

NORTH CAROLINA Analysis

STATE RANKING **13**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 23.9 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.

6.0 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)

10.0 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)

6.7 of 30 points (State Legislature)

1.3 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

23.9 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Alma Adams (D) was victorious in her special election bid for the 12th Congressional district seat, making her the 100th female member of Congress. She was able to win a seven-way primary in which she was the only woman candidate. Incumbent Senator Kay Hagan (D) was defeated by North Carolina State House Speaker Thom Tillis (R) in the 2014 midterms. In its history, North Carolina has elected two women to the U.S. Senate, each for a single term. Elizabeth Dole (2003-2009) and Kay Hagan (2009-2015).

Women Statewide Executives

North Carolina did not elect a woman to statewide executive office until 1996. Since 2000, North Carolinians have elected at least three women to statewide executive office every quadrennial election, including Governor Beverly Purdue in 2008.

Women State Legislators

North Carolina's state legislature peaked in 2008 at 26.5% women after years of steady increase. The percentage sharply declined in the 2010 election, but made a slight rebound in 2014 when a record number of women were elected to the state senate.

Cities and Counties

Six (19.4%) of North Carolina's 31 cities with populations over 30,000 have female mayors, including Raleigh and Greensboro.

In 1993, North Carolina ranked 22nd in the nation, with a Gender Parity Score of 10.4.

Did you know?

In 1920, Lillian Exum Clement was the first woman elected to the North Carolina legislature, and the first woman to serve in any state legislature in the American South. Before the 19th Amendment had been ratified, Clement won the Democratic Party primary, defeating two male candidates. In the era of the White primary and Democratic Party domination of the South, she won (at age 26) the 1920 election with 10,368 votes to 41 votes.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	0 of 2	2
House of Representatives	3 of 13	6

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	1
Statewide executive offices	5 of 10	8

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	13 of 50 (26%)	7 of 50 (14%)
House	26 of 120 (22%)	24 of 120 (20%)
Total	23%	18%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 28th
Method of election: Single-winner districts