

# FLORIDA

**STATE RANKING** **28**  
out of 50

**GENDER PARITY SCORE** **17.7** 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.

- 3.9 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 3.6 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 7.4 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 2.9 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

**17.7 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)**

## Women in Congress

Florida did not elect any women to the U.S. House between 1932 and 1988. Since 1993, no fewer than four women have been elected to the U.S. House from Florida in each election.

In the 2014 elections, Gwen Graham (D) defeated two term Congressman Steve Southerland (R) for a seat in the U.S. House in a district that is Republican leaning. Southerland drew negative attention after sending an invitation to a men's only fundraiser that read, "Tell the Mrs. not to wait up," referring to Gwen Graham.

## Women Statewide Executives

Two women have served as lieutenant governor and two women have served as secretary of state. Pam Bondi, who was re-elected last November, is the first woman to serve as attorney general in Florida.

## Women State Legislators

The percentage of state legislative seats held by women in Florida has mirrored the national average for 20 years.

## Cities and Counties

Twenty (23.3%) of Florida's 86 cities with populations over 30,000 have female mayors. Two of the county commissions of the state's five largest counties (Palm Beach and Orange) are led by female mayors.

## Analysis

In 1993, Florida ranked 32nd in the nation, with a Gender Parity Score of 8.1. Since then, their score has more than doubled.

### Did you know?

As reported in the Miami Herald, the 13 women in Florida's state senate, joined by several of their male colleagues, formed a bipartisan coalition in the 2012 legislative session to defeat bills they believed were too extreme, including an expansion of private prisons, an omnibus anti-abortion bill, and changes to state-sponsored homeowners insurance.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	0 of 2	1
House of Representatives	7 of 27	15

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	0
Statewide executive offices	1 of 5	9

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	12 of 40 (30%)	6 of 40 (15%)
House	27 of 120 (23%)	22 of 120 (18%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>18%</b>

**State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 25th**  
Method of election: Single-winner districts