

Women's Representation in North Dakota

Parity Ranking: 35th of 50

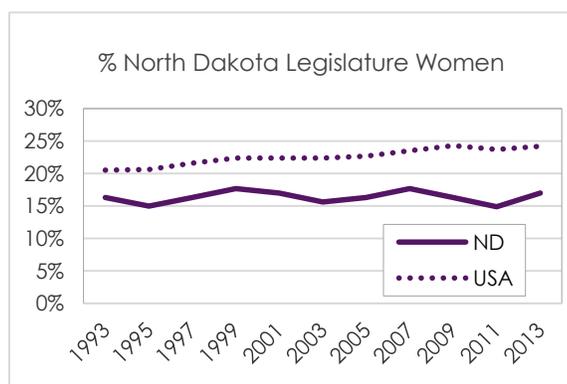
Score of 13: 1.5 points for state treasurer and superintendent of public instruction, 6.5 points for Senator Heidi Heitkamp, and 5 points for the percentage of state legislative seats held by women.

Quick Fact

Although North Dakota ranks among the bottom ten states for the percentage of state legislative seats held by women, it is one of only 17 states to be represented by a woman in the U.S. Senate.

Trending

The percentage of women in the state legislature has increased by less than one percentage point since 1993.



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

Notable Recent Elections

Heidi Heitkamp became North Dakota's first elected female U.S. senator in 2012. Fellow Democrat Pam Guleson lost her bid to become the state's first female U.S. House member, falling short of Republican Kevin Cramer by 13% of the vote.

Words of Wisdom

"I don't think we should be satisfied until there is parity, because I think it's so important that we draw on the talents of every person who could contribute." – Heidi Heitkamp, U.S. senator from North Dakota

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Female governors: None

Statewide elected executives: 2 of 10 (treasurer and superintendent of public instruction). Another is serving as 1 of 3 public service commissioners.

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 13, one of whom (Laura Eisenhuth, superintendent of public instructions from 1893-1894) was the first woman to be elected to a statewide office in the nation. An additional three have served as public service commissioners.

Congress

U.S. Senate: 1 of 2 seats are held by women, Heidi Heitkamp (2013-present)

U.S. House: 0 of 1 seats is held by a woman

In its history, North Dakota has elected one woman to Congress. Another was appointed to the Senate to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband for three months.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 17.0%

Rankings: 41st of 50

Senate: 8 of 47 (17%) are women

House: 16 of 94 (17%) are women

Method of election: State house members are elected in two-member districts with plurality voting. State senators are elected from single-member districts.

Local

None of North Dakota's five largest cities with elected mayors has a woman mayor.

Elections to Watch

There is no gubernatorial or Senate race in 2014, and Rep. Kevin Cramer is heavily favored to keep his U.S. House seat. No women are running for secretary of state, attorney general, commissioner of agriculture, or tax commissioner.