

VIRGINIA

STATE RANKING **48**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE **8.5** 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.

- 1.4 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 0.0 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 5.0 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 2.1 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

8.5 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Virginia did not elect a woman to Congress until 1992, when Leslie L. Byrne won Virginia's 11th House District. After sending an all-male Congressional delegation to the Capitol for three Congresses, Virginia's 10th District elected Barbara Comstock (R) to the 114th Congress in 2014.

Women Statewide Executives

Mary Sue Terry is the only woman Virginians have elected to statewide executive office. Terry was elected to attorney general in 1985 and re-elected in 1989.

Women State Legislators

The percentage of Virginia state legislative seats held by a woman has consistently trailed the national average, although it has been trending upward over the past two decades.

Cities and Counties

Two (11.1%) of Virginia's 18 cities with populations over 30,000 have female mayors. Two of Virginia's five most populous counties (Fairfax and Henrico) had a female county commission chair in 2014.

Analysis

Virginia ranked 50th in Representation2020's 2014 analysis. Virginia's slow progress toward parity can be attributed to the use of single-winner districts in its General Assembly. In 2013, those state legislative chambers that used multi-winner districts were 31.0% female, while those that did not were made up of only 22.8% women. Currently, 24 (17.1%) women serve in Virginia's 140 member General Assembly. State legislative offices are an important stepping stone to higher office.

Did you know?

Congresswoman Barbara Comstock's opponent John Foust (D) was quoted saying that Comstock, a former Congressional aide, lobbyist, and mom never had a "real job."

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	0 of 2	0
House of Representatives	1 of 11	4

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	0
Statewide executive offices	0 of 3	2

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	8 of 40 (20%)	4 of 40 (10%)
House	16 of 100 (16%)	13 of 100 (13%)
Total	17%	12%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 42nd.
Method of election: Single-winner districts