

Women's Representation in Louisiana

Parity Ranking: 28th of 50

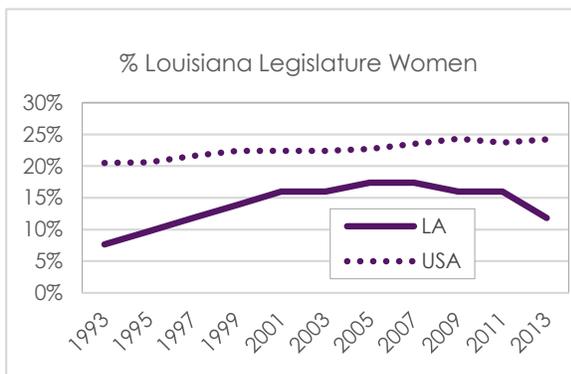
Score of 16: Five points for former Governor Kathleen Blanco, 8 points for Senator Mary Landrieu, and 3 points for its low percentage of female state legislators.

Quick Fact

Rose McConnell Long, the wife of Huey Long, became the third female U.S. Senator in 1936 when she was appointed four months after her husband was assassinated. She won a special election in 1936, but chose not to run for a full term that fall.

Trending

Louisiana ranks lowest in the nation for its percentage of state legislative seats held by women. After a recent sharp decline, women's representation in Louisiana is now back to the same level that it was in 1997 – only 11.8%, half the national average.



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

Words of Wisdom

"I most certainly know that governments at every level operate better when men and women are at the table. The issues discussed are more broad and inclusive. The solutions found are better for everyone. There's absolutely no question that women lift up the debate." – *Mary Landrieu, U.S. senator from Louisiana*

Levels of Government

Statewide Executive

Female governors: Kathleen Blanco (2004-08)

Current female statewide elected executives: 0 of 7 positions

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 8, one of whom was appointed to fill a vacancy. Another was appointed and subsequently elected

Congress

U.S. Senate: 1 of 2 seats is held by a woman: Mary Landrieu (1997-present)

U.S. House: 0 of 6 seats is held by a woman

In its history, Louisiana has elected 2 women to the U.S. House, and 2 to the U.S. Senate. One woman has been appointed to the Senate.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 11.8%

Rankings: 50th of 50

Senate: 4 of 39 (10.3%) are women

House: 13 of 105 (12.4%) are women

Method of election: single-member districts.

Local

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

Elections to Watch

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D) is up for re-election in 2014 in the increasingly Republican state. She is likely to face a Republican man in what is expected to be a close election.

In U.S House races in 2014, any change in party is nearly impossible in the state's heavily partisan districts, but there may be one or two open Republican seats or a competitive intra-party contest in Louisiana's unique version of the Top Two election system. At the state level, Louisiana will not hold elections until 2015.