

ALABAMA

STATE RANKING **40**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 12.5 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.

- 4.3 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 2.8 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 3.7 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 1.8 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

12.5 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Alabama has never elected a woman to the U.S. Senate. Maryon Pittman Allen (1978) was appointed to the Senate after the death of her husband and Dixie Bibb Graves (1937-1938) was appointed to fill a Senate vacancy caused by a resignation.

Representative Terri Sewell (D) was re-elected in 2014 to the U.S. House of Representatives for her state.

Women Statewide Executives

Lurleen Wallace (1967-1968) served as governor after her husband, George Wallace, was term-limited out of office. She died a year after her election.

Today, Alabama frequently elects women to the lower levels of statewide office. Two of the last three lieutenant governors and two of the last four secretaries of state and presidents of the public service commission have been female. Three of the last four state auditors have been female.

Women State Legislators

From 1994 to 2002, Alabama ranked last in the nation for its percentage of state legislators who were women. Today it ranks 46th, above South Carolina, Wyoming, Oklahoma, and Louisiana.

Cities and Counties

One of Alabama's 16 cities with a population greater than 30,000 currently has a female mayor: Alabaster. In 2014, the commission presidents of two of Alabama's five largest counties were female: Mobile and Shelby.

Analysis

In 1993, Alabama ranked 50th for gender parity in elected office. Alabama's Gender Parity Score has increased six-fold since 1993: from 2.0 to 12.5. If this speedy pace continues, Alabama will reach gender parity in elected office before the 22nd century.

Did you know?

Representatives Terri Sewell (D) and Martha Roby (R) were the first women elected to Congress from Alabama through regular elections. Rep. Sewell successfully lobbied Paramount Pictures to bring the opening of "Selma" to her district, which contains the titular city. Rep. Sewell's mother, Nancy Sewell, was the first African-American woman elected to Selma's city council in 1993.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	0 of 2	2
House of Representatives	2 of 7	3

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	1
Statewide executive offices	2 of 8	19

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	4 of 35 (11%)	2 of 35 (6%)
House	15 of 105 (14%)	5 of 105 (5%)
Total	14%	5%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 46th.

Method of election: Single-winner districts