

# MARYLAND

**STATE RANKING** **20**  
out of 50

**GENDER PARITY SCORE** **19.1** 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.

- 9.4 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 0.0 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 8.4 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 1.3 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

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

## Women in Congress

Senator Barbara Mikulski (D) of Maryland announced she will not seek a sixth term, and will retire as the longest-serving woman senator.

From 1979 to 1992 Maryland had at least three female Representatives in Congress. But since 1995, no more than one member of the state's U.S. House delegation has been a woman. That's 20 years of underrepresentation.

## Women Statewide Executives

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, the only woman elected to statewide executive office in Maryland, served as lieutenant governor from 1995 to 2003. Kennedy Townsend ran on Parris Glendening's gubernatorial ticket, which narrowly defeated Ellen Sauerbrey, Maryland's second female major party gubernatorial candidate.

## Women State Legislators

The percentage of women in Maryland's state legislature peaked in 2005 at just under 36%. It has declined gradually since then, though it remains higher than the national average.

## Cities and Counties

Two (20.0%) of Maryland's 10 largest cities have female mayors: Baltimore and Rockville. None of Maryland's five largest counties have women executives.

## Analysis

Maryland, once ahead of the nation on gender parity in elected office, is falling behind. In 1993, Maryland ranked 15 places higher — 5th in the nation — with a Gender Parity Score of 20.0.

### Did you know?

Maryland uses both single-winner and multi-winner districts to elect state legislators. In 2013, the percentage seats held by women in two- and three-member districts (37%) was more than double the percentage of seats held by women in single-winner districts (15%).

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	1 of 2	1
House of Representatives	1 of 8	8

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	0
Statewide executive offices	0 of 4	1

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	13 of 47 (28%)	10 of 47 (21%)
House	46 of 141 (33%)	35 of 141 (25%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>24%</b>

### State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 7th

Method of election: Each single-winner senate district elects three seats in the House of Delegates. Most delegates are elected at-large, while the rest are elected in one-seat and two-seat districts