

WOMEN STATE LEGISLATORS: LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 1993

In 1993, 1,524, or 20.5%, of the 7,424 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold 342 (210D, 121R, 10 nonpartisans, 1 independent), or 17.2%, of the 1,984 state senate seats and 1,182 (716D, 466R), or 21.7%, of the 5,440 state house or assembly seats.

Leadership Positions¹

In 1993, of the 1,033 state legislators holding leadership positions nationwide, 207, or 20.0%, are women. Women hold 74, or 7.2%, of the 430 leadership positions in state senates and 133, or 22.1%, of the 603 leadership positions in state houses. Women hold leadership positions in 31 state senates and in 37 state houses; in 9 states women do not hold leadership positions in either chamber.

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislative leadership positions is:

	Total Legislature			State Senate			State House		
	Total Women	Total Leadership	Percent Women	Total Women	Total Leadership	Percent Women	Total Women	Total Leadership	Percent Women
Total	207	1033*	20.0	74	430*	17.2	133	603*	22.1
D	113	580	20.2	40	229	17.5	73	331	22.1
R	94	468	20.1	34	199	17.1	60	269	22.3
NP ²	0	1	0.0	0	1	0.0	---	---	---
I	0	1	0.0	---	---	---	0	1	0.0

*includes 3 vacancies (1 senate and 2 house)

The twelve states with the highest percentages of women in leadership positions (combining senate and house) are:

State	% Women	State	% Women	State	% Women
Alaska	60.0	Texas	33.3	Vermont	30.0
Washington	47.1	Wyoming	33.3	Hawaii	29.4
Arizona	41.2	Oregon	30.3	Florida	27.8
Idaho	35.7	New Hampshire	30.0	Iowa	24.0

AZ, ID, NH, OR, VT and WA also rank in the top ten for the percentage of women serving in their legislatures.

In 1993, no women serve as senate presidents. Representative Ramona Barnes (R-AK) is the only woman serving as speaker of a state house. In the history of the United States, two women have served as senate presidents and eight as speakers of a state house.

Senate President

Gwen Margolis (D-FL; 1990-92)
Jan Faiks (R-AK; 1987-88)

Speaker of the House

Ramona Barnes (R-AK; 1993-)
Jane Hull (R-AZ; 1989-92)
Vera Katz (D-OR; 1985-90)
Debra Anderson (R-SD; 1987-88)
Patricia "Tish" Kelly (D-ND; 1983)
Marion West Higgins (R-NJ; 1965)
Consuelo Northrop Bailey (R-VT; 1953)
Minnie Davenport Craig (R-ND; 1933)

Committee Chairs³

In 1993, of the 2,094 state legislators chairing standing committees nationwide, 343, or 16.4%, are women. Women hold 137, or 14.4%, of the 954 committee chair positions in state senates and 208, or 18.1%, of the 1,140 committee chair positions in state houses. Women chair committees in 41 state senates and in all but 6 state houses; in South Carolina women do not chair committees in either chamber.

The party breakdown for women chairing standing committees is:

	Total Legislature			State Senate			State House		
	Total Women	Total Comm.Chairs	Percent Women	Total Women	Total Comm.Chairs	Percent Women	Total Women	Total Comm.Chairs	Percent Women
Total	343	2094*	16.4	137	954*	14.4	208	1140*	18.1
D	221	1413	15.6	88	594	14.8	133	819	16.2
R	120	644	18.6	47	334	14.1	73	310	23.5
NP ²	2	18	11.1	2	18	11.1	---	---	---
IND	0	3	0.0	0	1	0.0	0	2	0.0

*includes 16 vacancies (7 senate and 9 house)

The twelve states with the highest percentages of women committee chairs (combining senate and house) are:

State	% Women	State	% Women	State	% Women
Arizona	50.0	Oregon	33.3	Kansas	29.1
Maine	46.0	Washington	33.3	Nevada	25.0
Idaho	41.7	New Hampshire	32.0	South Dakota	24.0
Colorado	33.3	Wisconsin	30.8	Rhode Island	23.1

AR, ME, ID, CO, OR, WA, NH and NV also rank in the top ten for the percentage of women serving in their legislatures.

¹Leadership positions include: senate presidents and presidents pro tempore; house speakers and speakers pro tempore; majority and minority leaders of the senate and house and all assistant leaders as listed in *State Legislative Leadership, Committees & Staff 1991-1992*. When the position of senate president is filled by the lieutenant governor, it is not included in these totals. The total number of leadership positions includes 8 vacancies.

²In Nebraska, where the legislature is unicameral, legislators are elected on a nonpartisan basis.

³Chairs and co-chairs of all senate, house, and joint standing committees are included in these figures, as are chairs and co-chairs of joint statutory committees and joint commissions as listed in *State Legislative Leadership, Committees & Staff 1993-1994*, Council of State Governments, Lexington, Kentucky, 1993. Chairs and co-chairs of central staff services committees are not included. Members of senates chairing joint committees are counted as senate committee chairs, and members of houses chairing joint committees are counted as house committee chairs. The total number of committee chairs includes 16 vacancies.

A note to users of our fact sheets: Please credit the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, Eggleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

Leadership Positions								Committee Chairs						
		Senate				House				Senate		House		
State	Rank ¹	Pty.	Total Women/ Total Leaders	Ctrl.	Total Women/ Total Leaders	Pty.	Ctrl.	Rank ²	Pty.	Total Women/ Total Chairs	Ctrl.	Total Women/ Total Chairs		
			#	%	#	%				#	%	#	%	
AL	36	D	0/1	0.0	D	0/2	0.0	32	D	1/25	4.0	D	4/26	15.4
AK	1	R	0/2	0.0	R	3/3	100.0	34	R	0/11	0.0	R	2/12	16.7
AZ	3	R	4/9	44.4	R	3/8	37.5	1	R	8/16	50.0	R	10/20	50.0
AR	36	D	0/1	0.0	D	0/4	0.0	45	D	0/19	0.0	D	1/18	5.6
CA	34	D	0/8	0.0	D	1/13	7.7	22	D	3/31	9.7	D	6/32	18.8
CO	13	R	1/8	12.5	R	3/9	33.3	4	R	3/10	30.0	R	4/11	36.4
CT	16	D	3/17	17.6	D	8/34	23.5	13	D	6/23	26.1	D	3/23	13.0
DE	30	D	1/5	20.0	R	0/5	0.0	19	D	5/24	20.8	R	3/23	13.0
FL	11	R	0/5	0.0	D	5/13	38.5	40	R	3/23	13.0	D	0/26	0.0
GA	24	D	1/7	14.3	D	2/11	18.2	38	D	3/26	11.5	D	1/32	3.1
HI	8	D	3/16	18.8	D	7/18	38.9	14	D	4/16	25.0	D	3/20	15.0
ID	4	R	4/7	57.1	R	1/7	14.3	3	R	1/10	10.0	R	9/14	64.3
IL	18	R	3/15	20.0	D	4/19	21.1	15	R	3/16	18.8	D	6/31	19.4
IN	14	R	3/16	18.8	D	4/15	26.7	30	R	3/19	15.8	D	2/26	7.7
IA	12	D	3/12	25.0	R	3/13	23.1	23	D	2/18	11.1	R	3/18	16.7
KS	19	R	3/10	30.0	R	1/10	10.0	7	R	9/27	33.3	R	7/28	25.0
KY	36	D	0/8	0.0	D	0/8	0.0	44	D	1/15	6.7	D	0/18	0.0
LA	36	D	0/2	0.0	D	0/2	0.0	43	D	1/16	6.3	D	0/16	0.0
ME	19	D	2/5	40.0	D	0/5	0.0	2	D	9/24	37.5	D	14/26	53.8
MD	21	D	1/8	12.5	D	4/19	21.1	20	D	3/21	14.3	D	4/21	19.0
MA	27	D	1/8	12.5	D	1/7	14.3	24	D	5/27	18.5	D	2/27	7.4
MI	15	R	1/20	5.0	D	13/44	29.5	11	R	2/18	11.1	D	14/56	25.0
MN	10	D	4/13	30.8	D	4/15	26.7	18	D	4/19	21.1	D	3/20	15.0
MS	36	D	0/1	0.0	D	0/2	0.0	35	D	2/38	5.3	D	4/38	10.5
MO	20	D	0/9	0.0	D	4/12	33.3	12	D	0/29	0.0	D	17/57	29.8
MT	33	D	0/6	0.0	R	1/6	16.7	21	D	4/17	23.5	R	1/15	6.7
NE	36	NP	0/1	0.0	UNICAMERAL			30	NP	2/18	11.1	UNICAMERAL		
NV	19	R	2/7	28.6	D	1/8	12.5	8	R	1/9	11.1	D	4/11	36.4
NH	7	R	1/10	10.0	R	14/40	35.0	5	R	7/21	33.3	R	9/29	31.0
NJ	25	R	1/14	7.1	R	4/20	20.0	36	R	0/18	0.0	R	3/22	13.6
NM	36	D	0/8	0.0	D	0/7	0.0	28	D	1/10	10.0	D	2/16	12.5
NY	32	R	2/25	8.0	D	3/32	9.4	37	R	0/48	0.0	D	7/53	13.2
NC	23	D	1/7	14.3	D	1/6	16.7	17	D	3/29	10.3	D	7/26	26.9
ND	26	D	1/7	14.3	R	1/7	14.3	26	D	1/12	8.3	R	2/12	16.7
OH	29	R	0/8	0.0	D	2/10	20.0	27	R	1/14	7.1	D	4/27	14.8
OK	35	D	0/9	0.0	D	1/22	4.5	31	D	4/20	20.0	D	1/26	3.8
OR	6	D	4/14	28.6	R	6/19	31.6	4	D	5/14	35.7	R	3/10	30.0
PA	36	D	0/8	0.0	D	0/7	0.0	41	D	2/22	9.1	D	0/25	0.0
RI	9	D	5/19	26.3	D	8/26	30.8	10	D	3/13	23.1	D	3/13	23.1
SC	36	D	0/1	0.0	D	0/4	0.0	46	D	0/16	0.0	D	0/11	0.0
SD	31	D	2/9	22.2	R	0/12	0.0	9	D	4/13	30.8	R	2/12	16.7
TN	28	D	2/12	16.7	D	1/13	7.7	42	D	1/14	7.1	D	0/15	0.0
TX	5	D	0/1	0.0	D	1/2	50.0	29	D	1/13	7.7	D	4/31	12.9
UT	33	R	0/5	0.0	R	1/7	14.3	33	R	0/20	0.0	R	4/21	19.0
VT	7	R	3/5	60.0	D	0/5	0.0	25	R	1/16	7.1	D	3/19	17.6
VA	36	D	0/4	0.0	D	0/5	0.0	39	D	0/11	0.0	D	2/20	10.0
WA	2	D	8/17	47.1	D	8/17	47.1	4	D	5/13	38.5	D	6/20	30.0
WV	22	D	1/5	20.0	D	1/6	16.7	16	D	4/23	17.4	D	4/20	20.0
WI	17	R	2/10	20.0	D	3/14	21.4	6	R	6/17	35.3	D	10/35	28.6
WY	5	R	1/5	20.0	R	4/10	40.0	26	R	0/12	0.0	R	3/12	25.0
TOTALS			74/430	17.2		133/603	22.1			137/954	14.4		206/1140	18.1

¹Rank is for leadership positions only and is based on combined senate and house figures. States with the exact same percentages are given the same rank; states with the lowest proportion of women in leadership positions are ranked 36.

²Rank is for standing committee chairs only and is based on combined senate and house figures. States with the exact same percentage are given the same rank; states with the lowest proportion of women standing committee chairs are ranked 46.