

# KANSAS

**STATE RANKING** **24**  
out of 50

**GENDER PARITY SCORE 18.6** 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.

- 3.3 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 5.0 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 8.7 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 1.7 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

**18.6 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)**

## Women in Congress

In its history, Kansas has elected 5 women to the U.S. House, and 1 to the U.S. Senate. Another woman was appointed to the Senate for five months in 1996.

## Women Statewide Executives

Sandy Praeger (R), the only female statewide executive officeholder in Kansas, chose not to run for re-election for her State Commissioner position. Instead, she did what is rarely done in American politics today, she jumped party lines and endorsed a Democratic candidate, Dennis Anderson.

## Women State Legislators

The percentage of women in the state legislature has declined over the last twenty years, falling from a high of nearly 35% to below the national average in 2013.

## Cities and Counties

Two (15.4%) of Kansas's 13 cities with populations over 30,000 have female mayors: Hutchinson and Leawood. The chair of Douglas County's commission was female in 2014.

## Analysis

In 1993, the Sunflower State ranked first in the nation for gender parity in elected office, with a Gender Parity Score of 36.9. However, the state's record on gender parity in elected office took a turn for the worse in the late 1990s and has not yet recovered.

### Did you know?

Kansas was an early leader in women's representation, granting women the right to vote in 1912, electing its first woman (Susanna M. Salter) in 1887 to the office of mayor of Argonia, electing a woman (Kathryn O'Loughlin McCarthy) to the U.S. House in 1933, and repeatedly electing a female U.S. Senator (Nancy Kassebaum) from 1978 to her retirement in 1997.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	0 of 2	2
House of Representatives	1 of 4	5

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	2
Statewide executive offices	0 of 6	10

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	13 of 40 (33%)	14 of 40 (35%)
House	28 of 125 (22%)	34 of 125 (27%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>29%</b>

**State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 24th**  
Method of election: Single-winner districts