

IOWA

STATE RANKING **31**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 16.4 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.

- 5.7 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 3.6 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 6.7 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 0.4 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

16.4 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Joni Ernst (R) won an open seat in the Senate against U.S. Representative Brad Braley (D) in a toss up election during the midterm 2014 election, becoming the first woman elected to Congress from Iowa. Prior to being elected, Senator Ernst served as the lieutenant colonel in the Army National Guard, making her the first woman veteran to serve in the U.S. Senate. Yet, Iowa is one of 6 states that have never elected a woman to the U.S. House.

Women Statewide Executives

Iowa has elected five female lieutenant governors. Indeed, since 1991 the office of lieutenant governor has been occupied by women.

Women State Legislators

The percentage of women in Iowa's state legislature peaked at 23.3% in 2009, and has generally mirrored the national average over the last two decades.

Cities and Counties

One (6.7%) of Iowa's 15 cities with populations over 30,000 has a female mayor. None of the state's five largest counties had a female chair of the board of supervisors in 2014.

Analysis

In 1993, Iowa ranked 42nd in the nation, with a Gender Parity Score of 5.3.

Did you know?

In accordance with a gender balance law that passed in 2009 and took effect in 2012, local governments are being pressured to increase gender parity on local boards and commissions. A recent study completed by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center on Women and Politics at Iowa State University and the Friends of Iowa Commission on the Status of Women shows that nearly half of the selected boards and commissions have achieved gender balance.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	1 of 2	1
House of Representatives	0 of 4	0

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	0
Statewide executive offices	2 of 7	13

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	7 of 50 (14%)	6 of 50 (12%)
House	27 of 100 (27%)	16 of 100 (16%)
Total	23%	15%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 31st

Method of election: Single-winner districts