

Women's Representation Nationwide

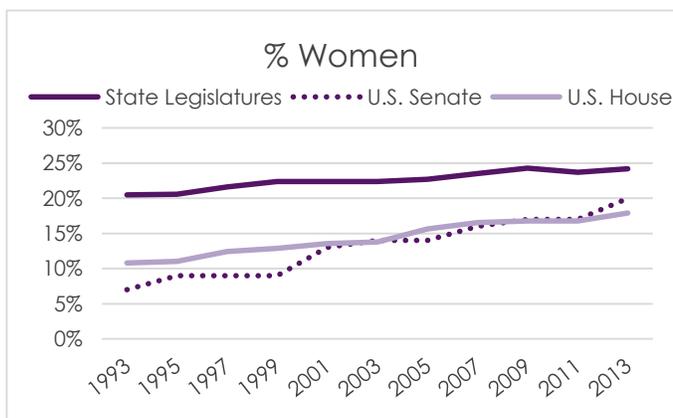
Worldwide Ranking: 98th

The United States ranks 98th worldwide for its percentage national legislative seats held by women. Fifteen years ago, we were 59th.

Although a record number of women are serving in the U.S. House and Senate, women's representation in Congress remains behind that of a growing number of nations, including the 35 countries with national legislatures composed of more than 30% women.

Trending

Since the "Year of the Woman" in 1992, we have seen a greater percentage increase in women's representation at the national level than we have at the state level. Since 1993, the number of women in the Senate has grown from 7 to 20 and from 47 to 79 women in the House. The percentage of women serving in statewide elected executive office has increased only 0.9 percentage points and the percentage of women in state legislatures has grown from 20.5% to just 24.2%.



Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University

Words of Wisdom

"For democracy to work best, the voices of all must be heard with equal weight. Women are entitled to lead just as men are entitled to lead."
— Laura Liswood, secretary general of the Council of Women World Leaders

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Governors: 5 states (AZ, OK, NH, NM, SC)

Current statewide elected executives: 73 out of 320 (22.8%)

Congress

U.S. Senate: 20 of 100 seats are held by women (20%)

U.S. House: 79 of 435 seats are held by women (18.2%)

Historically, a total of 294 women have served in the U.S. Congress.

State Legislatures

Percentage women: 24.2%

Senate: 413 of 1,972 (20.9%) are women

House: 1,381 of 5,411 (25.5%) are women

Local

Female mayors in 100 largest cities: 12

Of 1,341 cities with populations over 30,000, 242 (18.0%) have female mayors.

Notable Recent Elections

Women won 11 of the 33 U.S. Senate elections held in 2012, but only four of the 37 gubernatorial elections held in 2010.

Elections to Watch

Women are poised to increase their numbers in mayoral elections in 2014, even after two women fell short in Los Angeles and New York in 2013. 2014 could be a big year for women in major statewide offices, as strong female candidates are running for governor and U.S. senator.