

CONNECTICUT

STATE RANKING **10**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 26.5 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.

5.6 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)

11.3 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)

7.7 of 30 points (State Legislature)

2.0 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

26.5 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Connecticut has sent at least one woman to the U.S. House for 32 consecutive years. Also, it has not elected a woman U.S. Senator, though the Republican Party nominated Linda McMahon in both the 2010 and 2012 U.S. Senate races.

Women Statewide Executives

Ella T. Grasso (1975-1980), Connecticut's first woman governor, was the first woman elected governor of a U.S. state who was not married to a previous governor.

Of the 19 women elected to statewide executive office, 14 served as secretaries of state.

Women State Legislators

Connecticut women have held a higher percentage of state legislative seats than the national average for the last four decades. The 2014 election brought no change in the number of women in either legislative house. However, the Republican Party chose its first woman state house leader, Themis Klarides, in 2014.

Cities and Counties

Six (20%) of Connecticut's 30 cities with populations greater than 30,000 have women mayors. New Haven, Connecticut's second largest city, elected a woman mayor (Toni Harp) for the first time in 2013.

Three-quarters of Connecticut's towns and cities use a form of fair representation voting called "Limited Voting" to elect town and city councils and boards.

Analysis

Connecticut's Gender Parity Score was virtually unchanged from 2014. However, due to the advances made by other states, Connecticut fell from the 9th to 10th best state for gender parity in elected office.

Did you know?

The Honorable Denise Lynn Nappier was the first woman elected to be state treasurer in Connecticut in 1998, the first African-American woman to be elected to the post, and the first African-American to be elected to any statewide office in Connecticut.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	0 of 2	0
House of Representatives	2 of 5	7

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	2
Statewide executive offices	3 of 6	19

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	9 of 36 (25%)	8 of 36 (22%)
House	45 of 151 (30%)	39 of 151 (26%)
Total	29%	25%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 13th
Method of election: Single-winner districts