

WASHINGTON

STATE RANKING **2**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 43.8 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.

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

43.8 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Washington maintained its status ranking second in gender parity, in part by re-electing Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Jaime Herrera Beutler, and Suzan DelBene to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2014.

Since 1998, Washington has sent at least one woman to Congress. Since 2013, Washington's Congressional delegation of 12 has included a record 5 (41.7%) women.

Women Statewide Executives

Dixy Lee Ray, distinguished scientist and Washington's first female governor, won the governorship in 1976 without any prior electoral experience. Ray served one term. Washington's second female governor, Christine O. Gregoire, served as attorney general for three terms before winning the governor's race in 2004 (and again in 2008).

Women State Legislators

Washington has consistently ranked high on the gender parity index in its state legislature. Although Washington has experienced a slight decrease in the percentage of women in the state legislature since 1993, the amount of women in the state senate has held steadily over time and both houses remain well above the national average.

Cities and Counties

Twelve (31.6%) of Washington's 38 cities with populations over 30,000 have female mayors. Pierce County, Washington's second largest county, has a female county executive.

Analysis

In 1993, Washington ranked 8th in the nation, with a Gender Parity Score of 17.7.

Did you know?

In 2005, Washington became the first state to have two women U.S. senators and a woman governor simultaneously.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	2 of 2	2
House of Representatives	3 of 10	9

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	2
Statewide executive offices	1 of 9	10

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	18 of 49 (37%)	18 of 49 (37%)
House	30 of 98 (31%)	40 of 98 (41%)
Total	33%	39%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 5th

Method of election: The State House uses two seat districts elected with numbered posts, while the State Senate uses single-winner districts