75	18/104	17.3
VT	4	10	2	12/30	34	14	48/150	60/180	33.3
VA	40	6	1	7/40	8	7	15/100	22/140	15.7
WA	1	15	7	22/49	20	16	36/98	58/147	39.5
WV	41	2	2	4/34	11	5	16/100	20/134	14.9
WI	21	3	7	10/33	12	9	21/99	31/132	23.5
WY	30	2	2	4/30	7	6	13/60	17/90	18.9
		213	139	366/1,984	735	513	1,251/5,440	1,617/7,424	21.8
		(13 nonpartisans)			(3 independents)				
		(1 independent)							

\* States with the exact same percentages are ranked the same (DE & ME, 15; NV & VT, 4); since there is a tie, no state is ranked 5th or 16th. States which round out to the same figure (FL & ID; HI, NC & SD; IA & MO; and MA & WI), but are not exactly the same, are ranked differently.

\*\* In addition, one woman in Maine was elected in November 1997 as a non-voting member representing the Penobscot Nation.