

NEW JERSEY

STATE RANKING **32**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 16.3 out of 100 points

A Gender Parity Score of 50 indicates a state has reached gender parity in elected office. Gender parity is defined as the point at which women and men are equally likely to hold elected office in the state.

- 1.3 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 5.0 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 8.1 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 2.0 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

16.3 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman (D) became the first African American representative in Congress for New Jersey in the 2014 midterm election. She represents New Jersey's 12th Congressional district in the U.S. House, beating two women — State Senator Linda Greenstein in the Democratic primary and Republican Alieta Eck in the general election — to gain a seat in Congress.

Women Statewide Executives

There are only two elected statewide executive offices in New Jersey: governor and lieutenant governor. Christine Todd Whitman was elected governor in 1993 and she served until 2001.

Women State Legislators

For years New Jersey lagged behind the national average in the percentage of its state legislative seats held by women. After elections in 2007 and 2009, however, the number of female legislators nearly doubled, from 19 in 2005 to 36 in 2009.

Cities and Counties

Eight (10.5%) of New Jersey's 76 cities with populations over 30,000 have female mayors. Bergen and Monmouth counties had female county executives/freeholder directors in 2014.

Analysis

In 1993, New Jersey ranked 48th in the nation, with a Gender Parity Score of 3.8.

Did you know?

In the November 2013 legislative elections in New Jersey, 67 women were on the ballot, the most in the state's history.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	0 of 2	0
House of Representatives	1 of 12	6

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	1
Statewide executive offices	1 of 2	2

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	11 of 40 (28%)	1 of 40 (3%)
House	24 of 80 (30%)	14 of 80 (18%)
Total	29%	13%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 11th

Method of election: Each district elects one state senator and two assembly members