

Women's Representation in Tennessee

Parity Ranking: 45th of 50

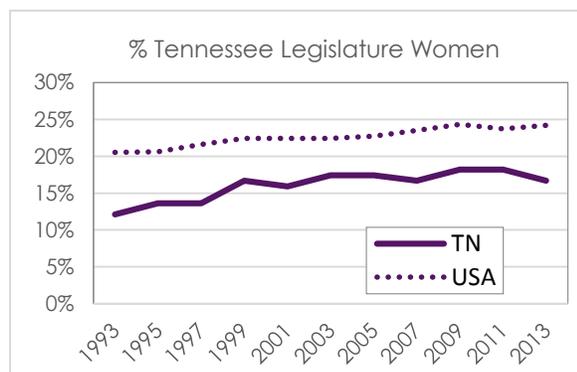
Score of 9 Three points for the percentage of U.S. House members who are women, 5 for the percentage of state legislators who are women, and 1 for speaker of the house.

Quick Fact

Although two of Tennessee's five largest cities recently elected women mayors, the state has never elected a woman to the U.S. Senate or to the governorship.

Trending

The percentage of Tennessee's legislature that is female has consistently lagged behind the national average for the last 20 years, and has never been higher than 19%.



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

Elections to Watch

Former Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority Sara Kyle (D) is considering a bid to become Tennessee's first female governor, though she is a long-shot. In House races, both Republican Reps. Diane Black and Marsha Blackburn are expected to win re-election along with all other male incumbents. Sen. Lamar Alexander's potential challengers 2014 are all men.

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Female governors: None

Tennessee's only currently elected executive position is governor.

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 2 women have served as public service commissioner, a position that no longer exists.

Congress

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

U.S. House: 2 of 9 seats are held by women

In its history, Tennessee has never elected a woman to the U.S. Senate, but it has elected six women to the House, three of whom were elected in special elections following the deaths of their husbands.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 16.7%

Rankings: 42nd of 50 (tied with Wyoming)

Senate: 7 of 33 (21.2%) are women

House: 15 of 99 (15.1%) are women

Method of election: Single-member districts

Local

None of Tennessee's five largest cities and counties with elected executives has a woman mayor or county mayor.

Words of Wisdom

"When being a woman is used against you, just use it to your advantage" – Madeline Rogero, mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee