

# Women's Representation in Georgia

Parity Ranking: 44<sup>th</sup> of 50

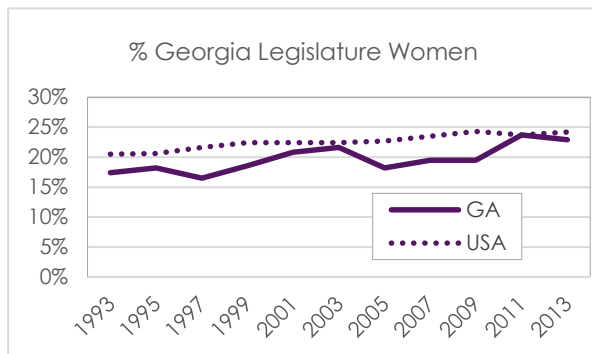
*Score of 10:* Six points for the percentage of state legislators who are women and 4 points for the female mayors of Columbus and Savannah.

## Quick Facts

None of Georgia's 13 statewide elected positions are filled by women, and none of the 16 members of Georgia's congressional delegation are women.

## Trending

In 1989 Georgia ranked 40<sup>th</sup> for its percentage of state legislators who were women. Today it ranks 28<sup>th</sup>, close to the national average.



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

## Elections to Watch

Women may win both major party nominations for the open U.S. Senate seat: Democrat Michelle Nunn, daughter of former Sen. Sam Nunn, and Republican Karen Handel, who lost by 0.4% in the GOP gubernatorial primary runoff in 2010. Handel must defeat several male U.S. House members, whose open seats will create chances for GOP women. Gov. Nathan Deal is heavily favored for re-election.

## Words of Wisdom

"Women are underrepresented in executive positions across America, and have been for my lifetime and hundreds of years. And I think when we find a woman who has demonstrated leadership...then she is a strong and viable candidate"— Shirley Franklin, former mayor of Atlanta

## Levels of Government

### Statewide Executives

Female governors: None

Female statewide elected executives: 0 of 9 positions

Number of women to have held statewide elective office in the past: Four. An additional woman served as the appointed chair of the public service commission.

### Congress

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

U.S. House: 0 of 14 seats are held by women

In its history, Georgia has elected five women to the House, two through special elections. Rebecca Latimer Felton served as the first female U.S. Senator in the nation and the only female Senator from Georgia when she was sworn in for 24 hours in 1922 to fill a vacancy as a placeholder before a special election.

### State Legislature

Percentage women: 22.9%

Rankings: 28<sup>th</sup> of 50

Senate: 8 of 56 (14.3%) are women

House: 46 of 180 (25.6%) are women

Method of election: single-member districts

### Local

Of Georgia's five largest cities and counties with elected executives, two have women mayors: Columbus and Savannah.