

## WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2004

In 2004, 1,659, or 22.5% of the 7,382 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold 411, or 20.9%, of the 1,971 state senate seats and 1,248, or 23.1%, of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has increased more than four-fold.

Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators	Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators	Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators
1971	344	4.5	1985	1,103	14.8	1998	1,617	21.8
1973	424	5.6	1987	1,170	15.7	1999	1,664	22.4
1975	604	8.0	1989	1,270	17.0	2000	1,670	22.5
1977	688	9.1	1991	1,368	18.3	2001	1,666	22.4
1979	770	10.3	1993	1,524	20.5	2002	1,682	22.7
1981	908	12.1	1995	1,532	20.6	2003	1,654	22.4
1983	991	13.3	1997	1,605	21.6	2004	1,659	22.5

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 2004 is:

	Total Legislators		State Senators		State Reps.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	1006	60.6	262	63.7	744	59.6
Republicans	640	38.6	139	33.8	501	40.1
Nonpartisans*	9	0.5	9	2.2	---	---
Progressives	1	0.1	---	---	1	0.1
Independents	3	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.2
Total	1,659	100.0	411	99.9	1,248	100.0

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Washington	36.7	California	30.0
Maryland	34.0	Connecticut	29.4
Colorado	34.0	Delaware	29.0
Vermont	31.1	Oregon	28.9
New Mexico	30.4	Nevada	28.6

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
South Carolina	9.4	Pennsylvania	14.2
Alabama	10.0	Virginia	14.3
Kentucky	10.9	New Jersey	15.8
Mississippi	12.6	South Dakota	16.2
Oklahoma	12.8	Arkansas	16.3

### Women in State Legislative Leadership

Two women serve as presidents of state senates: Beverly Daggett (D-ME) and April Brimmer Kunz (R-WY). Four women are speakers of state houses: Lola Spradley (R-CO), Moira K. Lyons (D-CT), Catherine Hanaway (R-MO), and Karen Minnis (R-OR).

### Women of Color in State Legislatures

Of the 1,659 women legislators serving nationwide, 306 or 18.4% are women of color. They include 85 senators and 221 representatives; all but 18 are Democrats. Women of color constitute 4.1% of the total 7,382 state legislators.

### The First Women Legislators

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.

Reproduction of this entire document or any part of it for non-commercial purposes is encouraged, provided credit is given to Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Any information reproduced must include footnotes/endnotes which apply to that information. Commercial reproduction requires prior permission in writing from Center for American Women and Politics.

## WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2004

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	2	1	3/35	9	2	11/105	14/140	10.0
AK	32	3	1	4/20	3	5	8/40	12/60	20.0
AZ	14	3	5	8/30	7	9 (11)	17/60	25/90	27.8
AR*	41	5	2	7/35	9	6	15/100	22/135	16.3
CA	6	11	0	11/40	20	5	25/80	36/120	30.0
CO	3	9	1	10/35	14	10	24/65	34/100	34.0
CT	7	6	2	8/36	29	18	47/151	55/187	29.4
DE	8	4	3	7/21	4	7	11/41	18/62	29.0
FL	20	5	5	10/40	15	15	30/120	40/160	25.0
GA	25	11	2	13/56	28	10	38/180	51/236	21.6
HI*	15	7	0	7/25	8	6	14/51	21/76	27.6
ID	19	1	2	3/35	8	16	24/70	27/105	25.7
IL	11	9	4	13/59	24	13	37/118	50/177	28.2
IN	36	7	6	13/50	7	7	14/100	27/150	18.0
IA*	26	1	6	7/50	16	9	25/100	32/150	21.3
KS	13	3	7	10/40	17	19	36/125	46/165	27.9
KY	48	0	4	4/38	9	2	11/100	15/138	10.9
LA	39	5	1	6/39	13	5	18/105	24/144	16.7
ME**	18	9	4	13/35	26	11	37/151	50/186	26.9
MD	2	12	3	15/47	38	11	49/141	64/188	34.0
MA	20	10	1	11/40	33	6	39/160	50/200	25.0
MI	23	5	6	11/38	15	9	24/110	35/148	23.6
MN	17	11	11 (1 IP)	23/67	16	16	32/134	55/201	27.4
MS	47	4	0	4/52	13	5	18/122	22/174	12.6
MO*	27	4	3	7/34	24	11	35/163	42/197	21.3
MT	22	7	1	8/50	19	10	29/100	37/150	24.7
NE	35	NONPARTISAN		9/49	UNICAMERAL		9/49		18.4
NV	10	4	3	7/21	8	3	11/42	18/63	28.6
NH*	16	2	2	4/24	62	51	113/400	117/424	27.6
NJ	43	4	2	6/40	10	3	13/80	19/120	15.8
NM	5	7	5	12/42	12	10	22/70	34/112	30.4
NY	24	6	5	11/62	29	8	37/150	48/212	22.6
NC*	29	5	2	7/50	18	11	29/120	36/170	21.2
ND*	40	3	2	5/47	6	12	18/94	23/141	16.3
OH*	28	3	1	4/33	12	12	24/99	28/132	21.2
OK	46	6	2	8/48	5	6	11/101	19/149	12.8
OR	9	6	1	7/30	10	9	19/60	26/90	28.9
PA	45	5	3	8/50	10	18	28/203	36/253	14.2
RI	31	7	2	9/38	11	3	14/75	23/113	20.4
SC	50	2	0	2/46	8	6	14/124	16/170	9.4
SD	42	0	4	4/35	4	9	13/70	17/105	16.2
TN	38	4	1	5/33	12	6	18/99	23/132	17.4
TX	33	2	2	4/31	11	20	31/150	35/181	19.3
UT	30	3	2	5/29	7	10	17/75	22/104	21.2
VT	4	8	1	9/30	26	19 (1Prg, 11)	47/150	56/180	31.1
VA	44	7	1	8/40	6	6	12/100	20/140	14.3
WA	1	16	5	21/49	20	11	31/98	52/147	35.4
WV	34	1	4	5/34	14	6	20/100	25/134	18.7
WI	12	3	6	9/33	13	15	28/99	37/132	28.0
WY	37	4	2	6/30	6	4	10/60	16/90	17.8
		262	139	411/1,971	744	501	1,248/5,411	1,659/7,382	22.5
		(9 nonpartisans)			(1 Progressive)				
		(1 Independence Party)			(2 Independent)				

\* States where percentages are exactly the same (FL & MA) are ranked the same. States where percentages round out to the same (AR & ND; CO & MD; HI & NH; IA & MO; OH, NC & UT), 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.