

Women's Representation in Indiana

Parity Ranking: 33rd of 50

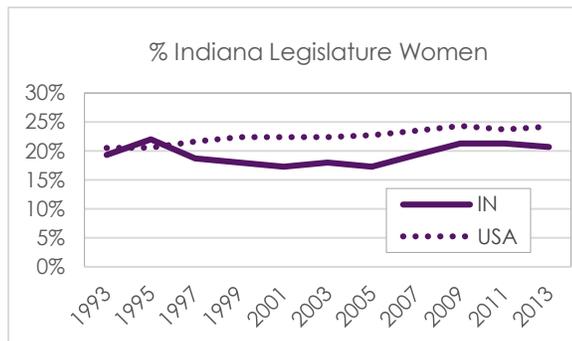
Score of 14: Five points for lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and superintendent of public instructions. 3 points for percentage of women U.S. House members, and 6 for the percentage of state legislators who are women.

Focus Facts

Indiana ended a three-election drought of sending only men to the U.S. House when it elected two women in 2012.

Trending

The percentage of women in Indiana's state legislature has remained relatively level over the past 20 years, with a long dip between 1994 and 2006. It has lagged behind the national average for nearly two decades.



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

Elections to Watch

Rep. Jackie Walorski (R), who won by a small margin in a heavily Republican district in 2012, may be vulnerable in 2014. Absent open seats, no other House races are projected to be competitive.

There is no governor's race in 2014, but in other state executive races, Secretary of State Connie Lawson (R) is seeking re-election, and the offices of auditor and treasurer (currently held by 2012 Republican Senate nominee Richard Mourdock) may also provide opportunities for women candidates.

Words of Wisdom

"I think it's a great opportunity to continue to raise the bar for women in politics and open the door for women leaders at every level, from a corporate CEO's office to the Governor's office. We have that opportunity to prove that women are effective leaders and great problem solvers."— Sue Ellspermann, lieutenant governor of Indiana, on being the fourth consecutive woman to hold that position

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Female governors: None

Female statewide elected executives: 3 of 7 (lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and superintendent of public instruction)

Number of women to have held statewide elective office: 17

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, Indiana has never elected a woman to the U.S. Senate, but has elected seven women to the U.S. House.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 20.7%

Rankings: 34th of 50

Senate: 8 of 50 (16%) are women

House: 23 of 100 (23%) are women

Method of election: single-member districts

Local

None of the five largest cities with elected mayors has a woman mayor.

Notable Recent Election

Two Republican women won House seats in 2012. Jackie Walorski narrowly won the 2nd congressional district with just 49% of the vote, while Susan Brooks won easily in the 5th congressional district.