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# WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2007

In 2007, 1,732, or 23.5% of the 7,382 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold 422, or 21.4%, of the 1,971 state senate seats and 1,310, or 24.2%, of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.

	Women	% of Total		Women	% of Total		Women	% of Total
<u>Year</u>	<u>Legislators</u>	<u>Legislators</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Legislators</u>	<u>Legislators</u>	Year	<u>Legislators</u>	<u>Legislators</u>
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	2007	1,732	23.5

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 2007 is:

	Total Legislators		State Senators		State Reps.	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	<u>#</u>	_%_
Democrats	1,186	68.5	292	69.2	894	68.2
Republicans	532	30.7	121	28.7	411	31.4
Nonpartisans*	9	0.5	9	2.1		
Progressives	3	0.2			3	0.2
Independents	<u> </u>	<u> </u>			2	0.1
Total	1,732	100.0	422	100.0	1,310	99.9

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

State	% Women	<u>State</u>	% Women
Vermont	37.8	Arizona	33.3
New Hampshire	35.6	Hawaii	32.9
Minnesota	34.8	Maryland	31.9
Colorado	34.0	Maine	31.2
Washington	34.0	Oregon	31.1

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

<u>State</u>	% Women	<u>State</u>	% Women
South Carolina	8.8	Pennsylvania	14.6
Kentucky	11.6	Ohio	15.9
Oklahoma	12.8	Tennessee	16.7
Alabama	12.9	South Dakota	17.1
Mississippi	13.8	Virginia	17.1
West Virginia	14.2	<u>-</u>	

#### Women in State Legislative Leadership

Five women serve as presidents of senates: Lyda Green (R-AK), Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI), Beth Edmonds (D-ME), Therese Murray (D-MA), and Sylvia Larsen (D-NH). Four women serve as speakers of state houses: Margaret Anderson Kelliher (D-MN), Barbara Buckley (D-NV), Terie Norelli (D-NH), and Gaye Symington (D-VT).

### Women of Color in State Legislatures

Of the 1,732 women legislators serving nationwide, **348** or **20.1%** are women of color. They include 94 senators and 254 representatives; 323 are Democrats and 25 are Republicans. Women of color constitute 4.7% 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.<sup>+</sup>

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

<sup>\*</sup> Source: Utah Governor's Commission for Women.

## **WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2007**

STATE AL	STATE RANK 47	<b>SE</b> <u>D</u> 3	<b>NATE</b> <u>R</u> 1	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	Н <u>D</u> 11	OUSE R 3	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL LEGIS.	<b>OVERALL</b>
				4/35			14/105	18/140	12.9
AK*	27	1	2	3/20	6	4	10/40	13/60	21.7
AZ	6	8	5	13/30	9	8	17/60	30/90	33.3
AR	29	4	2	6/35	18	4	22/100	28/135	20.7
CA	16	10	0	10/40	17	6	23/80	33/120	27.5
CO*	4	9	1	10/35	19	5	24/65	34/100	34.0
СТ	15	7	1	8/36	31	14	45/151	53/187	28.3
DE	11	4	3	7/21	7	5	12/41	19/62	30.6
FL	24	6	4	10/40	16	11	27/120	37/160	23.1
GA*	31	6	2	8/56	28	10	38/180	46/236	19.5
HI	7	7	0	7/25	11	7	18/51	25/76	32.9
ID	22	2	4	6/35	12	7	19/70	25/105	23.8
IL	17	10	3	13/59	23	12	35/118	48/177	27.1
IN*	33	6	6	12/50	11	6	17/100	29/150	19.3
IA*	25	3	3	6/50	19	9	28/100	34/150	22.7
KS	14	4	9	13/40	19	16	35/125	48/165	29.1
KY	49	1	4	5/38	9	2	11/100	16/138	11.6
LA	38	5	2	7/39	13	5	18/105	25/144	17.4
ME <sup>+</sup>	9	7	5	12/35	35	11	46/151	58/186	31.2
MD	8	10	2	12/47	38	10	48/141	60/188	31.9
MA	20	12	0	12/40	33	4	37/160	49/200	24.5
MI	30	6	3	9/38	16	4	20/110	29/148	19.6
MN	3	18	9	27/67	35	8	43/134	70/201	34.8
MS	46	4	1	5/52	15	4	19/122	24/174	13.8
MO*	33	5	2	7/34	22	9	31/163	38/197	19.3
MT	19	8	1	9/50	20	8	28/100	37/150	24.7
NE	36 I	NONP	ARTISAN	9/49		UNICA	MERAL	9/49	18.4
NV	13	5	1	6/21	10	3	13/42	19/63	30.2
NH	2	9	1	10/24	100	40 (1 Ind)	141/400	151/424	35.6
NJ*	27	6	2	8/40	13	5	18/80	26/120	21.7
NM	12	8	4	12/42	10	12	22/70	34/112	30.4
NY	21	8	3	11/62	35	5	40/150	51/212	24.1
NC	18	6	1	7/50	25	12	37/120	44/170	25.9
ND	37	4	2	6/47	7	12	19/94	25/141	17.7
ОН	43	4	1	5/33	11	5	16/99	21/132	15.9
ОК	48	6	1	7/48	3	9	12/101	19/149	12.8
OR	10	8	1	9/30	12	7	19/60	28/90	31.1
PA	44	5	5	10/50	11	16	27/203	37/253	14.6
RI*	31	6	1	7/38	13	2	15/75	22/113	19.5
SC	50	1	1	2/46	8	5	13/124	15/170	8.8
SD*	40	4	1	5/35	3	10	13/70	18/105	17.1
TN	42	5	3	8/33	9	5	14/99	22/132	16.7
TX*	33	2	2	4/31	18	13	31/150	35/181	19.3
UT	39	1	2	3/29	8	7	15/75	18/104	17.3
VT	1	9	1	10/30	41	14 (3 Prg)	58/150	68/180	37.8
VA*	40	7	1	8/40	9	6 (1 Ind)	16/100	24/140	17.1
WA*	4	15	5	20/49	22	8	30/98	50/147	34.0
WV	45	0	2	2/34	12	5	17/100	19/134	14.2
WI*	25	4	4	8/33	13	9	22/99	30/132	22.7
WY	23	3	<u> </u>	4/30	8	9	17/60	21/90	<u>23.3</u>
		292	121 rtisans)	422/1,971	894 (3 Prog	411 gressives) ependent)	1,310/5,411	1,732/7,382	23.5

<sup>\*</sup> States share the same rank if their proportions of women legislators are exactly equal or round off to be equal (AK, NJ; CO, WA; GA, RI; IA, WI; IN, MO, TX; SD, VA).

<sup>†</sup> In addition, one woman in Maine was elected in November, 2006 as a non-voting member representing the Penobscot Nation.