MINNESOTA

Analysis

STATE RANKING 4 out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 31.1 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)
- 7.1 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 10.4 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 4.2 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

31.1 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

In 1993, Minnesota ranked 21st in the nation, with a Gender Parity Score of 10.5.

Did you know?
In August 2011, Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota became the first woman to win the Ames Straw Poll, the most prominent early poll for the Republican presidential nomination in Iowa, since the poll's inception in 1979. Bachmann retired from her house district at the end of the 113th Congress (2013-2015).

Women in Congress

Amy Klobuchar became the first elected female U.S. Senator from Minnesota when she won election in 2006. In addition, Muriel Humphrey Brown was appointed to the Senate in 1978 after a vacancy caused by the death of her husband.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	1 of 2	2
House of Representatives	1 of 8	3

Women Statewide Executives

Lori Swanson was re-elected to a third four-year term as Minnesota's attorney general in 2014 and also received the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Distinguished Service Award.

Although Minnesotans have never elected a female governor, the last six lieutenant governors have been women. In 2014, Minnesota elected its seventh consecutive female lieutenant governor, Tina Smith.

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	0
Statewide executive offices	3 of 5	15

Women State Legislators

Minnesota has consistently outpaced the national average for its proportion of state legislators who are women. Women are similarly represented in the House and in the Senate.

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	23 of 67 (34%)	20 of 67 (30%)
House	44 of 134 (33%)	35 of 134 (26%)
Total	33%	27%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 4th
Method of election: Single-winner districts

Cities and Counties

Ten (33.3%) of Minnesota's 30 cities with populations over 30,000 have female mayors. Anoka, Dakota, and Washington County all had female commission chairs in 2014. Betsy Hodges, mayor of Minneapolis, attributes a part of her win to the use of ranked choice voting for mayoral elections.

State legislative data and historical information at all levels from the Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University (January 2015)