

Women's Representation in New York

Parity Ranking: 20th of 50

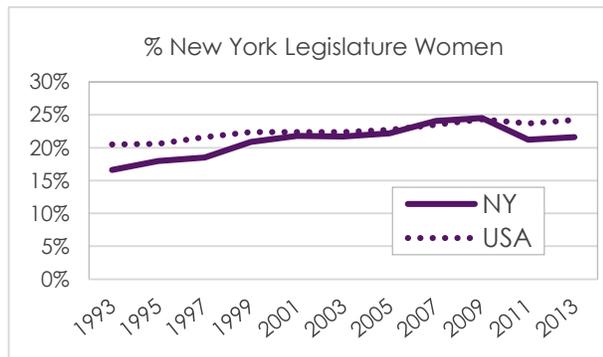
Score of 17: 7.5 points for the elections of Hillary Clinton and Kirsten Gillibrand to the U.S. Senate, 4 points for the proportion of U.S. House members who are women, and 5.5 points for the percentage of state legislators who are women.

Quick Fact

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand started “Off the Sidelines” to support women of all parties to run for office (although some Republicans have criticized it as partisan). She also has created a network of donors to back women candidates. In a 2011 special election, she campaigned for Kathy Hochul (D), who won in a GOP-leaning district, but then lost her re-election bid in 2012.

Trending

The representation of women in the state legislature has largely tracked the national average for the last two decades, increasing slowly until the 2010 election. New York is once again below the national average for the percentage of women in its legislature.



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

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Female governors: None

Current female statewide elected executives: 0 of 4 positions

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 4

Congress

U.S. Senate: 1 of 2 seats is held by a woman, Kirsten Gillibrand, (2009-present)

U.S. House: 7 of 27 seats are held by women

In its history, New York has elected 26 women to Congress, two of whom served in the Senate.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 22.1%

Rankings: 29th of 50

Senate: 10 of 63 (15.9%) are women

House: 37 of 150 (24.7%) are women

Method of election: Single-member districts

Local

None of New York's five largest cities and counties with elected executives has a woman executive.

Elections to Watch

In 2014, the state's four elected executive positions, including governor, have yet to draw major female candidates. In U.S. House races, all seven women represent safe seats, but nine men are potentially vulnerable to prospective female challengers. In 2013, one-time frontrunner Christine Quinn (D) lost her bid to become New York City's first female mayor, but women were elected mayor in three of the state's six largest cities: Albany, Rochester, and Syracuse.

Words of Wisdom

"I have always believed that women are not victims. We are agents of change. We are drivers of progress. We are makers of peace. All we need is a fighting chance." – *Hillary Clinton, former U.S. secretary of state and U.S. senator from New York*