

Women's Representation in Rhode Island

Parity Ranking: 31st of 50

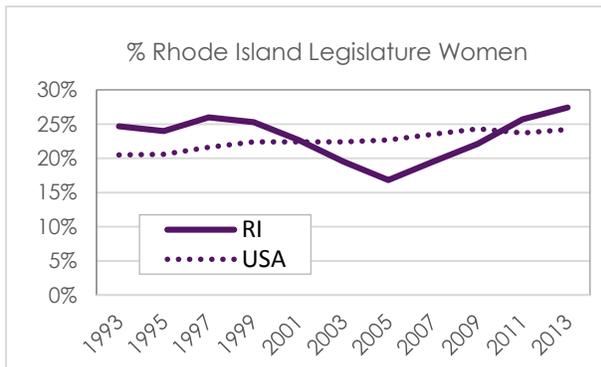
Score of 13: Four points for lieutenant governor and state auditor. 8 points for the percentage of state legislative seats held by woman, 1 for senate president, and 2 for the mayor of Woonsocket.

Quick Fact

In the 2010 gubernatorial election, the Women's Fund of Rhode Island challenged the major gubernatorial candidates to sign a pledge to double the percentage of women appointed to commissions and boards. Having signed before his election, Governor Lincoln Chafee increased the percentage of appointed women from 15% in 2010 to 33% in 2012.

Trending

After a decade's long dip in its percentage of state legislative seats held by women, women now make up 27.4% of the state's legislature, the highest percentage in Rhode Island's history.



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

Elections to Watch

In the open seat election for governor, General Treasurer Gina Raimondo is among the favorites for the Democratic nomination. Male candidates are favored in open seat races for secretary of state and treasurer. Sen. Jack Reed (D) and male U.S. House incumbents are favored to retain their seats.

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Female governors: None

Current female statewide elected executives: 2 of 5 (state treasurer and lieutenant governor)

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 7

Congress

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

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

In its history, Rhode Island has elected only one woman to the U.S. House of Representatives and no women to the U.S. Senate.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 27.4%

Rankings: 18th of 50

Senate: 9 of 38 (23.7%) are women

House: 22 of 75 (29.3%) are women

Method of election: Single-member districts

Local

One of Rhode Island's five largest cities with elected mayors has a women mayor: Woonsocket.

Words of Wisdom

"Women, instead of focusing only on jobs and children, should be becoming a part of the political process." – Susan Farmer, former secretary of state of Rhode Island