

SOUTH CAROLINA Analysis

STATE RANKING **22**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 18.8 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.

0.0 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)

15.5 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)

2.8 of 30 points (State Legislature)

0.5 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

18.8 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

South Carolina has not elected a woman to Congress since 1990. The first four women to represent South Carolina in Congress were elected in special elections following the deaths of their husbands.

Women Statewide Executives

Governor-elect Nikki Haley (R) easily swept her re-election in the 2014 midterm against Vincent Sheheen (D), her same opponent in the previous election. She was first elected in 2010, making her the first Indian-American woman to become governor of South Carolina and the second Indian-American governor in the U.S.

Women State Legislators

In 2013, South Carolina relinquished its place as the state with the lowest percentage of state legislative seats held by women to Louisiana. After the 2014 election, Wyoming and Oklahoma have also fallen below South Carolina.

Cities and Counties

One (7.7%) of South Carolina's 13 cities with populations over 30,000 has a female mayor: Mount Pleasant with Mayor Linda Page.

In 1993, South Carolina ranked 46th in the nation, with a Gender Parity Score of 4.1.

Did you know?

In 2012, Katrina Shealy became the first woman elected to the South Carolina state senate in five years. The 46-seat state senate had been the nation's only all-male state legislative chamber.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	0 of 2	0
House of Representatives	0 of 7	5

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	1	1
Statewide executive offices	1 of 9	4

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	1 of 46 (2%)	3 of 46 (7%)
House	22 of 124 (18%)	19 of 124 (15%)
Total	14%	13%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 47th

Method of election: Single-winner districts.