

## STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE WOMEN 2008

In 2008, **73** women hold statewide elective executive offices across the country; women hold **23.2%** of the 315 available positions.\* Among these women **43** are Democrats, **27** are Republicans, and **3** were elected in nonpartisan races.

To date, women have been elected statewide to executive offices in 49 of the nation's 50 states. In Maine, the governor is the only executive elected statewide, and a woman has never served as governor there.

### GOVERNORS

**Eight** women (5D, 3R) serve as **governors** in 2008.

**Jennifer M. Granholm**, a Michigan Democrat, won an open gubernatorial seat in 2002 and re-election in 2006. She served as Michigan's attorney general from 1998-2002. She was Wayne County corporation counsel from 1994 to 1998. After law school, she clerked for a member of the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and was a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's office.

**Christine Gregoire**, a Washington Democrat, won a very close race in 2004 for an open gubernatorial seat. She was first elected attorney general in 1992 and re-elected in 1996 and 2000. An attorney, she served as director of Washington State's Department of Ecology.

**Linda Lingle**, a Hawaii Republican, won an open gubernatorial seat in 2002 and re-election in 2006. She first ran for governor in 1998. Lingle served as mayor of Maui County from 1991-1998, the maximum two consecutive four-year terms. She was first elected to the Maui County Council in 1980 and served five terms. Lingle was the founder and publisher of a local community newspaper.

**Ruth Ann Minner**, a Delaware Democrat, won an open gubernatorial post in 2000 and won re-election in 2004. In 1992, she became the first woman lieutenant governor elected in Delaware; in 1996, she was reelected. From 1982-1992 she served in the Delaware State Senate. From 1974-1982, Minner was a member of the Delaware State House of Representatives, where she was House Majority Whip from 1981-1982. Minner is a businesswoman; early in her career, she was a receptionist in the governor's office.

**Janet Napolitano**, an Arizona Democrat, won an open gubernatorial seat in 2002 and re-election in 2006. She served as her state's attorney general from 1998-2002. From 1993 to 1998, Napolitano served as Arizona's U.S. Attorney. She had earlier clerked for a judge in the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and worked as an attorney in private practice.

**Sarah Palin**, an Alaska Republican, won an open gubernatorial seat in 2006. She served as chairman of Alaska's Oil and Gas Conservation Commission from 2003 to 2004. From 1996 to 2002, she served two terms as mayor and CEO of Wasilla, and before that she served two terms on the Wasilla City Council from 1992 to 1996.

**M. Jodi Rell**, a Connecticut Republican, was first elected lieutenant governor in 1994 and re-elected in 1998 and 2002. She became governor July 1, 2004 when her predecessor resigned, and in 2006 was elected to a full term. Prior to her election as lieutenant governor, Rell served in the Connecticut House of Representatives from 1984 to 1994, where she was assistant minority leader and deputy minority leader.

**Kathleen Sebelius**, a Kansas Democrat, won an open gubernatorial seat in 2002 and won re-election in 2006. She was elected Kansas Insurance Commissioner in 1994. She served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1987 to 1994. With professional training in public administration, she had previously worked in the Kansas Department of Corrections and served on the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission.

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\* These figures do not include: officials in appointive state cabinet-level positions; officials elected to executive posts by the legislature; officials elected as commissioners or board members from districts rather than statewide; members of the judicial branch; or elected members of university Boards of Trustees or Boards of Education.

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## STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE WOMEN (continued)

### HISTORY OF WOMEN GOVERNORS

Twenty-nine women (18D,11R) have served as governors in 22 states. In addition, one woman has served as governor in Puerto Rico. Arizona is the first state where a woman succeeded another woman as governor, and the first state to have had three women governors. Of the 28 women governors, 19 were first elected in their own right; 3 replaced their husbands, and 7 became governor by constitutional succession, two of whom subsequently won a full term. The record number of women serving simultaneously, achieved in 2004 and again in 2007, is 9.

<b>Name (Party-State)</b>	<b>Dates served</b>	<b>Special circumstances</b>
Nellie Tayloe Ross (D-WY)	1925-1927	Won special election to replace deceased husband
Miriam "Ma" Ferguson (D-TX)	1925-1927, 1933-1935	Inaugurated 15 days after Ross; elected as surrogate for husband who could not succeed himself
Lurleen Wallace (D-AL)	1967-1968	Elected as surrogate for husband who could not succeed himself
Ella Grasso (D-CT)	1975-1980	First woman elected governor in her own right; resigned for health reasons
Dixy Lee Ray (D-WA)	1977-1981	
Vesta Roy (R-NH)	1982-1983	Elected to state senate and chosen as senate president; served as governor for seven days when incumbent died.
Martha Layne Collins (D-KY)	1984-1987	
Madeleine Kunin (D-VT)	1985-1991	First and only woman to serve three terms as governor
Kay Orr (R-NE)	1987-1991	First Republican woman governor and first woman to defeat another woman in a gubernatorial race
Rose Mofford (D-AZ)	1988-1991	Elected as secretary of state, succeeded governor who was impeached and convicted
Joan Finney (D-KS)	1991-1995	First woman to defeat an incumbent governor
Ann Richards (D-TX)	1991-1995	
Barbara Roberts (D-OR)	1991-1995	
Christine Todd Whitman (R-NJ)	1994-2001	Resigned to take presidential appointment as commissioner of the Environmental Protection Agency
Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	1997-2003	
Jane Dee Hull (R-AZ)	1997-2003	Elected as secretary of state, succeeded governor who resigned; later elected to a full term
Nancy Hollister (R-OH)	1998-1999	Elected lieutenant governor; served as governor for 11 days when predecessor took U.S. Senate seat and successor had not yet been sworn in
Jane Swift (R-MA)	2001-2003	Elected as lieutenant governor, succeeded governor who resigned for an ambassadorial appointment.
Judy Martz (R-MT)	2001-2005	
<i>Sila Calderon ( Popular Democratic Party-PR)</i>	<i>2001-2005</i>	<i>Former mayor of San Juan, first woman governor of Puerto Rico</i>
Olene Walker (R-UT)	2003-2005	Elected as lieutenant governor, succeeded governor who resigned to take a federal appointment.
Kathleen Blanco (D-LA)	2004-2007	
Ruth Ann Minner (D-DE)	2001-present	
Jennifer M. Granholm (D-MI)	2003-present	
Linda Lingle (R-HI)	2002-present	
Janet Napolitano (D-AZ)	2003-present	First woman to succeed another woman as governor.
Kathleen Sebelius (D-KS)	2003-present	Father was governor of Ohio.
M. Jodi Reil (R-CT)	2004-present	Elected as lieutenant governor, succeeded governor who resigned.
Christine Gregoire (D-WA)	2004-present	
Sarah Palin (R-AK)	2007-present	

**STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE WOMEN** (continued)

**ADDITIONAL STATEWIDE ELECTED OFFICES**

<u>State</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Party</u>
<b>LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR - 9 (7D, 2R)</b>			<b>CHIEF STATE EDUCATION OFFICIAL</b>		
CO	Barbara O'Brien	D	<b>8 (3D, 2R, 3NP*)</b>		
IA	Patty Judge	D	<i>(title varies from state to state)</i>		
IN	Becky Skillman	R	GA	Kathy Cox	R
MN	Carol L. Molnau	R	IN	Suellen Reed	R
NC	Beverly Perdue*	D	MT	Linda McCulloch	D
NM	Diane D. Denish	D	NC	June Atkinson	D
OK	Jari Askins*	D	OK	Sandy Garrett	D
RI	Elizabeth Roberts	D	OR	Susan Castillo	NP*
WI	Barbara Lawton	D	WA	Teresa Bergeson	NP*
<i>* Elected independent of governor.</i>			WI	Elizabeth Burmeister	NP*
			<i>*Election was nonpartisan.</i>		
<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL - 4 (4D)</b>			<b>COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE - 2 (1D, 1R)</b>		
IL	Lisa Madigan	D	KS	Sandy Praeger	R
MA	Martha Coakley	D	OK	Kim Holland	D
MN	Lori Swanson	D	<b>COMMISSIONER OF LABOR - 1R</b>		
NV	Catherine Cortez Masto	D	NC	Cherie Killian Berry	R
<b>SECRETARY OF STATE - 12 (7D, 5R)</b>			<b>CORPORATION COMMISSIONER - 1R</b>		
AL	Beth Chapman	R	AZ	Kristin K. Mayes	R
AZ	Jan Brewer	R	<b>PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER - 5 (3D, 2R)</b>		
CA	Debra Bowen	D	AL	Jan Cook	D
CT	Susan Bysiewicz	D	AL	Susan D. Parker	D
GA	Karen Handel	R	GA	Angela Speier	R
MI	Terri Lynn Land	R	ND	Susan E. Wefald	R
MO	Robin Carnahan	D	NE	Anne Boyle	D
NC	Elaine Marshall	D	<b>PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSIONER - 1D</b>		
NM	Mary Herrera	D	NM	Carol K. Sloan	D
OH	Jennifer Brunner	D	<b>RAILROAD COMMISSIONER - 1R</b>		
VT	Deborah Markowitz	D	TX	Elizabeth Ames Jones	R
WV	Betty Ireland	R			
<b>STATE TREASURER/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</b>					
<b>11 (7D, 4R)</b>					
AL	Kay Ivey	R			
AR	Martha Shoffner	D			
CO	Cary Kennedy	D			
CT	Denise Nappier	D			
FL	Alex Sink	D			
KS	Lynn Jenkins	R			
MO	Sarah Steelman	R			
ND	Kelly Schmidt	R			
NV	Kate Marshall	D			
PA	Robin Wiessmann	D			
WI	Dawn Marie Sass	D			
<b>STATE AUDITOR - 6 (3D, 3R)</b>					
AL	Samantha Shaw	R			
KY	Crit Luallen	D			
MN	Rebecca Otto	DFL*			
MO	Susan Montee	D			
OH	Mary Taylor	R			
WY	Rita Meyer	R			
<i>* The Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party is the state's Democratic Party.</i>					
<b>STATE COMPROLLER/CONTROLLER - 4 (2D, 2R)</b>					
CT	Nancy Wyman	D			
ID	Donna M. Jones	R			
NV	Kim Wallin	D			
TX	Susan Combs	R			