

OREGON

STATE RANKING **15**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 23.3 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.

- 2.8 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 7.6 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 9.4 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 3.5 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

23.3 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Oregon was an early leader in electing women, but the state has not elected a woman to the U.S. Senate since Maurine Brown Neuberger (D) served one term after her 1960 election. No major party has nominated a woman to run for Senate for more than two decades.

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

Women Statewide Executives

In February 2015, after the finalization of our Gender Parity Index, Secretary of State Kate Brown rose to the governorship after the resignation of incumbent John Kitzhaber. Jeanne Paquette Atkins was sworn in as secretary of state in March 2015.

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	1
Statewide executive offices	2 of 5	6

Women State Legislators

The proportion of women in the state legislature declined after the 2008 election. In 2014, Oregonians once again elected a legislature that is almost a third women.

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	8 of 30 (27%)	8 of 30 (27%)
House	20 of 60 (33%)	17 of 60 (28%)
Total	31%	28%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 9th

Method of election: Single-winner districts.

Cities and Counties

Six (42.9%) of Oregon's 14 cities with populations over 30,000 have female mayors. Oregon's largest county, Multnomah County, has a female county chair.

Analysis

In 1993, Oregon's Gender Parity Score was 27.8 and Oregon ranked second in the nation for gender parity in elected office. Since then, the state has fallen an unlucky 13 places and its Gender Parity Score has shrunk.

Did you know?

Barbara Roberts was the first woman elected governor in Oregon in 1990 and served only one term.