

Women's Representation in Alaska

Parity Ranking: 12th of 50

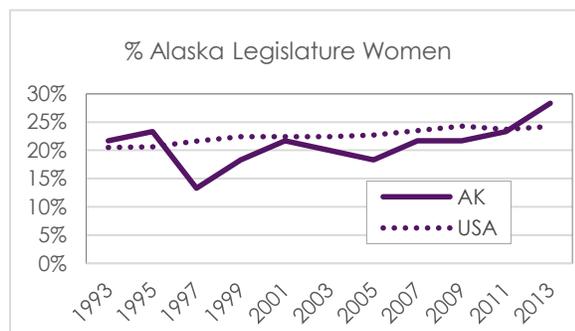
Score of 24 6.5 points for Gov. Sarah Palin's first term, 10 for Senator Lisa Murkowski's two most recent terms, and 7.5 for the percentage of state legislative seats held by women.

Quick Fact

Sarah Palin (R) was elected Alaska's first female governor in 2006, and was the first governor in the nation to conceive and give birth while in office. In 2008, she was selected as John McCain's vice presidential running mate – the first Republican woman and first Alaskan to appear on a major party's presidential ticket. She resigned her governorship in 2009.

Trending

The proportion of women in Alaska's state legislature has increased by 10 percentage points since 2006.



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

Elections to Watch

Former Governor Sarah Palin (R) may challenge Sen. Mark Begich (D), although Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell (R) has already declared his candidacy. Male Republican incumbents are expected to win re-election for governor and U.S. House, but a woman could be picked to replace Treadwell as lieutenant governor.

Words of Wisdom

"Hillary [Clinton] left 18 million cracks in the highest, hardest glass ceiling in America. But it turns out that the women of America aren't finished yet, and we can shatter that class ceiling once and for all." – Sarah Palin, former governor of Alaska and 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Female governors: Sarah Palin (2006-2009)

Current female statewide elected executives: None. The only positions are governor and lieutenant governor.

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 2

Congress

U.S. Senate: 1 of 2 seats are held by women. Lisa Murkowski (2002-present) was appointed by her father to fill a vacancy created by his election as governor in 2002, and has since been elected and re-elected.

U.S. House: 0 of 1 seats are held by women.

Alaska has only elected one woman to the U.S. Senate and has never elected a woman to the U.S. House of Representatives.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 28.3%

Rankings: 15th of 50

Senate: 4 of 20 (20%) are women

House: 13 of 40 (32.5%) are women

Method of election: single-member districts

Local

None of Alaska's five largest cities and counties with elected mayors has a woman mayor.