

Women's Representation in Oklahoma

Parity Ranking: 25th of 50

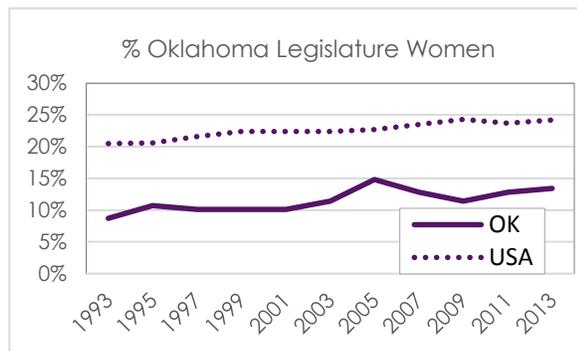
Score of 16: Ten points for Gov. Mary Fallin, 1 point for the superintendent of public instruction, 3 for the percentage of state legislative seats held by women, and 2 points for Cindy Rosenthal, Norman's first popularly elected female mayor.

Quick Facts

The second woman to ever serve in the U.S. Congress and the first-ever to defeat an incumbent came from Oklahoma: Alice Mary Robertson, who was elected in 1920. Oklahoma was not represented by another woman in Congress until the election of Mary Fallin (R) in 2006.

Trending

The percentage of women state legislators has increased by only 3 percentage points in the past 20 years and remains far below the national average.



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

Notable Recent Election

In 2013, former Tulsa mayor Kathy Taylor challenged incumbent mayor Dewey Bartlett, but ultimately lost by ten points.

Levels of Government

Statewide Executive

Female governors: Mary Fallin (2011-present)

Statewide elected executives: 2 of 9 (governor and superintendent of public instruction). Two the state's three corporation commissioners, including its appointed chair, are also women.

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 9, one of whom was initially appointed to fill a vacancy. An additional four were elected as corporation commissioners.

Congress

U.S. Senate: 0 of 2 seats are held by women

U.S. House: 0 of 5 seats are held by women

In its history, Oklahoma has elected 2 women to the U.S. House of Representatives.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 13.4%

Rankings: 48th of 50

Senate: 4 of 48 (8.3%) are women

House: 16 of 101 (15.8%) are women

Method of election: Single-member districts

Local

One of Oklahoma's five largest cities with elected mayors has a woman mayor: Norman.

Elections to Watch

In 2014, Gov. Mary Fallin (R) is favored to win re-election, while Cathy Cummings (D) is running for lieutenant governor against the Republican male incumbent. Sen. James Inhofe (R) and the five Republican House incumbents are heavily favored. Superintendent of Public Instruction Janet Barresi (R) is up for re-election. Her challengers, should she run, will include Joy Hofmeister (R) and Donna Anderson (D).

Words of Wisdom

"They need to run. It's about taking the initiative to try something that maybe no one in your family has ever tried before, to take a risk." – Mary Fallin, governor of Oklahoma