

# KENTUCKY

**STATE RANKING** **44**  
out of 50

**GENDER PARITY SCORE 10.2** 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)
- 4.8 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 4.1 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 1.3 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

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

## Women in Congress

In its history, Kentucky has elected 2 women to the U.S. House: Katherine Gudger Langley (1927-1931) and Anne Northup (1997-2007). Current Kentucky Secretary of State, Alison Lundergan Grimes, ran for U.S. Senate in 2014, but was defeated by Republican leader Mitch McConnell 56% to 40%.

## Women Statewide Executives

In 1983, Kentucky was the 3rd state to elect a female governor who had not been married to the previous governor. On November 6, 2014, former state auditor Crit Luallen (2004-2012) was appointed lieutenant governor. She is the third female lieutenant governor in Kentucky's history.

## Women State Legislators

In 1993, only 5% of Kentucky's state legislative seats were held by women, but the state has trended upward for the last 20 years. There are four times as many women in the legislature today, but the state still lags behind the national average.

## Cities and Counties

Two (20.0%) of Kentucky's 10 cities with populations over 30,000 have female mayors. None of the five largest counties had a female county judge (executive) in 2014.

## Analysis

The Bluegrass State has not always lagged so far behind the nation on gender parity. In 1993, Kentucky's Gender Parity Score was 9.1, only slightly below average.

### Did you know?

Kentuckians elected Katherine G. Langley to the U.S. House in 1926, making her one of the first 10 women to serve in Congress. Three years later, in 1929, Kentucky elected women to the offices of secretary of state (Ella Lewis) and state treasurer (Emma Guy Cromwell). In 1896, Cromwell had been the first woman to hold statewide executive office in Kentucky (appointed to state librarian by the state senate) and was elected secretary of state in 1925.

| Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women |                |               |
|---|----------------|---------------|
|   | 114th Congress | State History |
| Senate                                      | 0 of 2         | 0             |
| House of Representatives                    | 0 of 6         | 2             |

| Number of statewide executive offices held by women |        |               |
|---|--------|---------------|
|   | 2015   | State History |
| Governor  | 0      | 1             |
| Statewide executive offices                         | 2 of 7 | 14            |

| Number of state legislative seats held by women |                 |               |
|---|-----------------|---------------|
|   | 2015            | 1993          |
| Senate  | 4 of 38 (11%)   | 1 of 38 (3%)  |
| House   | 19 of 100 (19%) | 5 of 100 (5%) |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>17%</b>      | <b>4%</b>     |

**State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 43rd**

Method of election: Single-winner districts