

Women's Representation in Nebraska

Parity Ranking: 27th of 50

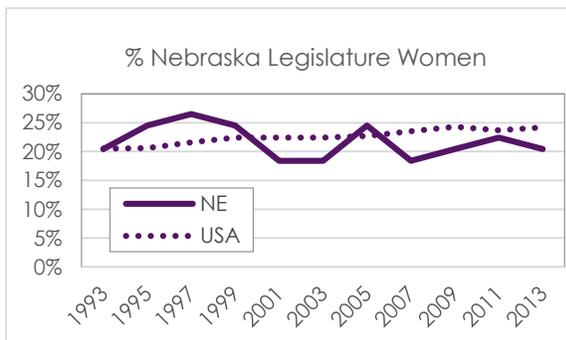
Score of 16: Six points for Sen. Deb Fischer, 6 points for the percentage of state legislative seats held by women, and 4 points for Mayor Rita Sanders of Bellevue and Mayor Jean Stothert of Omaha.

Quick Fact

When Deb Fischer defeated former Senator Bob Kerrey in 2012, she became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate in Nebraska's history.

Trending

In the last 20 years, Nebraska has had between 9 and 13 women in its state legislature out of 49 available seats. The state currently has the same percentage of women it had in 1993.



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

Elections to Watch

There will be an open seat for U.S. Senate in 2014, presenting an opportunity for a second woman to join Deb Fischer in Nebraska's Senate delegation. There also is an open governor's race, and one woman, state Sen. Annette Dubas (D), has already declared her candidacy. Republican men are heavily favored to win both races. The only potentially vulnerable U.S. House incumbent, Lee Terry (R), won re-election by 1.6% in 2012, but no woman has declared against him for 2014.

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Female governors: Kay A. Orr (1987-1991)

Current female statewide elected executives: 0 of 6. An additional 1 of 5 public service commissioners.

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 7, two of whom were initially appointed to fill vacancies. An additional woman is currently serving as a public service commissioner.

Congress

U.S. Senate: 1 of 2 seats is held by a woman: Deb Fischer, (2013-present)

U.S. House: 0 of 3 seats held by women

Nebraska has elected only three women to the Congress, one in a special election.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 20.4%

Rankings: 35th of 50

Legislature: 10 of 49 (20.4%) are women. (Nebraska's legislature is unicameral.)

Method of election: single-member districts

Local

Two of Nebraska's five largest cities with elected mayors has a female mayor: Omaha and Bellevue.

Words of Wisdom

"We want everyone to know that real women run. And real women need to run." – Kathie Uhrmacher, president of the Women's Foundation of Lincoln and Lancaster County