

# Women's Representation in North Carolina

Parity Ranking: 7<sup>th</sup> of 50

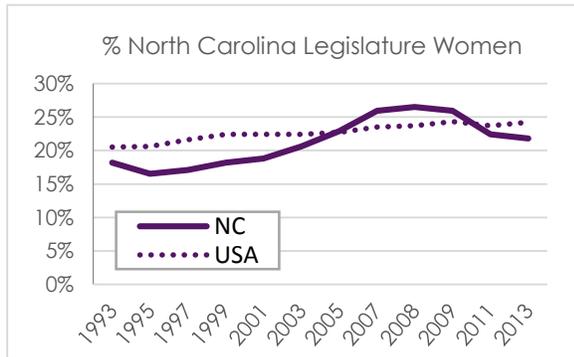
*Score of 29:* Five points for former Governor Bev Purdue's one term and 5 for secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, labor commissioner, and superintendent of public instruction. 7 points for the elections of Kay Hagan (D) and Elizabeth Dole (R) to the U.S. Senate, 2 points for the two women in its House delegation, 6 points for the percentage of state legislative seats held by women, and 4 points for the mayors of Raleigh and Greensboro.

## Quick Facts

North Carolina receives the highest parity ranking of any southern state and the second-highest of any Republican-majority state after Arizona. The state has had parity in its Senate delegation for over ten years, since Elizabeth Dole was elected in 2002. In addition, half of the state's elected executive offices are held by women.

## Trending

North Carolina's state legislature peaked in 2008 at 26.5% women after years of steady increase. The percentage sharply declined in the 2010 election, when Republicans took control of both chambers of the legislature, and is now once again below the national average.



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

## Levels of Government

### Statewide Executives

Female governors: Beverly Purdue (2009-2013)

Current female statewide elected executives: 5 of 10 (secretary of state, state treasurer, state auditor, state superintendent of public instruction, and commissioner of labor)

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 8, one of whom was appointed to fill a vacancy.

### Congress

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

U.S. House: 2 of 13 seats are held by women

In its history, North Carolina has elected five women to the U.S. House and two to the U.S. Senate.

### State Legislature

Percentage women: 21.8%

Rankings: 32<sup>nd</sup> of 50

Senate: 8 of 50 (16%) are women

House: 29 of 120 (24.2%) are women

Method of election: single-member districts

### Local

Two of North Carolina's five largest cities with elected mayors have women mayors: Raleigh and Greensboro.

## Elections of Watch

North Carolina will not hold elections for statewide executive offices until 2016, but Senator Kay Hagan (D) faces a competitive re-election bid in 2014. Heather Grant, an army veteran and nurse practitioner, is an underdog candidate for the Republican nomination. Mike McIntyre (D) is the only U.S. House incumbent likely to face a competitive general election, although other incumbents could be challenged in the primaries.

## Words of Wisdom

"Decisions just look different with women at the table." – Beverly Purdue, former governor of North Carolina