

RHODE ISLAND

STATE RANKING **16**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 23.1 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.

0.0 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)

12.9 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)

8.4 of 30 points (State Legislature)

1.8 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

23.1 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Claudine Schneider, the only woman to represent Rhode Island in Congress, served in the U.S. House between 1981 and 1991. She retired to run for the U.S. Senate but was unsuccessful.

Women Statewide Executives

Governor-elect Gina Raimondo (D) won an open seat, becoming Rhode Island's first woman governor and joining four other incumbent female governors. Nellie Gorbea (D) was elected as the new secretary of state, making her the first Latina elected statewide and the first Latina elected to a statewide executive office in New England.

Women State Legislators

After a decade's long dip in its percentage of state legislative seats held by women, women made up 27.4% of the state's legislature in 2013, the highest percentage in Rhode Island's history. After the 2014 election, that number declined slightly to 26.5%.

Cities and Counties

Two (18.2%) of Rhode Island's 11 cities with populations over 30,000 have female mayors.

Analysis

In 1993, Rhode Island ranked 10th in the nation, with a Gender Parity Score of 15.9.

Did you know?

In the 2010 gubernatorial election, the Women's Fund of Rhode Island challenged the major gubernatorial candidates to sign a pledge to double the percentage of women appointed to commissions and boards. Having signed before his election, former Governor Lincoln Chafee increased the percentage of appointed women from 15% in 2010 to 33% in 2012.

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

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	1	1
Statewide executive offices	2 of 5	8

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	10 of 38 (26%)	11 of 50 (8%)
House	20 of 75 (18%)	26 of 100 (10%)
Total	27%	25%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 18th
Method of election: Single-winner districts.