

Women's Representation in Minnesota

Parity Ranking: 6th of 50

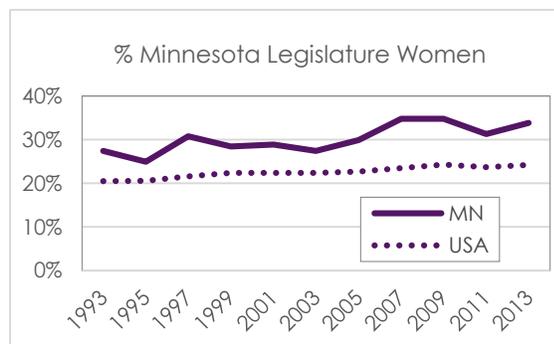
Score of 31: Seven points for the lieutenant governor, attorney general, and auditor. 7.5 points for Senator Amy Klobuchar's two elections, 4 points for the percentage of U.S. House seats held by women, 9.5 points for its percentage of state legislators who are women, 1 point for senate president, and 2 points for Minneapolis mayor Betsy Hodges.

Quick Fact

In August 2011, Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota became the first woman to win the Ames Straw Poll, the most prominent early poll for the Republican presidential nomination in Iowa, since the poll's inception in 1979.

Trending

Minnesota has consistently outpaced the national average for its proportion of state legislators who are women. Women are equally well represented in the House and in the Senate.



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

Levels of Government

Statewide Executives

Female governors: none

Current female statewide elected executives: 3 of 5 (lieutenant governor, state auditor, and attorney general)

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office: 14, one of whom was appointed and then elected in a special election

Congress

U.S. Senate: 1 of 2 seats is held by a woman, Amy Klobuchar (2007-present)

U.S. House: 2 of 8 seats are held by women

In its history, Minnesota has elected four women to Congress. In addition, Muriel Humphrey Brown was appointed to the Senate in 1978 after a vacancy caused by the death of her husband.

State Legislature

Percentage women: 33.8%

Rankings: 4th of 50

Senate: 23 of 67 (34.3%) are women

House: 45 of 134 (33.6%) are women

Method of election: single-member districts

Local

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

Words of Wisdom

"A lot of young women get afraid to get into politics because ... they think they don't know enough. And yet you look at a lot of guys – they've hardly done anything in politics and they think they can be an expert on the federal tax system after looking at it for one day." – *Senator Amy Klobuchar, U.S. senator from Minnesota*

Training, Recruiting, and Funding Women Candidates in Minnesota

Minnesota is home to a number of organizations dedicated to promoting women's involvement in politics.

Women Winning, a nonpartisan group dedicated to electing pro-choice women candidates, endorses and fundraises for women seeking office in Minnesota.



VOICES of Conservative Women helps to train, endorse, and support conservative women looking to run for office or otherwise become more involved in state and local politics.

The Women Candidate Development Coalition (WCDC) is a coalition of women's organizations providing education and assistance to progressive women interested in greater involvement in politics.

Notable Recent Elections

In 2013, Minnesota's largest city, Minneapolis, elected Betsey Hodges to its open mayoral seat. Six of the 35 candidates were woman.

Minneapolis elects its mayor using ranked choice voting, in which voters rank three candidates in order of preference.

Elections to Watch

Sen. Al Franken will have a competitive re-election bid, with state senator Julianne Ortman among prospective Republican nominees.

Michele Bachmann will not seek re-election in the heavily Republican 6th congressional district. Women candidates now seeking the seat include Democrat Judy Adams and Republican Rhonda Sivarajah. Sona Mehring, CEO of CaringBridge, is mounting a longshot challenge to incumbent John Kline (R). Three Democrats hold House seats that could be competitive for GOP women challengers in a Republican-leaning year.

In statewide elections, Gov. Mark Dayton is favored for re-election. Women will have opportunities in other executive elections, including in an open seat race for secretary of state.