

Women's Representation in Arizona

Parity Ranking: 5th of 50

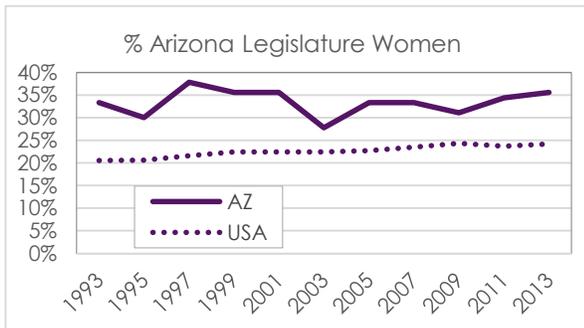
Score of 34: 20 points for Gov. Brewer's first elected term and Gov. Napolitano's two elections, 3 for the percentage of U.S. House members who are women, and 11 for the percentage of female state legislators who are women.

Quick Fact

Four women have served as governor of Arizona, more than in any other state. Four of Arizona's last five governors have been women.

Trending

Apart from a two year decrease in 2003 and 2004, the percentage of women in Arizona's legislature has been 30% or more since 1989.



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



Former Gov. Janet Napolitano and Gov. Jan Brewer

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Female governors: Rose Mofford (1988-1991), Jane Dee Hull (1997-2003), Janet Napolitano (2003-2009), and Jan Brewer (2009-present). All but Napolitano became governor after sitting governors left office early.

Current female statewide elected executives: Governor and two of the five corporation commissioners, neither of whom is the appointed chair. Five other positions all filled by men.

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 19 women elected, including 6 corporation commissioners. An addition 3 were appointed but never elected.

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, Arizona has elected six women to the U.S. House and none to the U.S. Senate.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 35.6%

Rankings: 3rd of 50

Senate: 13 of 30 (43.3%)

House: 19 of 60 (31.7%)

Method of election: two-member districts in the house, single member districts in the senate

Local

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

Words of Wisdom

"We women had to strive a little harder and be a little bit smarter and work at it on a daily basis." – Jan Brewer, governor of Arizona

The use of multi-member legislative districts in Arizona

Arizona ranks third for its percentage of state legislative seats held by women (35.6%), by far the highest percentage of any state legislature with a Republican majority. It is also one of ten states that use multi-member districts (MMD), an electoral structure shown to improve women's chances of running for and winning elected office. In multi-member districts, constituents from a single district elect multiple legislators to represent them, whereas in single-member districts, which are more commonly used in the United States, constituents elect only one representative.

Arizona has 30 state legislative districts. Each one elects one state senator and two members of the House of Representatives. Voters have the option of casting either one or two votes in House elections. The use of such multi-seat districts often contributes to the recruitment of more women candidate, as each party effectively runs a "ticket" of three candidates in each district.

Nineteen of the 60 members of the Arizona House are female. Seventeen of the female House members were elected in districts that also elected a male representative. Research suggests that the use of MMDs encourages the election of female candidates because it provides constituents with the option of voting for both male and female candidates instead of having to choose one. In 2012, 32 women ran, and at least one ran in 23 of Arizona's 30 multi-member districts. Of those 23 districts, 18 elected at least one woman to the House.

Female candidates won even an even higher percent of state senate seats: 13 of 30. Those victories included wins in 5 of the 12 districts that did not elect a woman to the house. As a result, 77% of Arizona's population has a woman representative in either the house or senate.

Elections to Watch

Arizona's two women U.S. House members, Democrats Kyrsten Sinema and Ann Kirkpatrick, will likely face competitive re-election bids. Rep. Ron Barber (D) narrowly defeated Republican Martha McSally in 2012 and may face her again in 2014.

Gov. Jan Brewer is not expected to be able to run for re-election due to Arizona's term limit law. Men are favored to replace her. There will be open seats for other statewide executive offices currently held by men.

Notable Recent Elections

In 2012, Kyrsten Sinema was elected to represent Arizona's 9th district; Rep. Sinema is the first openly bisexual representative to Congress. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick also regained her U.S. House seat lost in 2010, giving Arizona more than one female House member for the first time in the state's history.



Representative Kyrsten Sinema