

Women's Representation in Connecticut

Parity Ranking: 9th of 50

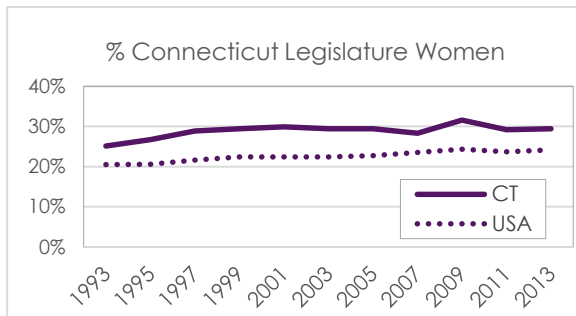
Score of 27. Five points for former Governor Jodi Rell's one elected term, 6 for current lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and treasurer, 6 for the percentage of U.S. House members who are women, 8 for percentage of state legislators who are women, and 2 for New Haven mayor Toni Harp.

Focus Facts

Connecticut has sent at least one woman to the U.S. House for 31 consecutive years.

Trending

Connecticut women have held a higher percentage of state legislative seats than the national average for the last four decades.



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

Notable Recent Elections

In 2013, state Senator Toni Harp became the first woman elected mayor in New Haven's history. In an open seat race for the 5th congressional district, Elizabeth Esty (D) defeated Andrew Rorback (R) by less than 3%, even after NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Independence USA PAC spent millions backing Rorback. GOP nominee Linda McMahon lost an open seat race for U.S. Senate, as she had in 2010, despite spending tens of millions of dollars.

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Female governors: Ella T. Grasso (1975-1980), the first woman in nation to be elected governor without being married to a previous governor, and Jodi Rell (2004-2011).

Current female statewide elected executives: 3 of 6 (lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and state treasurer)

Number of women to have held statewide elective office: 19, three of whom were originally appointed to fill a vacancy

Congress

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

U.S. House: 2 of 5 seats are held by women

In its history, Connecticut has elected 7 women to U.S. House, one through a special election. The state has not elected a female U.S. Senator.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 29.4%

Rankings: 11th of 50

Senate: 9 of 36 (25%)

House: 46 of 151 (30.5%)

Method of election: single-member districts

Local

One of Connecticut's five largest cities with elected mayors has a woman mayor: New Haven, the state's second largest.

Elections to Watch

In 2014, first-term U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Esty (D) is likely to face a strong challenge. Gov. Dan Malloy and his running mate Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman are seen as vulnerable; Republican state Senator Toni Boucher is a potential challenger.

Words of Wisdom

"Clearly we have made great strides. Women make up about half of the workforce and we see more women in leadership roles in both the public and private sector – though still far too few." – Rosa DeLauro, U.S. representative from Connecticut