

ILLINOIS

STATE RANKING **19**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 19.7 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.

- 3.3 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 6.3 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 8.3 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 1.8 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

19.7 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

In its history, Illinois has elected one female U.S. Senator, Carol Moseley-Braun (1993-1999), the only African American woman to ever be elected to the Senate. Illinois has elected 16 women to the U.S. House, three through special election.

Women Statewide Executives

In January 2015, Evelyn Sanguinetti (R) succeeded Sheila Simon in the lieutenant governor's office. Sanguinetti is the first Latina lieutenant governor in any state and the only new woman of color in a state's number two post.

Although three of the last four lieutenant governors elected in Illinois have been women, a female governor has yet to be elected in the state.

Women State Legislators

Always above the national average, the percentage of Illinois' state legislators who are women rose steadily between 1993 and 2013. In the 2014 Election, this progress was reversed somewhat as the proportion of women in the state legislature declined from 31.6% to 29.9%.

Cities and Counties

Twelve (17.1%) of Illinois's 70 cities with populations over 30,000 have female mayors. Cook County, Illinois' largest county, elected a woman to county board president (for a six-year term) in 2010.

Analysis

In 1993, Illinois ranked 17th in the nation, with a Gender Parity Score of 11.4.

Did you know?

In 1922, just two years after women were given the right to vote, Lottie Holman O'Neill was elected to the Illinois State legislature. She continued to serve in the Illinois House and Senate for 40 years.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	0 of 2	1
House of Representatives	4 of 18	16

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	0
Statewide executive offices	3 of 6	7

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	15 of 59 (25%)	11 of 59 (19%)
House	40 of 118 (34%)	30 of 118 (25%)
Total	31%	23%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 10th
Method of election: Single-winner districts