

# Women's Representation in Mississippi

Parity Ranking: 48<sup>th</sup> of 50

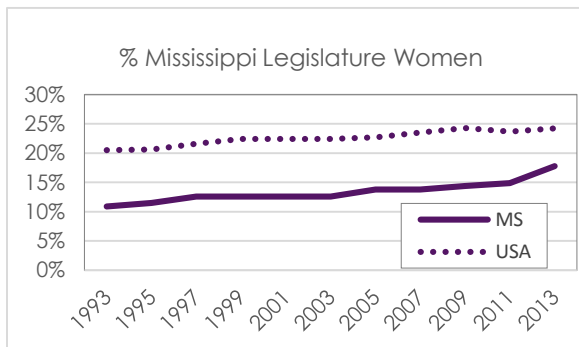
Score of 6: 1.5 points for treasurer and commissioner of agriculture and commerce, and 4.5 for the percentage of state legislative seats held by women.

## Quick Fact

Mississippi has never elected a woman to serve as governor or to Congress. Iowa is the only other state to hold this dubious distinction.

## Trending

Mississippi has consistently ranked near the bottom for its share of state legislative seats held by women, although three special election victories for women in 2013 have moved the state closer to the national average.



Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University.

## Elections to Watch

Thad Cochran has not declared whether he will seek a seventh U.S. Senate term. If not, a wide-open Republican primary could draw a prominent woman like former Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck. All four U.S. House seats will be safe in the general election for their male incumbents if they seek re-election, though they could face challengers in their primaries. In 2013, the state will elect representatives to the state House. Governor and the state Senate won't be up for re-election until 2015.

## Levels of Government

### Statewide Executives

Female governors: None

Current female statewide elected executives: 2 of 8 (state treasurer and commissioner of agriculture and commerce)

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 4, one of whom, Evelyn Gandy, served as state treasurer, commissioner of insurance, and lieutenant governor.

### Congress

Mississippi is among four states that have never elected a woman to Congress.

### State Legislature

Percentage women: 17.8%

Rankings: 38<sup>th</sup> of 50

Senate: 8 of 52 (15.4%) are women

House: 23 of 122 (18.9%) are women

Method of election: single-member districts

### Local

None of Mississippi's five largest cities with elected mayors has a woman mayor.

## Words of Wisdom

"If we had more women [in office], I think our state and our nation would be a much better place." – Alyce Clarke, state representative for the 69<sup>th</sup> district of Mississippi