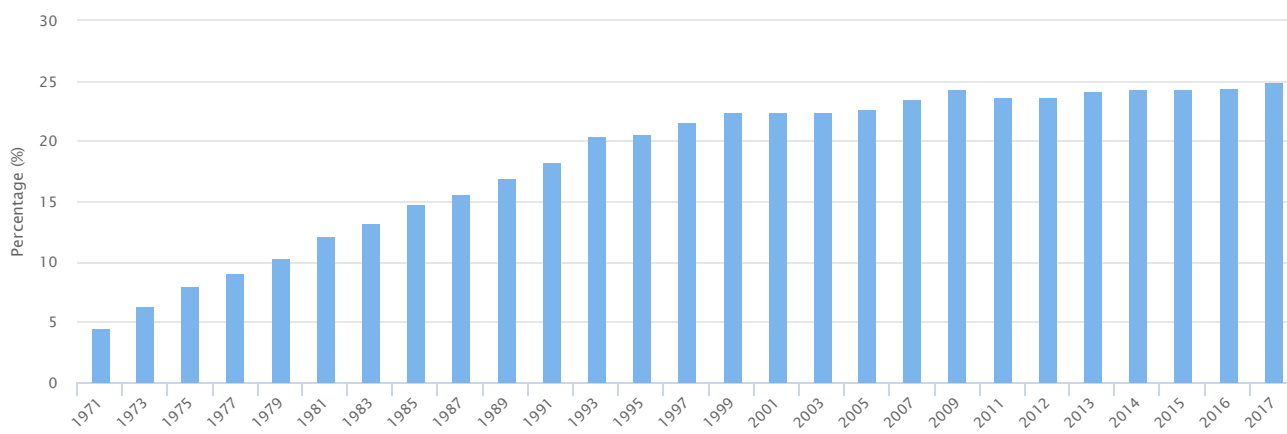




Women in State Legislatures 2017

In 2017, 1,844, or 25.0% of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold 445, or 22.6%, of the 1,972 state senate seats and 1,399, or 25.9%, of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.

Percentage of Women in State Legislatures



© Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

The **party breakdown** for women serving in state legislatures in 2017 is:

	Total Legislators	State Senators	State Reps.
Democrats	1,113 60.3%	254 57.1%	859 61.4%
Republicans	707 38.3%	177 39.8%	530 37.9%
Nonpartisans*	13 0.7%	13 2.9%	- -
Working Families Party	1 0.1%	- -	1 0.1%
Independents	5 0.3%	1 0.2%	4 0.3%
Progressives	5 0.3%	- -	5 0.3%
TOTAL	1,844 100.0%	445 100.0%	1,399 100.0%

Top 10 States

- Arizona (40.0%)
- Nevada (39.7%)
- Vermont (39.4%)
- Colorado (39.0%)
- Washington (36.7%)
- Illinois (35.0%)
- Maine (33.9%)
- Oregon (33.3%)
- Minnesota (32.3%)
- Maryland (31.9%)

Bottom 10 States

- Wyoming (11.1%)
- Oklahoma (13.4%)
- West Virginia (13.4%)
- South Carolina (14.1%)
- Mississippi (14.9%)
- Alabama (15.0%)
- Louisiana (15.3%)
- Tennessee (15.9%)
- Kentucky (16.7%)
- North Dakota (18.4%)

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

Women of Color

- **439 (23.8%)** of the 1,844 women state legislators serving nationwide are women of color (108 senators, 331 representatives; 410D, 27R, 1Prg., 1WFP).
- Women of color constitute **5.9%** of the total 7,383 state legislators.

More information on women of color in elective office available [here](#).

State Legislative Firsts

1894: First 3 women state legislators elected to the Colorado State House of Representatives (Clara Cressingham, Carrie C. Holly, and Frances Klock).

1896: First woman state senator elected in Utah (Martha Hughes Cannon).

For other important state legislative firsts, visit the Milestones for Women in American Politics [page](#).

State Legislative Leadership

11 women serve as presidents of senates or presidents pro tempore:

Debbie Lesko (R-AZ)	Sharon Carson (R-NH)
Anitere Flores (R-FL)	Nia Gill (D-NJ)
Michelle Kidani (D-HI)	Mary Kay Papen (D-NM)
Susan Wagle (R-KS)	Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-OR)
Tonya Schuitmaker (R-MI)	Donna J. Boley (R-WV)
Michelle L. Fischbach (R-MN)	

6 women serve as speakers of state houses:

Crisanta Duran (D-CO)
Linda L. Upmeyer (R-IA)
Sara Gideon (D-ME)
Tina Kotek (D-OR)
Beth Harwell (R-TN)
Mitzi Johnson (D-VT)

Women in State Legislatures 2017 - State by State List

State	State Rank	Senate			Total Women/		House			Total Women/		Total Women/		%Women Overall
		D	R	I**	Total Senate	D	R	I**	Total House	Total Legis.				
AL	45	3	0	1	4/ 35	12	5	-	17/ 105	21/ 140	15.0			
AK	15	1	5	-	6/ 20	3	9	-	12/ 40	18/ 60	30.0			
AZ	1	6	8	-	14/ 30	13	9	-	22/ 60	36/ 90	40.0			
AR	40	3	4	-	7/ 35	3	15	-	18/ 100	25/ 135	18.5			
CA	32	6	3	-	9/ 40	14	3	-	17/ 80	26/ 120	21.7			
CO	4	9	2	-	11/ 35	19	9	-	28/ 65	39/ 100	39.0			
CT	19	7	2	-	9/ 36	21	22	-	43/ 151	52/ 187	27.8			
DE	33	3	1	-	4/ 21	7	2	-	9/ 41	13/ 62	21.0			
FL	22	5	8	-	13/ 40	15	13	-	28/ 120	41/ 160	25.6			
GA	25	9	2	-	11/ 56	28	19	-	47/ 180	58/ 236	24.6			
HI	21	7	0	-	7/ 25	11	3	-	14/ 51	21/ 76	27.6			
ID	13	4	5	-	9/ 35	7	16	-	23/ 70	32/ 105	30.5			
IL	6	13	4	-	17/ 59	33	12	-	45/ 118	62/ 177	35.0			
IN*	36	2	6	-	8/ 50	11	11	-	22/ 100	30/ 150	20.0			
IA	29	5	1	-	6/ 50	19	9	-	28/ 100	34/ 150	22.7			
KS	18	4	11	-	15/ 40	15	17	-	32/ 125	47/ 165	28.5			
KY	42	2	2	-	4/ 38	9	10	-	19/ 100	23/ 138	16.7			
LA	44	3	2	-	5/ 39	8	9	-	17/ 105	22/ 144	15.3			
ME	7	6	4	-	10/ 35	35	17	1	53/ 151	63/ 186	33.9			
MD	10	9	2	-	11/ 47	38	11	-	49/ 141	60/ 188	31.9			
MA	23	12	0	-	12/ 40	30	8	1	39/ 160	51/ 200	25.5			
MI	27	1	3	-	4/ 38	15	16	-	31/ 110	35/ 148	23.6			
MN	9	9	7	-	16/ 67	28	21	-	49/ 134	65/ 201	32.3			
MS	46	4	5	-	9/ 52	10	7	-	17/ 122	26/ 174	14.9			
MO	30	5	2	-	7/ 34	17	20	-	37/ 163	44/ 197	22.3			
MT	17	12	2	-	14/ 50	21	8	-	29/ 100	43/ 150	28.7			
NE	26	-	-	12	12/ 49	-	-	-	- unicameral - -	12/ 49	24.5			
NV	2	5	2	1	8/ 21	13	4	-	17/ 42	25/ 63	39.7			
NH	16	4	3	-	7/ 24	79	39	-	118/ 400	125/ 424	29.5			
NJ	12	8	4	-	12/ 40	18	7	-	25/ 80	37/ 120	30.8			
NM	14	5	2	-	7/ 42	17	10	-	27/ 70	34/ 112	30.4			
NY	20	7	7	-	14/ 63	41	3	1	45/ 150	59/ 213	27.7			
NC	24	6	7	-	13/ 50	17	13	-	30/ 120	43/ 170	25.3			
ND	41	3	6	-	9/ 47	7	10	-	17/ 94	26/ 141	18.4			
OH	31	3	3	-	6/ 33	13	10	-	23/ 99	29/ 132	22.0			
OK*	48	2	4	-	6/ 48	6	8	-	14/ 101	20/ 149	13.4			

OR	8	6	2	-	8/ 30	19	3	-	22/ 60	30/ 90	33.3
PA	39	3	4	-	7/ 50	19	21	-	40/ 203	47/ 253	18.6
RI	11	11	1	-	12/ 38	21	2	-	23/ 75	35/ 113	31.0
SC	47	2	2	-	4/ 46	11	9	-	20/ 124	24/ 170	14.1
SD*	36	0	5	-	5/ 35	3	13	-	16/ 70	21/ 105	20.0
TN	43	2	3	-	5/ 33	7	9	-	16/ 99	21/ 132	15.9
TX	34	2	6	-	8/ 31	21	8	-	29/ 150	37/ 181	20.4
UT	35	3	3	-	6/ 29	9	6	-	15/ 75	21/ 104	20.2
VT	3	9	2	-	11/ 30	40	13	7	60/ 150	71/ 180	39.4
VA	38	7	3	-	10/ 40	13	4	-	17/ 100	27/ 140	19.3
WA	5	9	9	-	18/ 49	25	11	-	36/ 98	54/ 147	36.7
WV	48	0	3	-	3/ 34	2	13	-	15/ 100	18/ 134	13.4
WI	28	6	3	-	9/ 33	13	9	-	22/ 99	31/ 132	23.5
WY	50	1	2	-	3/ 30	3	4	-	7/ 60	10/ 90	11.1
Totals		254	177	14	445/ 1,972	859	530	10	1,399/ 5,411	1,844/ 7,383	25.0

* States share the same rank if their proportions of women legislators are exactly equal or round off to be equal (N, SD; WV, OK).

** I = other parties; in the Senate, 1 Independent, 13 non-partisans; in the House, 1 Working Families Party, 5 Progressives, 4 Independents.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE CAWP MATERIALS

Reproduction of information on the CAWP website for non-commercial purposes is encouraged, provided that clear and visible credit is given to Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Any information reproduced must include footnotes/endnotes that apply to that information. Commercial reproduction requires prior permission in writing from the Center for American Women and Politics. All CAWP fact sheets are available on this web site and may be downloaded and copied as needed.