

TEXAS

STATE RANKING **42**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE **11.2** 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.

3.8 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)

0.0 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)

5.9 of 30 points (State Legislature)

1.6 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

11.2 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson became the first black woman from Dallas to be elected to public office in 1972, when she won a seat in the Texas House of Representatives. She was re-elected in 2014 to the U.S. House of Representatives for a twelfth term.

In its history, Texas has elected six women to the House and one to the Senate. Between November 2006 and January 3, 2007, after Shelley Sekula-Gibbs won a special election but lost the general election, Texas was represented by a record 5 women in Congress.

Women Statewide Executives

Texas was the second state to elect a female governor. Miriam "Ma" Ferguson was elected twice (in 1924 and 1932) as a surrogate for her husband who had been impeached and was ineligible to run for re-election. Ann Richards, Texas' second female governor, was defeated in her run for a second term by George W. Bush in 1994. In addition to the six women to serve in statewide executive office, three women have served on the three member railroad commission, including the current chair (Christi Craddick).

Women State Legislators

After reaching a peak of 23.8% in 2009-2010, the proportion of women in the state legislature has steadily declined.

Cities and Counties

13 (13.3%) of Texas' 98 cities with populations over 30,000 have female mayors. One of Texas' most populous counties elected a female county judge in 2014 (Travis County).

Analysis

In 1993, Texas ranked 6th in the nation for parity, with a Gender Parity Score of 19.8. Since then, Texas has fallen 36 places to 42nd — and its Gender Parity Score is down to almost half of its 1993 peak.

Did you know?

The two largest cities in the nation with women mayors are both in Texas: Houston and Fort Worth. In fact, Houston is the only city with a population above a million with a woman mayor.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	0 of 2	1
House of Representatives	3 of 36	6

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	2
Statewide executive offices	0 of 7	6

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	7 of 31 (23%)	4 of 31 (13%)
House	29 of 150 (19%)	25 of 150 (17%)
Total	20%	16%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 36th

Method of election: Single-winner districts