

# Women's Representation in Wyoming

## Parity Ranking: 21<sup>st</sup> of 50

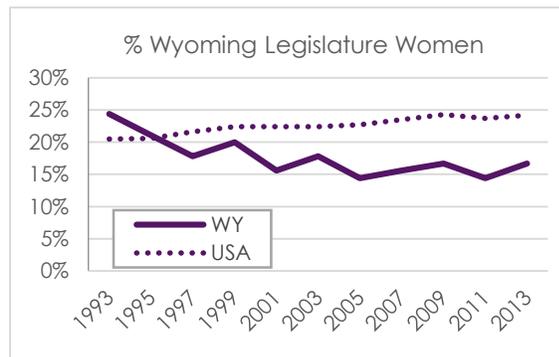
*Score of 17:* Three points for auditor and superintendent of public instruction, 10 for Cynthia Lummis' three terms in the House, and 4 for the percentage of state legislative seats held by women.

## Quick Facts

Wyoming has been a significant locale in the history of American women in politics. Wyoming became the first territory of the United States to give franchise to women in 1869, 35 years before women's suffrage became a national political issue. Wyoming was also the first state to elect a female governor; Nellie Tayloe Ross took office in 1925.

## Trending

Since Wyoming's switch from multi-member state legislative districts to single-member legislative districts in the early 1990s, the percentage of its state legislative seats held by women has remained consistently below the national average.



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

## Notable Recent Election

In 2012, Republican Cynthia Lummis won her third consecutive term as Wyoming's lone U.S. House member. Between Lummis and her predecessor Barbara Cubin, the seat has been held by a woman since 1995.

## Levels of Government

### Statewide Executive

Female governors: Nellie Tayloe Ross (1925-1927).

Current female statewide elected executives: 2 of 5 (state auditor and superintendent of public instruction)

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 19, eleven of whom served as superintendent of public instruction.

### Congress

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

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

In its history, Wyoming has elected 2 women to Congress, but women have represented the state in the U.S. House since 1995.

### State Legislature

Percentage women: 16.7%

Rankings: 42<sup>nd</sup> of 50 (tied with Tennessee)

Senate: 2 of 30 (6.7%) are women

House: 13 of 60 (21.7%) are women

Method of election: Single-member districts

### Local

None of Wyoming's five largest cities with elected mayors has a woman mayor.

## Elections to Watch

Republican women are challenging incumbents in elections for U.S. Senate and governor. Liz Cheney, daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, is taking on Sen. Mike Enzi, while Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill is challenging Gov. Matt Mead. Rep. Cynthia Lummis is heavily favored to hold her U.S. House seat in 2014.

## Words of Wisdom

"Our goal is to strengthen women's leadership at all levels of community and public service." –Rosie Berger, state representative for the 51st district of Wyoming, and speaker pro tempore of the Wyoming House of Representatives