

SOUTH DAKOTA

STATE RANKING **21**
out of 50

GENDER PARITY SCORE 18.8 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.

- 10.0 of 30 points (U.S. Congress)
- 2.4 of 30 points (Statewide Executive Offices)
- 5.8 of 30 points (State Legislature)
- 0.7 of 10 points (Cities and Counties)

18.8 of 100 points (Gender Parity being 50)

Women in Congress

Rep. Kristy Noem was re-elected in 2014 as South Dakota's only member of the House of Representatives. She is famous in part for having finished her college degree from South Dakota State during her first term in office.

Although two women served South Dakota in the U.S. Senate before 1950 (one by appointment and the other through a special election), South Dakota did not send any women to Congress between 1948 and 2004.

Women Statewide Executives

In 2014, Secretary of State-elect, Shantel Krebs, became the first woman elected to statewide executive office in South Dakota since 2000. Krebs is the 16th woman to serve as secretary of state. Every secretary of state between 1926 and 2003 was female.

In addition to the 20 women elected to statewide executive office, five women have served on the three-member public utilities commissioners.

Women State Legislators

After reaching a nadir of just 13.3% in 1999, the proportion of women in South Dakota's state legislature is slowly on the rise again.

Cities and Counties

None of South Dakota's 5 five largest cities have female mayors. Minnehaha County had a female commission chair in 2014.

Analysis

In 1993, South Dakota ranked 14th in the nation, with a Gender Parity Score of 14.4.

Did you know?

Since 2004, a woman has won South Dakota's single at-large U.S. House seat in each election (Stephanie Herseth Sandlin in 2004, 2006, and 2008 and Republican Kristi Noem in 2010, 2012, and 2014). In 2014, both major party candidates for South Dakota's House seat were women (Noem and Democrat challenger Corinna Robinson).

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

Number of statewide executive offices held by women		
	2015	State History
Governor	0	0
Statewide executive offices	1 of 7	21

Number of state legislative seats held by women		
	2015	1993
Senate	7 of 35 (20%)	7 of 35 (20%)
House	15 of 70 (21%)	14 of 70 (20%)
Total	21%	20%

State Legislature's Gender Parity Ranking: 32nd

Method of election: Each district has one state senator and two house members. Most of the two-member house districts are elected by numbered posts, while some are elected at-large.