

# WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN COLORADO

## GENDER PARITY SCORE\* 20.3 RANKS 17TH (UP FROM 29TH IN 2014)

In 1993, Colorado ranked 9th in the nation for gender parity in elected office, with a Gender Parity Score of 16.2.

- 2.1 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
  - 2.9 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
  - 12.3 of 30 points (State Legislature)
  - 3.0 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)
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- 20.3 OF 100 POINTS** (Gender parity being 50)

\*A Gender Parity Score of 50 indicates a state has reached gender parity in elected office. Gender parity is defined as the point at which women and men are equally likely to hold elected office in the state.

## U.S. CONGRESS

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	In CO's history
Senate	0 of 2	0
House of Representatives	1 of 7	4

**Women in Congress:** Although Colorado did not elect a woman to Congress until 1972, it has sent at least one woman to the House of Representatives every election since.

## STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	In CO's history
Governor	0	0
All elected statewide executive offices	1 of 5	21

**Women Statewide Executives:** Although three women have served as lieutenant-governor, which is elected on a joint ticket with governor, none have served as governor.

## COLORADO STATE LEGISLATURE

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	12 of 35 (34%)	8 of 35 (23%)
House	30 of 65 (46%)	27 of 65 (42%)
Total (%)	42%	35%

**Women Legislators:** The percentage of Colorado's state legislative seats held by women has been higher than the national average for 20 years. In 2014, Colorado became the second state ever (after New Hampshire in Election 2008) to elect a majority of women to a legislative chamber. While Colorado excels at women's representation in its state legislature, it has yet to elect a woman governor or U.S. senator, which contributes to its relatively low ranking overall.

**State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 1st.**

*Method of election: Single-winner districts*

## CITIES AND COUNTIES

Six (25%) of Colorado's 24 cities with populations greater than 30,000 have female mayors; Two of Colorado's five largest counties had female commission chairs in 2014.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Cynthia Coffman, the newly-elected Attorney General in Colorado, served as a lawyer for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. Following the terrorist bombing at Olympic Park during the Games, Coffman served as legal liaison to the families of the attack victims.

*State legislative data and historical information at all levels from the Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University.*