

# Women's Representation in Oregon

## Parity Ranking: 13<sup>th</sup> of 50

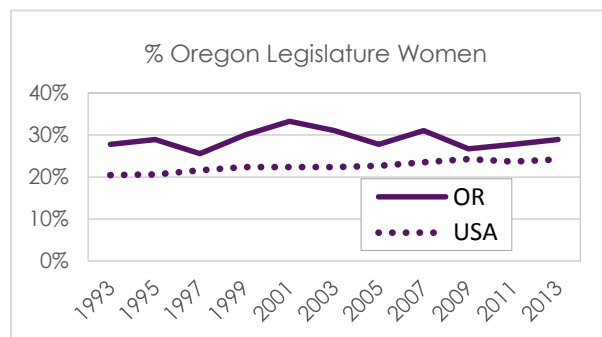
*Score of 23:* Seven points for secretary of state and attorney general, 3 points for the percentage of U.S. House members who are women, 8 for the percentage of state legislators who are women, 1 for the speaker of the house, and 4 points for Mayors Kitty Piercy of Eugene and Anna Peterson of Salem.

## Quick Facts

Oregon was an early leader in electing women, but the state has not elected a woman to the U.S. Senate since Maurine Brown Neuberger (D) served one term after her 1960 election. No major party has nominated a woman to run for Senate for more than two decades.

## Trending

Although women's representation in the state legislature is strong relative to other states (ranking 13<sup>th</sup> of 50), it has declined since 2002, when one third of state legislators were women.



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

## Elections to Watch

Gov. John Kitzhaber (D) is expected to run for re-election and is heavily favored. Jo Rae Perkins is running for the Republican nomination to challenge Sen. Jeff Merkley (D), who is favored to win. The offices of secretary of state and attorney general, both held by women, are not up for election in 2014. Rep. Kurt Schrader (D) represents the only potentially competitive House district; Suzanne Bonamici (D), who in 2012 became the first Oregonian woman to win a House seat since 2006, is projected to win.

## Levels of Government

### Statewide Executives

Female governors: Barbara Roberts (1991-95)

Female statewide elected executives: 2 of 5 (secretary of state and attorney general)

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 6

### Congress

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

U.S. House: 1 of 5 seats is held by a woman

In its history, Oregon has elected five women to the U.S. House and one to the U.S. Senate.

### State Legislature

Percentage women: 28.9%

Rankings: 13<sup>th</sup> of 50

Senate: 8 of 30 (26.7%) are women

House: 18 of 60 (30%) are women

Method of election: Single-member districts

### Local

Two of Oregon's five largest cities with elected mayors have female mayors: Eugene and Salem.

## Words of Wisdom

"We do not want to lose women's voices in the political process. It took us a lot of years to get where we are. We don't want those numbers to slip away." – Barbara Roberts, former governor of Oregon