

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2006

In 2006, **1,681**, or **22.8%** of the 7,382 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold **407**, or **20.6%** of the 1,971 state senate seats and **1,274**, or **23.5%** of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has almost quintupled.

Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators	Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators	Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators
1971	344	4.5	1987	1,170	15.7	2000	1,670	22.5
1973	424	5.6	1989	1,270	17.0	2001	1,666	22.4
1975	604	8.0	1991	1,368	18.3	2002	1,682	22.7
1977	688	9.1	1993	1,524	20.5	2003	1,654	22.4
1979	770	10.3	1995	1,532	20.6	2004	1,659	22.5
1981	908	12.1	1997	1,605	21.6	2005	1,674	22.7
1983	991	13.3	1998	1,617	21.8	2006	1,681	22.8
1985	1,103	14.8	1999	1,664	22.4			

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 2006 is:

	Total Legislators		State Senators		State Reps.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	1057	62.9	263	64.6	794	62.3
Republicans	608	36.2	132	32.4	476	37.4
Nonpartisans*	12	0.7	12	3.0	---	---
Progressives	2	0.1	---	---	2	0.2
Independents	2	0.1	---	---	2	0.2
Total	1,681	100.0	407	100.0	1,274	100.1

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
Maryland	35.6	Kansas	32.1
Delaware	33.9	Colorado	32.0
Arizona	33.3	Hawaii	31.6
Nevada	33.3	Minnesota	31.3
Vermont	33.3	New Mexico	31.3
Washington	33.3		

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

State	% Women	State	% Women
South Carolina	8.8	Oklahoma	14.8
Alabama	11.4	Wyoming	15.6
Kentucky	11.6	West Virginia	15.7
Mississippi	13.2	South Dakota	16.2
Pennsylvania	13.4	North Dakota	16.3

Women in State Legislative Leadership

Three women serve as presidents of state senates: Joan Fitz-Gerald (D-CO), Beth Edmonds (D-ME) and Rosa Franklin (D-WA). Two women are speakers of state houses: Karen Minnis (R-OR) and Gaye R. Symington (D-VT).

Women of Color in State Legislatures

Of the 1,681 women legislators serving nationwide, **329** or **19.6%** are women of color. They include 85 senators and 244 representatives; 308 are Democrats and 21 are Republicans. Women of color constitute 4.5% 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.

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WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2006

STATE	STATE RANK		SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL
	D	R	D	R		D	R			
AL	49		2	1	3/35	11	2	13/105	16/140	11.4
AK	33		2	1	3/20	4	4	8/40	11/60	18.3
AZ*	3		4	5	9/30	10	11	21/60	30/90	33.3
AR	38		4	2	6/35	13	4	17/100	23/135	17.0
CA	12		12	0	12/40	19	6	25/80	37/120	30.8
CO	8		9	2	11/35	17	4	21/65	32/100	32.0
CT	14		7	2	9/36	27	18	45/151	54/187	28.9
DE	2		4	3	7/21	7	7	14/41	21/62	33.9
FL	22		5	4	9/40	12	18	30/120	39/160	24.4
GA	32		5	2	7/56	28	9	37/180	44/236	18.6
HI	9		6	0	6/25	11	7	18/51	24/76	31.6
ID	16		1	3	4/35	9	16	25/70	29/105	27.6
IL	17		9	5	14/59	24	10	34/118	48/177	27.1
IN	35		6	6	12/50	8	7	15/100	27/150	18.0
IA	29		1	4	5/50	17	8	25/100	30/150	20.0
KS	7		4	9	13/40	18	22	40/125	53/165	32.1
KY	48		1	4	5/38	8	3	11/100	16/138	11.6
LA	36		5	2	7/39	13	5	18/105	25/144	17.4
ME	23		6	5	11/35	23	8 (1Ind)	32/151	43/186	23.1
MD	1		12	3	15/47	40	12	52/141	67/188	35.6
MA	19		11	0	11/40	33	7	40/160	51/200	25.5
MI	28		6	6	12/38	13	6	19/110	31/148	20.9
MN*	10		14	12	26/67	26	11	37/134	63/201	31.3
MS	47		4	0	4/52	14	5	19/122	23/174	13.2
MO	26		4	2	6/34	26	10	36/163	42/197	21.3
MT	20		6	1	7/50	22	8	30/100	37/150	24.7
NE	21		NONPARTISAN		12/49	UNICAMERAL		12/49	12/49	24.5
NV*	3		4	2	6/21	11	4	15/42	21/63	33.3
NH	13		4	1	5/24	68	54	122/400	127/424	30.0
NJ	31		5	2	7/40	11	5	16/80	23/120	19.2
NM*	10		7	4	11/42	12	12	24/70	35/112	31.3
NY	25		7	3	10/62	33	4	37/150	47/212	22.2
NC	24		7	0	7/50	22	10	32/120	39/170	22.9
ND	41		3	2	5/47	6	12	18/94	23/141	16.3
OH	34		3	2	5/33	13	6	19/99	24/132	18.2
OK	45		7	1	8/48	5	9	14/101	22/149	14.8
OR	15		8	1	9/30	8	8	16/60	25/90	27.8
PA	46		5	4	9/50	9	16	25/203	34/253	13.4
RI	39		7	1	8/38	9	2	11/75	19/113	16.8
SC	50		1	0	1/46	7	7	14/124	15/170	8.8
SD	42		2	1	3/35	4	10	14/70	17/105	16.2
TN*	40		3	3	6/33	11	5	16/99	22/132	16.7
TX	30		2	2	4/31	14	18	32/150	36/181	19.9
UT	27		2	2	4/29	8	10	18/75	22/104	21.2
VT*	3		8	2	10/30	34	14 (2 Prg)	50/150	60/180	33.3
VA	37		7	1	8/40	9	6(1 Ind)	16/100	24/140	17.1
WA*	3		15	5	20/49	19	10	29/98	49/147	33.3
WV	43		0	3	3/34	12	6	18/100	21/134	15.7
WI	18		3	5	8/33	12	14	26/99	34/132	25.8
WY	44		3	1	4/30	4	6	10/60	14/90	15.6
			263	132	407/1,971	794	476	1,274/5,411	1,681/7,382	22.8
			(12 nonpartisans)			(2 Progressives) (2 Independent)				

* States share the same rank if their proportions of women legislators are exactly equal or round off to be equal (AZ, NV, VT, WA; LA, TN; MN, NM).