

ARKANSAS

STATE RANKING **36**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE **14.2** 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.

- 2.8 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 3.6 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 5.6 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 2.2 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

14.2 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

In its history, Arkansas has elected two women to the U.S. Senate and four to the House. No women have won election to Congress since Blanche Lincoln's Senate win in 2004. Lincoln served in both chambers and is the youngest woman to have been elected to the U.S. Senate. She was 38 on the day of her election in 1998.

Women Statewide Executives

In the 2014 election, 2 women were elected to statewide executive office: Leslie Rutledge to attorney general and Andrea Lea to state auditor. Arkansas has never elected a female governor or lieutenant governor.

Women State Legislators

The proportion of women in Arkansas's state legislature increased by 3 percentage points after the 2014 Election.

Cities and Counties

Three of Arkansas' cities with a population greater than 30,000 currently have women mayors. A female county judge presides over one of the state's five largest counties (Washington County).

Analysis

In 1993, Arkansas ranked 37th in the nation for gender parity in elected office, with a Gender Parity Score of 5.9. Arkansas' score has more than doubled over the last 21 years.

Did you know?

Newly-elected State Auditor Andrea Lea boasts a diverse record of elected positions, including Justice of the Peace, Russellville City Councilwoman, and State Representative.

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

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

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	7 of 35 (20%)	1 of 35 (3%)
House	20 of 100 (20%)	12 of 100 (12%)
Total	20%	10%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 35th
Method of election: Single-winner districts