

WEST VIRGINIA

STATE RANKING **38**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 12.9 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.

- 6.0 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 3.2 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 3.1 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 0.7 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

12.9 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Two women have represented West Virginia in Congress: Elizabeth Key and Shelley Moore Capito. Key was elected to the 5th House District in 1951, after the death of the incumbent, her husband, John Key. She was succeeded by her son, James Key, in 1964. Capito won election to the U.S. House in 2000 and served in 2nd district until her taking her seat in the U.S. Senate on January 3, 2015.

Women Statewide Executives

Until 2004, West Virginia had never elected a woman to statewide executive office. Since then, West Virginia has elected two women to the office of secretary of state.

Women State Legislators

While nationally the percentage of women serving in state legislatures has increased by 3.7 percentage points over the last two decades, the percentage of women in the West Virginia legislature is lower today than it was in 1993.

Cities and Counties

None of West Virginia's five largest cities with elected mayors has a woman mayor. In 2014, Cabell County had a female county commission president.

Analysis

In 1993, West Virginia ranked 36th in the nation, with a Gender Parity Score of 5.9.

Did you know?

Since 2013, only one woman (Donna J. Boley) has served in the 34-member West Virginia State Senate.

Number of U.S. Congress seats held by women		
	114th Congress	State History
Senate	1 of 2	1
House of Representatives	0 of 3	2

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

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	1 of 34 (3%)	5 of 34 (15%)
House	19 of 100 (19%)	17 of 100 (17%)
Total	15%	16%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 45th

Method of election: 1-5 Seat districts