

Women's Representation in Utah

Parity Ranking: 49th of 50

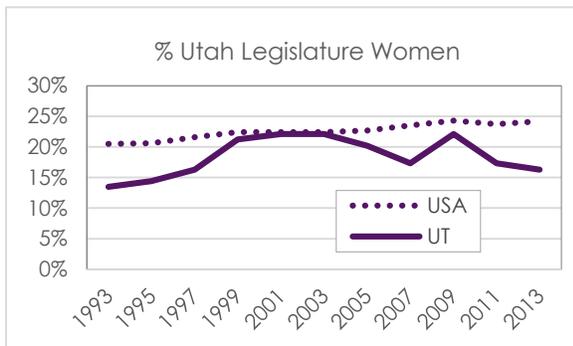
Score of 6: Five points for the percentage of state legislators who are women, and 1 for speaker of the house.

Quick Facts

Although Utah was once a leader in the women's suffrage movement, granting the women the right to vote in 1870, the state has not elected a woman to Congress since 1994.

Trending

The percentage of Utah's state legislative seats held by women was more than 5 percentage points higher ten years ago, when the state ranked 24th nationwide, than it is today. Today, Utah ranks 46th.



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

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Female governors: Olene Walker (2003-2005)

Current female statewide elected executives: 0 of 5 positions.

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

Congress

Senate: 0 of 2 seats are held by women

House: 0 of 4 seats are held by women

In its history, Utah has elected three women to the U.S. House.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 16.3%

Rankings: 46th of 50

Senate: 5 of 29 (17.2%) are women

House: 12 of 75 (16%) are women

Method of election: All single-member districts

Local

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

Words of Wisdom

"One thing I would like women to realize is that serving in a city council, a school board or the Legislature is probably the best education a woman can get. I have college degrees but I feel I learned more in the Legislature." – Olene Walker, former governor of Utah

Training, Recruiting, and Funding Women Candidates in Utah

Donna McAleer was inspired to run for office by Real Women Run's inaugural event. After profiling the group for a blog and attending what she referred to as a "boot camp," she ran for Congress in Utah's first district. Although she lost in her first foray into the political arena – running as a Democrat in a heavily Republican district – McAleer valued the experience, saying "fifty-five thousand people who didn't know me eight months before believed in me enough to vote for me." Real Women Run hopes to inspire more women to become involved in all aspects of politics in Utah.



Real Women Run is a nonpartisan effort to encourage more women to become involved in politics through recruitment and training. In a state that ranks among the bottom ten in terms of women's representation and hasn't had a female member of Congress in over a decade, creating a pipeline of qualified female candidates is the an important step in increasing the number of Utahan women in politics.

"We believe that every woman has the potential to be a leader, and that women's leadership can be a powerful force for good. We support empowering women for leadership in every area of life, and political life is no exception," said Anne Burkholder, one of the founders of Real Women Run.

Elections to Watch

Former Saratoga Springs mayor Mia Love will make a second attempt to unseat longtime incumbent Rep. Jim Matheson (D). In 2012, she lost to Matheson by just 768 votes. If elected, Love would become the first black female Republican in the U.S. House.

All three Republican members of the House are safe. There are no 2014 races for governor or U.S. Senate.