

# Women's Representation in Florida

## Parity Ranking: 17<sup>th</sup> of 50

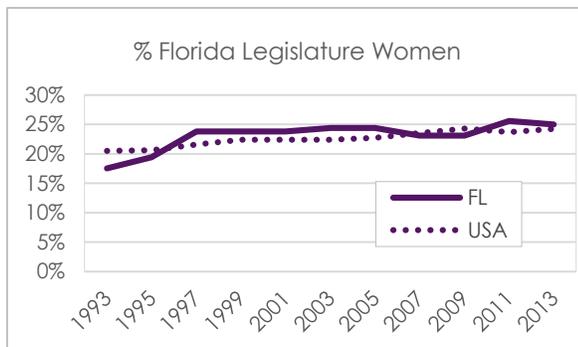
*Score of 19:* Six points for the attorney general, 3 for the state's six U.S. Reps., 8 points for its percentage of state legislators who are women, and 2 for Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs.

## Quick Fact

As reported in the *Miami Herald*, the 13 women in Florida's state senate, joined by several of their male colleagues, formed a bipartisan coalition in the 2012 legislative session to defeat bills they believed were too extreme, including an expansion of private prisons, an omnibus anti-abortion bill, and changes to state-sponsored homeowners insurance.

## Trending

The percentage of state legislative seats held by women in Florida has mirrored the national average for 20 years.



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

## Elections to Watch

Gov. Rick Scott (R), who won narrowly against Democratic woman Alex Sink in 2010, is seeking re-election in 2014, but is considered vulnerable. State Senate Minority Leader Nan Rich is seeking the Democratic nomination. Attorney General Pam Bondi (R) is running for re-election. The six female U.S. House members are favored to retain their largely safe seats, although Lois Frankel (D) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R) could face challenges.

## Levels of Government

### Statewide Executives

Female governors: None

Current female statewide elected executives: 1 of 5 (attorney general). Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll resigned in March 2013 and has yet to be replaced.

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: Seven. An additional two served as associate members of the railroad and public service commissions.

### Congress

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

U.S. House: 6 of 27 seats held by women

Florida has elected 14 women to the U.S. House and one to the Senate.

### State Legislature

Percentage women: 25%

Rankings: 24<sup>th</sup> of 50

Senate: 12 of the 40 (30%) are women

House: 28 of 120 (23.3%) are women

Method of election: single-member districts

### Local

Of the five largest cities and counties with elected mayors, only one has a woman mayor: Orange County.

## Words of Wisdom

"I became the first Hispanic woman elected to Congress, in 1989. When I got elected, I didn't know I would be the first Hispanic woman. Then I did the 'Today' show, and they said that, and I was stunned. I said, 'Well, I may be the first, but I'm not going to be the only one. I'm sure there are going to be a lot coming behind me.'" – Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, U.S. representative from Florida