

CALIFORNIA

STATE RANKING **3**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 35.0 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.

- 20.4 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 3.4 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 8.4 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 2.9 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

35.0 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Norma Torres (D) won a seat in the U.S. House, representing California's 35th Congressional District. Mimi Walters (R) became one of five new Republican women in Congress when she was elected to the U.S. House to represent its 45th Congressional District, defeating Drew Leavens (D).

Women Statewide Executives

California has a relatively poor record on women's representation in executive office. No women have ever served as governor or lieutenant governor. Indeed, only 9 women have ever been elected (or appointed) to the 8 elective positions in the California executive, two of whom serve today.

Women State Legislators

California was an early leader in electing women to the state legislature, electing 3 women to the Assembly in 1918. However, in 2015, one in four (25.8%) state legislators are women, a modest increase from 1993 (23.3%).

Cities and Counties

In 2014, of California's 239 cities with a population over 30,000, 57 (23.8%) had female mayors. Los Angeles, the nation's second largest city, has never had a female mayor — and only one of the 15 current members on the L.A. city council is a woman. Two of California's five largest county board of supervisors (San Diego and San Bernardino) had female chairs in 2014. The cities that use ranked choice voting in California elect women at a higher rate — in the 24 seats elected by ranked choice voting in the 2014 election in the Bay Area, 16 women won.

Analysis

California also ranked third for gender parity in elected office in 1993, when the state's Gender Parity Score was 23.6.

Did you know?

In 1974, California was the first state to elect an Asian-American woman (March Fong Eu) to statewide elective office. Eu served as secretary of state from 1975 to 1993.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	2 of 2	2
House of Representatives	19 of 53	38

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	0
Statewide executive offices	2 of 8	9

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	11 of 40 (28%)	6 of 40 (3%)
House	20 of 80 (25%)	22 of 80 (28%)
Total	26%	23%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 20th
Method of election: Single-winner districts