



2023 GENDER PARITY INDEX

The Status of Women's Representation in 2023

August 2023 | REPRESENTWOMEN

Over the last ten years, women have broken records and reached new milestones for political representation at every level of government in the United States. Despite this, women remain underrepresented in politics, holding just one-third of all elected positions in 2023. Although more women are now running for office and winning than ever before, outdated rules and systems create an unlevel playing field, limiting opportunities for women to enter and remain in politics. As a result, progress toward gender balance has been slower and more uneven than it should be in the U.S. Systemic reform is needed to enable more women to [Run](#), [Win](#), [Serve](#), and [Lead](#).

The 2023 Gender Parity Index is the tenth-anniversary edition of our annual report on women’s representation in the United States. In August 2013, RepresentWomen (then Representation2020) launched the Gender Parity Index (GPI) to help researchers and advocates track progress toward gender-balanced governance and identify opportunities for increasing women’s political representation. Each year, a Gender Parity Score is calculated for all 50 states. This score measures women’s representation in national, state, and local government on a scale of 0 (if there are zero women in office) to 100 (if there are women in every office). Letter grades and state rankings are then assigned to each state according to their proximity to parity (50/100). For additional information, contact:

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Key References & Acknowledgements:

(1) Data on women in national, state, and local office – past and present – is courtesy of the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University.

(2) Data on women mayors and county executives is collected by RepresentWomen each year and updated as needed.

(3) Data on women’s representation in international legislatures is courtesy of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Data on women ministers is courtesy of UN Women.

(4) Unless otherwise indicated, all data cited in this report is true as of April 2023. Small discrepancies in the data may be attributed to vacancies, appointments, and special elections. Direct queries to our team at info@representwomen.org.

Dear readers,

RepresentWomen launched the Gender Parity Index 10 years ago to better understand how well women were represented at the local, state, and federal levels of government and create a baseline for measuring progress toward gender balance. While there are indeed more women in the halls of Congress, statewide executive offices, state legislatures, and local offices than ever before, progress toward gender balance in politics is slow and uneven across geography, ideology, and race.

In 2023 men hold 72% of all seats in Congress, and the increases in women's representation are so minimal that most of us won't live to see gender balance in government. As a case in point, just one additional woman was elected to the House in the 2022 midterms – despite unprecedented spending on those races. The low rate of political representation for women in the U.S., combined with an antiquated voting system that rewards incumbents, means that legislative bodies are not often crafting and passing policies that reflect the will of the majority of voters.

In the last 20 years, the U.S. has dropped below most established democracies in the election of women to office, not because other countries have better-prepared women but rather because other democracies have addressed the barriers women face in politics with systems strategies that enable more women to run and win. I hope that the 2023 Gender Parity Index will provide readers with a deeper understanding of not only the obstacles that women face in politics but also the innovative solutions - like ranked choice voting - that directly address these barriers.

Many thanks to the incredible research team for their work on the 2023 Gender Parity Index, and a special thank you to research director Courtney Lamendola for producing this informative report that should serve as a stark reminder that, while we are making incremental progress toward gender balance, current strategies alone are insufficient to build the resilient and representative democracy that is necessary for our health as a nation.

We agree with Melinda Gates, who announced her renewed support for strategies to advance women's representation and leadership last month and said, "There are barriers to women running for office...we need to stop sending women to a broken system, and we need to change the system."

We are grateful to our partners in the women's representation ecosystem and the democracy reform movement, who are helping to build viable, scalable, and truly transformative solutions for a stronger democracy that includes far more women in decision-making and leadership roles.

Here's to making serious progress toward gender balance in the decades to come,

Cynthia Richie Terrell

RepresentWomen, Executive Director and Founder

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Executive Summary

In [August 2013](#), RepresentWomen launched the Gender Parity Index (GPI) to help researchers and advocates track progress toward gender-balanced governance and identify opportunities for increasing women's political representation in the U.S. Each year, we assign all 50 states a Gender Parity Score, letter grade, and ranking according to their proximity to parity. One of the key takeaways from this exercise is that progress toward gender balance is slower and less stable than it first appears.

In the first Gender Parity Index, 40 states earned a "D" grade (< 25.0) or worse (< 10.0); the remaining ten states were split evenly between "Cs" (< 33.0) and "Bs" (< 50.0), and no state achieved an "A" (50.0 and above). Ten years later, Maine and Oregon have both achieved an "A" for the first time, 24 states are split evenly between "Bs" and "Cs," 23 states have earned a "D," and Louisiana is the only failing state.

The 2023 Index reflects recent record-breaking progress for women in the U.S. government, particularly state executives. Following the 2022 elections, 12 states have women governors, breaking the previous record of nine. Correspondingly, six of the top ten states in the 2023 GPI have women governors, including Maine (1st), Oregon (2nd), Michigan (3rd), New Mexico (4th), Iowa (7th), and Massachusetts (9th).

While it is true that women's representation has increased, the 2023 GPI shows that women are still underrepresented at every level of government in the U.S., holding just one-third of all elected positions, despite comprising over 50% of the population. Women of color are further underrepresented, holding approximately one-tenth of all elected positions. This year's GPI further shows that:

- 1. Record-breaking wins have resulted in incremental gains for women.** Headlines that announce record highs for women in politics are often misleading; women remain underrepresented at every level of government. Net gains for women are generally smaller than they appear, slowing progress.
- 2. Not every state is on an upward trajectory toward parity;** some states, such as New Hampshire and Louisiana, have even lost progress over time.
 - a. New Hampshire ranked first and achieved an "A" between 2015-2018 and again in 2020; it now ranks 10th with a score of 41/100 (grade: B).
 - b. Louisiana ranked 28th in the first GPI with a score of 16/100 (grade: D); it now has a score of 9/100 (grade: F) and ranks 50th in the 2023 GPI.
- 3. Gains for women are concentrated in the Northeast and West Coast,** while women's representation in Midwestern and Southern states lags far behind.
- 4. Democratic women are outpacing Republican women,** suggesting that progress toward parity will eventually slow unless a) more Republican women are elected or b) more Democratic women than men are elected.
- 5. Systemic reform is needed to level the playing field** and create more opportunities for women to enter and remain in office. Rather than replace existing candidate-focused strategies, systemic reforms can function in a complementary manner to bring out the best of both strategies.

Introduction

Over the last ten years, women have broken records and reached new milestones for political representation at every level of government in the United States. Despite this, women remain underrepresented in politics, holding just one-third of all elected positions in 2023. Although more women are now running for office and winning than ever before, outdated rules and systems create an unlevel playing field, limiting opportunities for women to enter and remain in politics. As a result, progress toward gender balance has been slower and more uneven than it should be in the U.S.

About The Gender Parity Index

Ten years ago, RepresentWomen (then [Representation2020](#)) developed the first Gender Parity Index (GPI) to help researchers and advocates track progress toward gender-balanced governance in the United States and identify opportunities for increasing women's political representation. Each year, a Gender Parity Score is calculated for all 50 states. This score measures women's representation in national, state, and local government on a scale of 0 (if there are zero women in office) to 100 (if there are women in every office). Letter grades and state rankings are then assigned to each state according to their proximity to parity (50/100).

The GPI is a measurement and evaluation tool that enables us to track outcomes for women in politics and make comparisons between states. One of the key takeaways is that progress toward gender balance is slower and less stable than it appears. Though it is true that women's political representation has increased over time, the GPI shows that 1) not every state is on an upward trajectory toward parity; some states have even lost progress over time; 2) women still remain underrepresented at every level of government in the U.S., despite gains made in the last few election cycles; and 3) systemic reform is needed to level the playing field and create more opportunities for women to enter and remain in office.

About RepresentWomen

RepresentWomen is a research and action hub that promotes evidence-based solutions to improve women's political representation and leadership in the United States. At RepresentWomen, we know that women's representation in government strengthens the quality of our democracy. We envision a future where women are in elected and appointed positions in proportion to their presence in the population in all three branches and levels of government.

Our mission is to identify the best strategies for increasing women's representation and build relationships with changemakers prepared to enact or expand on these strategies. The Gender Parity Index lays the foundation for this work by establishing a baseline and validates our call for new solutions that level the playing field so that women in all parts of the United States can [Run](#), [Win](#), [Serve](#), and [Lead](#).

Acknowledgments

Our team is grateful for the leadership and advice provided by national, state, and local democracy reformers and women’s representation advocates, whose work has shaped our understanding of the barriers and opportunities for electing more women in the United States and around the world. We would like to especially thank FairVote, our original fiscal sponsors, who supported “Representation2020” and the development of the first Gender Parity Index between 2013 and 2018.

We acknowledge the efforts made by Representation2020’s inaugural staff for the creation of the Gender Parity Index. Credit is owed to Cynthia Richie Terrell, Representation2020’s Program Chair and RepresentWomen’s Executive Director and Founder; Andrea Levien, the first report’s supervisor, editor, and lead author; Patricia Hart, who co-launched Representation2020; Rob Richie, FairVote’s Founder, who contributed insights, analysis, and editorial assistance; Elizabeth Hudler, Devin McCarthy, Mollie Haley, Drew Spencer, Dania Korkor, and Andrew Douglas, who provided assistance and analysis; and interns Amel Yagoub, Savanna Richie, Sara Helmi, and Danielle Moise, who took on substantive roles in research and writing.

The 2023 Gender Parity Index was led by Courtney Lamendola and Steph Scaglia, supported by RepresentWomen’s research team: Fatma Tawfik, Marvelous Maeze, Ariana Maaia, Sevil Suleymanova, Leilani Nti, Michelle Runco, and Cynthia Montoya. We further thank and acknowledge Cynthia Richie Terrell, Nicole Bailey, Laura Todd, and Katie Usalis for their thought leadership; and Victoria Pelletier, Alissa Bombardier Shaw, Ria Deshmukh, Suzzanna Rogers, Jewlene Meneses, Nora Weiss, and Ruby Coleman for their support with promoting our research.

Report Roadmap

The 2023 Gender Parity Index is the tenth-anniversary edition of our annual report on women’s representation in the U.S. In the report, we review the progress women have made at all levels of government in the last ten years, introduce this year’s Index, and break down the results of our research. We follow our analysis with an extended case study section, where we dive deeper into the states that performed best - and worst - in the GPI and offer insight into their performance.

In addition to presenting the results of the 2023 GPI and highlighting what we have learned about women’s representation in the U.S. over the last ten years, we incorporated our signature research on the barriers and solutions for increasing women’s political representation toward the end of the report. The last 100 pages serve as an addendum breaking down the GPI scores for each state. All 50 states have a “State Score” and “State Systems” page highlighting the status of women’s representation and existing systems at each level of government.

Status of Women's Representation in 2023

After the last few election cycles, the number of women in office is at a record high. In addition to having the first woman vice president in history, women are represented at unprecedented levels nationwide. However, there are limits to defining women's representation in terms of record highs and lows. Incremental victories may break records, but they do not significantly advance progress toward parity because the baseline for women's representation has always been low.

Recent Milestones: Record Wins for Women in the 2022 Midterm Elections

As has been the case every year since 2018, the 2022 midterm elections resulted in new records for women's representation. In last year's Index, we reported that women held 147 of 535 (28%) seats in Congress, 101 of 333 (30%) state executive offices, 2,295 of 7,383 (31%) state legislative seats, and 367 of 1,465 (25%) mayoral seats.¹ As of April 2023, women hold 150 of 535 (28%) seats in Congress, 98 of 330 (30%) state executive offices, 2,414 of 7,383 (33%) state legislative seats, and 368 of 1,464 (25%) mayoral seats.² At every level of office, women either maintained or slightly increased their share of power and thus broke records, but these gains were still incremental.

Congressional Elections

Incremental gains for women were most apparent in the 2022 congressional elections, which resulted in just two more women being elected to the U.S. House and Senate, bringing the total number of women in Congress from 147 to 149. A special election in February 2023 later brought that total to a new record of 150.

There are two reasons why gains for women in Congress were incremental in 2022. First, the number of non-incumbent women who won (23) was matched by almost the same number of departures from office (21).³ Second, a dearth of open seats limited opportunities for new women to win. The majority of women who won ran as incumbents (107). Just 1% of congressional challengers won; in the U.S. Senate races, 0 of 12 challengers won; in the U.S. House races, 1 of 111 challengers won. The majority of non-incumbent winners ran in open-seat elections; 1 of 4 women won open-seat races for the U.S. Senate, and 21 of 45 women won open-seat races for the U.S. House.

¹ The 2022 Gender Parity Index reflects the status of women's representation as of June 2022. As reported in last year's Index, 101 of 333 state executive offices were either led or co-led by women; multiple executives lead a few state offices. Courtney Lamendola, Steph Scaglia, and Paige Chan. "2022 Gender Parity Index," RepresentWomen ([July 2023](#)).

² Data on women in Congress, statewide elective executive offices, and state legislatures is courtesy of the CAWP (CAWP) "Current Numbers" ([Accessed July 2023](#)). Data on statewide executives is also courtesy of [Ballotpedia](#). Each year, RepresentWomen has tracked outcomes for women in incorporated cities that had populations of 30,000 or more. For states that have fewer than five cities that qualify, we tracked outcomes in the five most populous cities. For more information on women in municipal office, please refer to the CAWP's new resource, which was updated in [March 2023](#).

³ CAWP. "New Records for Women in the U.S. Congress and House" ([23 November 2022](#)).

State Executive Elections

While women made less progress in the 2022 congressional elections relative to previous years, the 2022 gubernatorial elections heralded a new record and an important milestone for women governors. At present, there are 12 women governors, breaking the previous record of nine, which was first set in 2004.⁴ In the 2022 elections, eight women ran and won as incumbent governors, and four more women won open-seat races. In the history of the U.S., there have been 49 women governors. As of 2023, there are 18 states left that have never had a woman governor.⁵

State Legislative Elections

While most records are set for women in Congress and state executive office in the November elections, the number of women in state legislatures tends to fluctuate over the course of the year due to vacancies, appointments, and special elections. After the November elections, the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) reported that a record high of 2,409 women would serve in state legislatures in 2023, reflecting a net gain of 116 women between 2022 and 2023.⁶ By the time we incorporated data on women in state legislatures into the GPI in April 2023, the number of women legislators increased to 2,414 - setting another new record high.

In addition to heralding a record-high number of state legislators nationwide, the November 2022 elections led Colorado to become the second state to achieve a gender-balanced legislature, with women holding 50% of all seats between its upper and lower house, and joining Nevada, which first reached this milestone in 2018.⁷

Local Elections

The majority of local elections are held on different days than annual national and state elections; as a result, establishing an accurate baseline for women's representation and tracking changes from year to year can be tricky at the local level. For the Gender Parity Index, we look at women mayors in cities with populations of 30,000 and above and county executives in the five largest counties of each state. Because we rely on population data, the number of cities we track changes yearly, making it difficult to assess progress. To identify recent milestones, we narrowed our focus to the 100 largest cities in the U.S.

Women mayors led 35 of the 100 largest cities as of April 2023; seven assumed their roles in the last year. These women include Karen Bass, the first woman and second Black mayor of Los Angeles,⁸ and Sheng Thao, the third consecutive woman mayor of Oakland and first Hmong American mayor of any city.

⁴ CAWP. "Results for Women Statewide Executive Candidates in 2022." ([9 November 2022](#)).

⁵ CAWP. "History of Women Governors" ([Accessed 28 July 2023](#)).

⁶ CAWP. "Results for Women State Legislative Candidates in 2022" ([29 November 2023](#)).

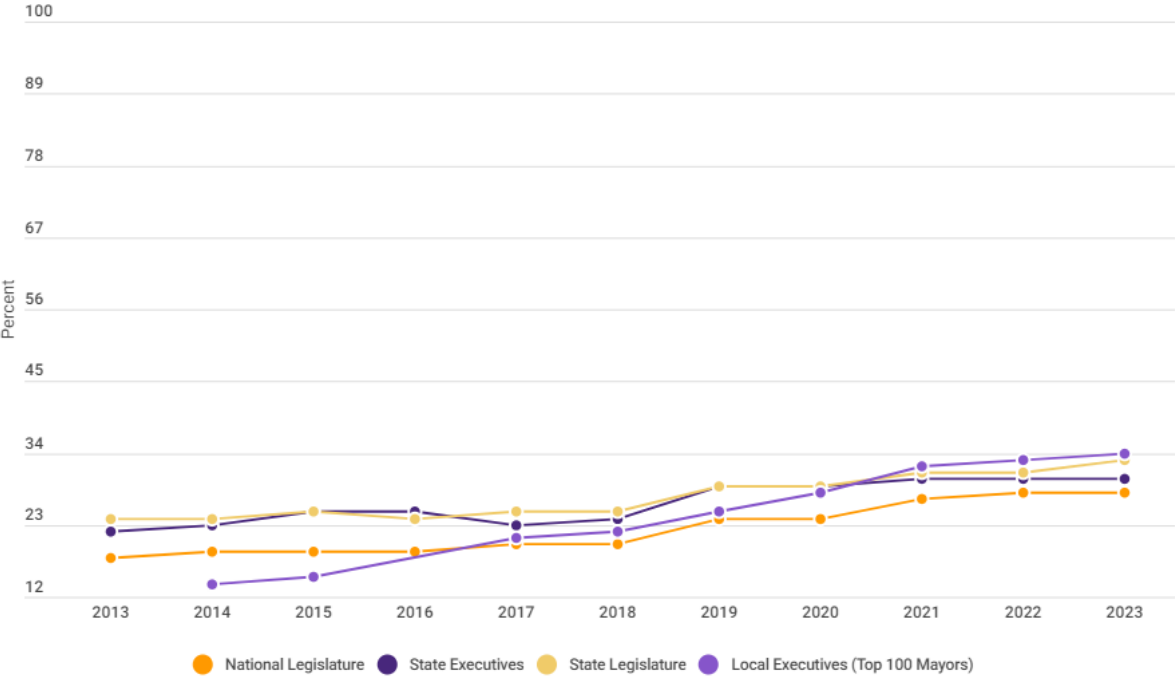
⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Julia Wick. "Karen Bass elected mayor, becoming the first woman to lead L.A." *Los Angeles Times* ([16 November 2023](#)).

Women’s Representation at the National, State, and Local Level Over Time

Though notable, recent post-election milestones for women in government have only brought the U.S. marginally closer to gender parity. Ten years ago, women held 19% of all congressional seats, 23% of state executive positions, and 24% of all state legislative seats. In 2023, women hold 28% of all congressional seats, 30% of all state executive positions, and 33% of all state legislative seats. This is progress, but the year-to-year gains were minimal, and women remain underrepresented overall.

Women’s Representation in Government 2013–2023



Data on National- and State-Level Representation: Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University
Data on Women in the Top 100 Cities (Mayors and Councils): Collected by RepresentWomen 2014-2023



The U.S. is not on a definite, linear trajectory toward gender-balanced governance. As can be seen from the chart above, while there was an uptick in women’s representation following the 2018 elections, wins for women in the last few election cycles have been more modest in comparison. In a few cases, more women are leaving office than are elected, as happened with state executives in 2022; although a record number of women governors won in the November 2022 elections, we counted fewer state executives in this year’s GPI (98) than last (101).

Linear progress toward gender balance requires both the election of new women and the retention of existing women in office. Progress further stalls when inequities between women are created or exacerbated by existing systems and norms within the U.S. In our research, we have found that women of color, Republican women, and Midwestern/Southern women are among the least represented in the U.S. Until their representation improves, we are less likely to achieve sustainable progress toward gender balance in our lifetimes.

Women’s Representation by Race and Ethnicity

Despite comprising one-fifth of the U.S. population,⁹ women of color remain vastly underrepresented at all levels of government, holding approximately one-tenth of all elected positions. The underrepresentation of women of color in politics is most noticeable at the state executive level. Of the 12 women governors, all but one are white women; in the history of women governors, 94% have been white; there has never been a Black, Middle Eastern/North African, or Native woman governor.

Women in Office by Race and Ethnicity (June 2023)				
Race/Ethnicity	% of U.S. Population	U.S. Congress	State Executive	State Legislative
Asian American/Pacific Islander	4%	10 (2%)	4 (1%)	98 (1%)
Black	8%	28 (5%)	8 (5%)	372 (8%)
Latina	9%	19 (4%)	8 (3%)	190 (3%)
Middle Eastern/North African	N/A ¹⁰	1 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	13 (0.2%)
Native American/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian	1%	2 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	36 (0.5%)
White	31%	94 (18%)	74 (24%)	1,728 (23%)

Totals may not add up because women may identify as more than one race/ethnicity.¹¹

While record numbers of women of color ran for congressional and state executive seats in 2022, they made some of the most noticeable gains in state legislative races, where women of every race and ethnicity broke records. As noted by Kelly Dittmar, Associate Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University and Director of Research at CAWP, redistricting created open seats in 2022, presenting an opportunity for women of color to run without having to go against an incumbent.¹²

The opportunities created by redistricting in 2022 will not be present in the next election cycle. As described in the “Zooming in: Systems Strategies” section later in this report, systemic changes are needed to level the playing field in every election and create more opportunities for women of color to [Run](#), [Win](#), [Serve](#), and [Lead](#).

⁹ U.S. Census. “National Population by Characteristics: 2020-2022” ([Accessed July 2022](#)).

¹⁰ Not an option in the U.S. Census. Though according to the [Arab American Institute](#), there are approximately 3.7 million Americans that identify as Arab.

¹¹ We pulled data on women officeholders by race and ethnicity separately from the GPI. CAWP. “Women Officeholders by Race and Ethnicity” ([Accessed June 2023](#)).

¹² CAWP. “CAWP Data on 2022 Women Candidates by Race and Ethnicity.” ([Accessed July 2023](#)); Barbara Rodriguez. “Women of every race and ethnicity broke representation records in statehouses after the 2022 midterms,” *The 19th* ([14 June 2023](#)).

Women’s Representation by Party and Geography

In the last few election cycles, more women are running for office - and winning - than ever before, particularly in state legislatures, where women hold one-third of the available seats. Though women in both major parties have made gains, the number of Democratic women in office has increased so steadily over the last five years that almost half (48%) of all Democratic state legislators are women as of 2023. In comparison, just 20% of all Republican legislators are women.

Composition of Women in State Legislatures 2018-2023 (April 2023)						
	Democrats	Democratic Women	% Democratic Women	Republicans	Republican Women	% Republican Women
2018	3,126	1,143	37%	4,094	706	17%
2019	3,465	1,442	42%	3,844	667	17%
2020	3,442	1,463	43%	3,834	673	18%
2021	3,303	1,517	46%	3,979	760	19%
2022	3,271	1,510	46%	4,031	757	19%
2023	3,273	1,583	48%	4,021	805	20%

Table excludes independents, nonbinary electeds, and women in nonpartisan legislatures.¹³

The partisan gender gap,¹⁴ which widened after the 2018 midterms, is not surprising, given how efforts to recruit and train Democratic women candidates have taken off in the last few years. While Republicans put some additional effort into recruiting women candidates at the national and state level ahead of the 2020 cycle, these efforts have not been sustained since then.¹⁵ Since the Democratic Party is already at parity in state legislatures, women are unlikely to achieve parity in state legislatures overall unless 1) more Republican women are elected, or 2) the Democratic Party becomes a woman majority party, with substantially more women than men elected.

As more Democratic women are elected, corresponding geographic trends have emerged that show there are more women in office in states controlled by Democrats than in those that Republicans control. Resultantly, women are increasingly better represented in Northeastern states and along the West Coast than they are in Midwestern and Southern states.¹⁶

¹³ RepresentWomen. “Gender and Party in State Legislatures” ([April 2023](#)).

¹⁴ Laurel Elder. *The Partisan Gap: Why Democratic Women Get Elected But Republican Women Don’t*, NYU Press ([July 2021](#)).

¹⁵ Catherine Wineinger. “More Republican Women Have Been Elected to Congress. But They Can Do Better,” *The Gender Policy Report* ([14 February 2022](#)).

¹⁶ Carah Ong Whaley. “Moving Beyond the Good Ol’ Boys Club: Recent Trends in Women’s Representation in State Legislatures,” *Sabato’s Crystal Ball* ([7 June 2023](#)).

Women’s Representation in Washington, DC and the U.S. Territories

Of the U.S. territories located across the Atlantic and Pacific, five have incorporated systems of government: American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.¹⁷ All five are self-governing and have three branches of government, mirroring the U.S. mainland. Along with Washington, DC, U.S. citizens residing in these territories lack full representation in Congress and have non-voting delegates in the U.S. House. Of the six delegates, four are women.¹⁸

At the gubernatorial level, only one territory, Guam, has a woman governor. Guam also has the highest level of women’s representation in its legislature, with women holding six of 15 (40%) seats. DC, which has no governor but a woman mayor, comes in second, with women holding five seats on its 13-member council (38%).

Women in Washington, DC and the U.S. Territories (March 2023)				
Territory	Since	Delegate	Governor	Legislature
American Samoa	1900	1	0	1 of 39 (2.6%) ¹⁹
District of Columbia	1790	1	NA	5 of 13 (38%) ²⁰
Guam	1898	0	1	6 of 15 (40%) ²¹
Northern Mariana Islands	1975	0	0	6 of 29 (21%) ²²
Puerto Rico	1898	1	0	24 of 78 (31%) ²³
U.S. Virgin Islands	1917	1	0	5 of 15 (33%) ²⁴

Dates reflect when each territory became part of the United States.

Across the territories and the District of Columbia, women’s representation is uneven at each level of government, mirroring trends in the U.S. Unfortunately, it is difficult to assess how women’s representation has changed over time in the territories because there is less reliable, updated data on women officeholders in the territories than there is on officeholders elsewhere in the United States. The data above is true as of March 2023, courtesy of the Center for American Women and Politics.²⁵

¹⁷ “Island Areas,” U.S. Census ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

¹⁸ CAWP. “Women in DC and the Territories” ([Updated March 2023, Accessed July 2023](#)).

¹⁹ CAWP. “Women in State Legislatures” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

²⁰ Council of the District of Columbia. “Councilmembers” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

²¹ Guam Legislature. “37th Guam Legislature - Senators” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

²² Northern Mariana Commonwealth Legislature. “Members of the Senate, 23rd NMC Legislature” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

²³ Ballotpedia. “Puerto Rico House of Representatives” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

²⁴ Legislature of the Virgin Islands. “35th Legislature” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

²⁵ CAWP. “Women in DC and the Territories” ([Updated March 2023, Accessed July 2023](#)).

How the U.S. Compares Internationally for Women’s Representation

While a relative lack of reliable data on women’s representation in the territories has made it difficult for us to identify trends and milestones, the Inter-Parliamentary Union’s open-data platform, Parline, has made it possible for us to study how women’s representation around the world has shifted over time.²⁶

How Global Representation Has Changed Over Time						
	January 2003		January 2013		February 2023 ²⁷	
50% +	0	0%	2	1%	6	3%
40% range	1	.6%	7	4%	23	12%
30% range	10	6%	24	13%	35	19%
20% range	29	17%	48	25%	52	28%
10% range	58	34%	69	36%	48	26%
10% -	63	38%	34	18%	21	11%
No Women	8	5%	6	3%	1	.5%
Global Average		14%	-	19%	-	25%
United States		14%	-	18%	-	29%

In January 2003, the U.S. ranked 63rd in the world, with 14% women in the U.S. House. Ten years later, the U.S. ranked 91st in the world, despite having more women represented (18%), as other countries began to elect more women to office. At the start of this year, the U.S. ranked 71st in the world, with 29% women in the U.S. House. While the U.S. ranks better now than it did in 2013, it has not regained the ranking it had in 2003, despite more than doubling its share of women in the U.S. House.

According to our research, other countries have outpaced the U.S. by adopting quotas to increase the number of women candidates and representatives or by adopting fairer voting systems that create more opportunities for women to run successful campaigns. In particular, countries with proportional voting systems often have higher rates of women’s representation in government.²⁸

²⁶ IPU Parline. “Global Data on National Parliaments” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

²⁷ The IPU releases new global rankings for women’s representation in parliament each month to reflect changes due to elections, vacancies, and other political circumstances. For the purpose of our year-to-year comparisons, we generally refer to the IPU’s January data in the years we are comparing. Due to a few data gaps in their January 2023 rankings, we opted to use their February rankings for 2023 in the above chart.

²⁸ Courtney Lamendola, Fatma Tawfik, Marvelous Maeze, and Steph Scaglia. “Voting Systems and Women’s Representation: Lessons from Around the World and the Case for Proportional Ranked Choice Voting,” RepresentWomen ([8 March 2023](#)).

How Long It Will Take to Achieve Gender Parity

Compared to other countries, the U.S. has made relatively little progress toward gender balance in the last decade, despite breaking records and reaching new milestones for women in the last few election cycles. The underrepresentation of women, particularly women of color, at every level of government and uneven gains for women across party lines and geographic boundaries show the U.S. is not on a linear path toward parity.

Estimates for how long it will take to achieve gender balance in politics vary, with statisticians and political scientists projecting between 60 and 118 years, if not longer. In 2020, statistician David Byler used CAWP's data on women's representation in the U.S. House to estimate how long it will take to achieve gender balance; according to his calculations, the U.S. could achieve parity in Congress as early as 2080.²⁹ In 2023, political scientist Laurel Elder offered a somewhat less optimistic take; noting how little progress was made for women in Congress between 2022 and 2023, she predicted it will take another 118 years before the U.S. achieves parity.³⁰

Though the U.S. has progressed toward gender balance as a whole, some U.S. states are faring better than others in terms of year-to-year gains. Our annual Gender Parity Index was designed to make it easier to measure and evaluate changes in women's representation in each state over time. Evidence from around the world and within the U.S.,³¹ shows that rapid progress toward gender balance is not just possible but within reach. Establishing the baseline for women's representation is the first step to identifying the barriers and opportunities for increasing women's representation in politics and achieving gender balance sooner rather than later.

²⁹ Sergio Peçanha. "What will it take to achieve gender equality in American politics?" *The Washington Post* ([21 August 2020](#)).

³⁰ Laurel Elder. "Just over 1 in 4 members of Congress in 2023 will be women - at this rate, it will take 118 years until there is gender parity," *The Conversation* ([2 January 2023](#)).

³¹ A combination of term limits, public matching funds, ranked choice voting, and candidate recruitment/training organizations worked together to accelerate the rate of progress toward New York City's first woman majority council in 2021. Courtney Lamendola, Steph Scaglia, and Paige Chan. "Why Women Won in 2021: How a Twin-Track Approach Advanced Women's Representation on the New York City Council," *RepresentWomen* ([September 2022](#)).

Parity Score Methodology

The underrepresentation of women in elected office is a serious problem in the United States. At RepresentWomen, we seek to understand the true extent of the problem and identify rules and systems that may improve representation in every state. There are many possible methodologies for counting and ranking women’s representation in elected office, each with its own advantages and disadvantages.

Percent Women in Congress

A simple way to evaluate women’s representation in politics is to look at the composition of women in each state’s congressional delegation. By that measure, New Hampshire, which has the highest percentage of women in Congress (75%), would rank first, while nine states (Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Montana, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Utah) would tie for last, as all have no (0%) women in Congress.

Top 10 States ³²			Bottom 10 States		
State	Women		State	Women	
New Hampshire	3 of 4	(75%)	South Carolina	1 of 9	(11%)
Alaska	2 of 3	(67%)	Arkansas	0 of 6	(0%)
Nevada	4 of 6	(67%)	Idaho	0 of 4	(0%)
Washington	8 of 12	(67%)	Kentucky	0 of 8	(0%)
Wyoming	2 of 3	(67%)	Maryland	0 of 10	(0%)
Minnesota	6 of 10	(60%)	Montana	0 of 4	(0%)
Hawaii	2 of 4	(50%)	North Dakota	0 of 3	(0%)
Iowa	3 of 6	(50%)	Rhode Island	0 of 4	(0%)
Maine	2 of 4	(50%)	South Dakota	0 of 3	(0%)
Oregon	4 of 8	(50%)	Utah	0 of 6	(0%)

Data on women in Congress: Center for American Women and Politics.

State rankings based on women’s representation in Congress paint an incomplete picture of progress toward parity. States with larger delegations, such as California (54 seats), would appear to perform relatively poorly with this method, even though it has 18 women (33%). This method would also offer no further insight into women’s representation in the nine states that have no women in Congress.

³² West Virginia did not fit on the top-ten chart, but also has a gender-balanced delegation.

Percent Women in State Legislatures

Another approach for evaluating women’s representation in politics might involve looking at state legislatures instead, where the number of available seats is greater in all states. Through this method, Nevada, which has a majority of women state legislators (39 out of 63, or 62%), would rank first, while West Virginia, which has just 15 women legislators out of 134 (11%), would rank last.

Top 10 States			Bottom 10 States		
State	Women		State	Women	
Nevada	39 of 63	(62%)	North Dakota	35 of 141	(25%)
Colorado	50 of 100	(50%)	Arkansas	31 of 135	(23%)
Arizona	42 of 90	(47%)	Wyoming	20 of 90	(22%)
Washington	68 of 147	(46%)	Louisiana	28 of 144	(19%)
Vermont	81 of 180	(45%)	Oklahoma	29 of 149	(19%)
New Mexico	50 of 112	(45%)	Alabama	24 of 140	(17%)
Rhode Island	50 of 113	(44%)	South Carolina	25 of 170	(15%)
Maine	82 of 186	(44%)	Mississippi	25 of 174	(14%)
Maryland	80 of 188	(43%)	Tennessee	19 of 132	(14%)
Oregon	38 of 90	(42%)	West Virginia	15 of 134	(11%)

Data on women in state legislatures: Center for American Women and Politics.

This, too, paints an incomplete picture of women’s representation in politics. Simple rankings by percentages ignore differences between and within states. As previously mentioned, structural differences between states make comparisons between states with relatively larger or smaller delegations unfair. Such methods also obscure cases where states like Rhode Island and Maryland score in the top ten for women in the state legislature but have no women in Congress. On the other hand, Wyoming is one of the bottom-ranked states for women’s representation in the legislature (22%) but scores in the top ten states for women in Congress (67%).

To understand how well women are represented in each state, we needed a method that would account for differences between the states (including but not limited to differences in the size of each state’s congressional delegation) and award points for women’s representation at all levels of government. RepresentWomen’s Gender Parity Index was designed to meet both needs.

The Gender Parity Index

RepresentWomen's annual Gender Parity Index (GPI) presents a measure of political power on a weighted scale across three levels of government in all 50 states. The score is calculated on a scale of 0 (if no women are in office) to 100 (if only women are in office). Grades are assigned according to a state's proximity to parity (50/100).³³

The ideal score for each state is 50 total points, with 15 points in each of the first three sections (National Legislature, State Executive, and State Legislature) and 5 points in the last section (Cities and Counties). A state achieves "perfect parity" when it receives points in this manner. To date, no state has achieved perfect parity.

Elected Positions Included in the Gender Parity Index

In the Gender Parity Index, states earn points based on the number of women holding elected positions. The score is adjusted according to the number of women winners of the following elections in each state:

- the most recent U.S. House and Senate elections;
- the three most recent gubernatorial elections;
- the most recent election for all other statewide executive offices;
- the most recent state legislative elections;
- the most recent mayoral elections in cities with populations of 30k+; and
- the most recently selected county executives in the five largest counties.

Unique Exceptions & Appointed Positions in the Gender Parity Index

Each year's Gender Parity Index reflects the status of women's representation in the U.S. at a fixed point in time; the 2023 Gender Parity Index counts women in elected office as of April 2023. Unless otherwise specified, women in appointed positions are not included in the Gender Parity Index. Notable exceptions are as follows:

1. Up to two points may be awarded to states that have women leaders in the state legislature; a half point is awarded for every woman senate president, president pro tem, house speaker, and speaker pro tem.
2. Full points are awarded to states that have appointed women to fill vacancies for elected offices; 25 states fill vacancies in their legislatures through special elections or appointments, depending on the next election date.

Formula Changes in the 2023 Gender Parity Index

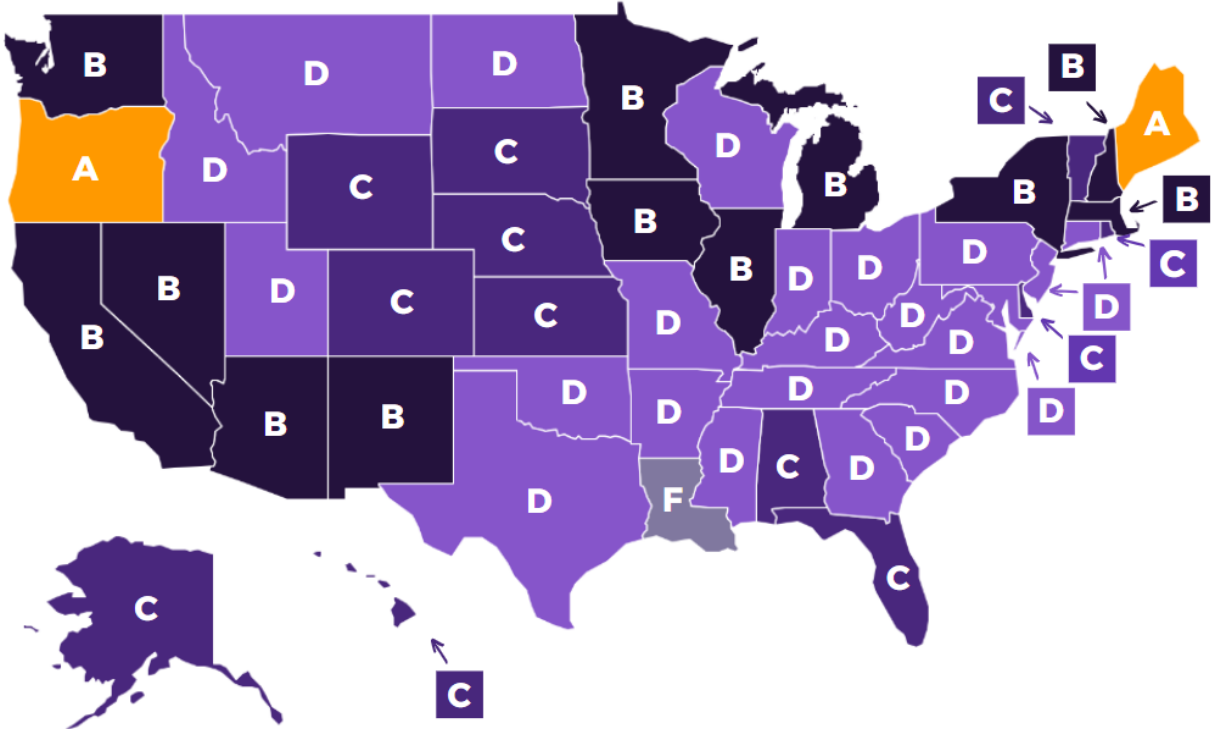
Over the last ten years, the Parity Score formula has been modified to accommodate changes in national, state, and local offices. For example, in 2021, Indiana's Secretary of Education became an appointed position, bringing down the total number of state elected executive positions we tracked for this state by one. In 2023, 13 states either lost or gained a U.S. House representative due to redistricting; since the GPI awards weighted points according to the size of each state's congressional delegation, the formula has been updated accordingly.

³³ This report refers to scores in both rounded and exact values. Scores without decimal points have been rounded for ease of reading.

A Closer Look at How the Gender Parity Score is Calculated (ex. Maine):				
Category	Points		Office(s)	Explanation
National Legislature - U.S. Congress				
U.S. Senate (up to 19 points)	9.5	6.3 / 9.5	Current U.S. Senators (2018-2022)	ME has 2 U.S. Reps, so it may receive up to 19 points for U.S. Senators. Susan Collins won in 2020 and 2014, so ME received 9.5 points in 2023.
		3.2 / 9.5	Recent U.S. Senators (2012-2016)	
U.S. House (up to 11 points)	5.5	2.75 / 5.5	Current U.S. Representatives (2022)	ME has 2 U.S. Reps, so it may receive 2.75 points for each Rep. currently in office (Rep. Pingree) and 1.375 points for each Rep. elected in 2020 and 2018 (Rep. Pingree).
		1.375 / 2.75	Recent U.S. Representatives (2020)	
		1.375 / 2.75	Recent U.S. Representatives (2018)	
TOTAL	15.0			15.0 / 30.0
State Executives				
Governor (up to 30 points)	22.5	15.0 / 15.0	Winner of Recent Election (2022)	Gov. Janet Mills has won the last two gubernatorial elections (2022 and 2018); earning a total of 22.5 points.
		7.5 / 7.5	Winner of Prior Election (2018)	
		0.0 / 7.5	Winner Prior Election (2014)	
Other State Executives (NA)	NA	NA	After the governor, there are no other elected state executives in Maine. The majority of state executives are either indirectly elected by the state legislature or appointed.	
TOTAL	22.5			22.5 / 30.0
State Legislature				
State Senate (up to 15 points)	5.6	5.6 / 14.0	Current State Senators	In ME, 14 of 35 state senators are women. Score formula: $(14/35) * 14 = 5.6$ points
		0.0 / 1.0	Current State Senate Leadership	
State House (up to 15 points)	6.8	6.3 / 14.0	Current State Representatives	In ME, 68 of 151 state reps. are women. Score formula: $(68/151) * 14 = 6.3$ points, plus .5 points for the Speaker.
		0.5 / 1.0	Current State House Leadership	
TOTAL	12.4			12.4 / 30.0
Local Executives - Cities and Counties				
Local Offices (up to 10 points)	2.67	2.67 / 6.67	Current Mayors of Large Cities	In ME, 2 of the 5 largest cities have women mayors; 1 county is led by a woman, 2 are co-led by women.
		1.02	1.02 / 3.33	
TOTAL	3.7			3.7 / 10.0
Maine ranks 1st in the 2023 Gender Parity Index with a rounded score of 54 out of 100.				

Table: 2023 Gender Parity Scores							
Rank	State	Grade	Score	Rank	State	Grade	Score
1	Maine	A	53.6	26	Nebraska	C	25.0
2	Oregon	A	53.2	27	Connecticut	D	24.4
3	Michigan	B	49.5	28	Virginia	D	21.9
4	New Mexico	B	46.7	29	West Virginia	D	21.8
5	Nevada	B	45.7	30	Wisconsin	D	21.6
6	Washington	B	44.3	31	North Carolina	D	20.5
7	Iowa	B	43.0	32	Arkansas	D	19.9
8	Minnesota	B	42.5	33	Maryland	D	19.5
9	Massachusetts	B	42.4	34	New Jersey	D	18.3
10	New Hampshire	B	41.2	35	Pennsylvania	D	18.0
11	Arizona	B	39.2	36	Oklahoma	D	17.8
12	New York	B	36.6	37	Missouri	D	16.3
13	California	B	36.0	38	Montana	D	16.2
14	Illinois	B	33.2	39	Georgia	D	16.1
15	Alaska	C	32.0	40	Mississippi	D	15.6
16	Delaware	C	30.8	41	Ohio	D	15.5
17	Colorado	C	30.6	42	South Carolina	D	15.2
18	Kansas	C	30.1	43	Indiana	D	15.1
19 "	Rhode Island	C	27.6	44	Texas	D	14.2
19 "	Alabama	C	27.6	45 "	Tennessee	D	13.3
21	Florida	C	27.2	45 "	Utah	D	13.3
22	Hawaii	C	26.6	47	Idaho	D	12.7
23 "	Vermont	C	26.5	48	Kentucky	D	12.6
23 "	Wyoming	C	26.5	49	North Dakota	D	11.5
25	South Dakota	C	25.8	50	Louisiana	F	9.2
Average Gender Parity Score in 2023							26.9

Breaking Down RepresentWomen’s 2023 Gender Parity Index



GPI Color Key	GPI Grade Range	GPI Score Range
	A	50.0 and above
	B	33.0 to 49.9
	C	25.0 to 32.9
	D	10.0 to 24.9
	F	0.0 to 9.9

The U.S. is Halfway to Gender Parity: 26 States Have Scores of 25 or Higher

For the first time, the U.S. is more than halfway to gender parity (50/100). In 2023, 26 states had Parity Scores of at least 25, meaning that they earned a “C” grade or higher. In last year’s GPI, 19 states earned 25 or more points; ten years ago, just ten states were at least halfway to gender parity. The 2023 Gender Parity Index is also the first Index to feature two “A”-ranked states: Maine (54/100) and Oregon (53/100). Although the number of states earning a “D” grade or worse has shrunk in the last year, 23 states still earned a “D” in 2023. With a low score of 9/100, Louisiana has achieved an “F” for the eighth year in a row.

Eight States are within Ten Points of Parity

Michigan, New Mexico, Nevada, Washington, Iowa, Minnesota, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire are each within ten points of reaching gender parity. Michigan, which ranked fifth last year with a score of 42/100, is within one point of reaching parity in 2023 with a score of 49.5/100. To achieve an “A” (50.0+) in the next Index, Michigan will need to both maintain the same number of women in office and elect new women at the national, state, and/or local levels.

The number of states within ten points of gender parity has grown over the years. When the GPI was first released, just two states were within ten points of parity. Between 2015 and 2018, New Hampshire reached parity, and only Washington came within ten points of parity. The 2018 elections, hailed as the “Year of the Woman,” was a turning point for women’s representation in politics; starting in 2019, six states were within ten points of parity. By 2021, that number grew to eight.

Table: 2023 GPI Top Ten States			
State	Rank	Score	Grade
Maine	1	53.6	A
Oregon	2	53.2	A
Michigan	3	49.5	B
New Mexico	4	46.7	B
Nevada	5	45.7	B
Washington	6	44.3	B
Iowa	7	43.0	B
Minnesota	8	42.5	B
Massachusetts	9	42.4	B
New Hampshire	10	41.2	B

A New Milestone: Two States Receive an “A”

For the first time, two states have received an “A” in the 2023 Gender Parity Index. Maine ranks first, with a score of 54/100. Oregon ranks second, with a score of 53/100. In addition to this being the first GPI to feature two “A”-ranked states, this is also the first time either state has achieved an “A.” The only other state to have achieved an “A” is New Hampshire (2015-2018, 2020), which presently ranks 10th in the 2023 GPI with a score of 41/100.

Twenty-Four States Receive a “D” or Worse

Between 2013 and 2022, a majority of states received a “D” grade (or worse); 2023 is the first year that this has not been the case. Though most states are now halfway to parity, twenty-three states received a “D” (24.9-10.0) in 2023. Louisiana has received an “F” (9.9-0.0) for the eighth year in a row and is the only state that has received a failing grade. Louisiana has failed the GPI and ranked 50th every year since 2021.

Of the ten bottom-ranked states in the 2023 Gender Parity Index, Utah is the only state to have been in the bottom ten every year since 2013, with Parity Scores ranging from 5.7 (2013) to 13.3 (2023). While some bottom-ranked states have made marginal progress toward gender-balanced governance from year-to-year, others have regressed over time. South Carolina, for example, went from earning a score of 20.7 (2022) to 15.2 (2023). Louisiana’s Parity Score has similarly declined over time, dropping from a relative high of 15.7 (2013) to 9.2 (2023).

Table: 2023 GPI Bottom Ten States			
State	Rank	Score	Grade
Ohio	41	15.5	D
South Carolina	42	15.2	D
Indiana	43	15.1	D
Texas	44	14.2	D
Tennessee	45 (tied)	13.3	D
Utah	45 (tied)	13.3	D
Idaho	47	12.7	D
Kentucky	48	12.6	D
North Dakota	49	11.5	D
Louisiana	50	9.2	F

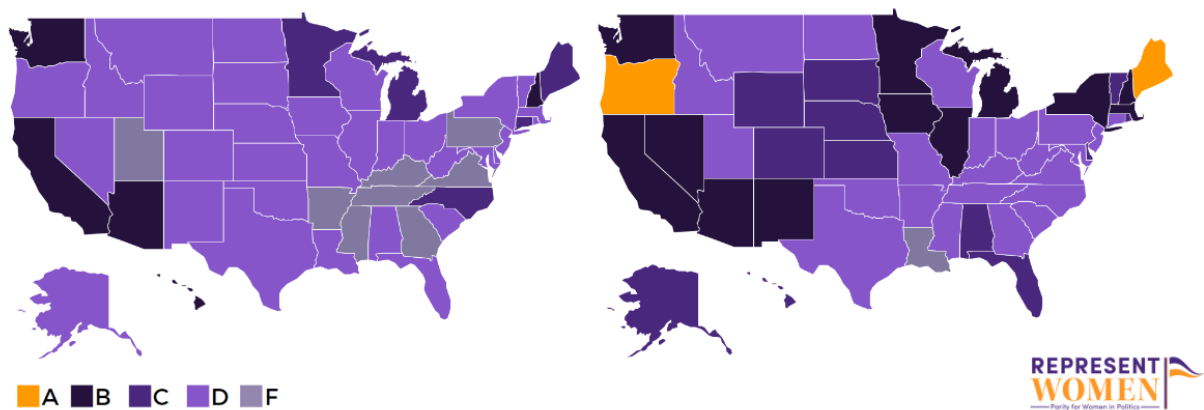
Louisiana Ranks Last

Louisiana is the only state to receive an “F” (< 10.0) in the 2023 Gender Parity Index. Ten years ago, thirty-two states received a “D,” and eight states failed the first GPI. Louisiana’s Parity Score was relatively higher than most states in the first Index, totaling 16/100 (grade: D) and ranking 28th in the country. Over time, Louisiana’s rank, score, and grade have fallen. As of 2023, Louisiana has received an “F” for eight years in a row and ranked 50th in the country for the last three years.

Analysis: The Gender Parity Index Over Time (2013-2023)

Overall, the U.S. has made progress toward gender parity over the last decade. In 2013 and 2014, the average Parity Score was low, at 18.3. As of 2023, the average Parity Score is 26.9. With this score, the U.S. is a little over halfway to gender parity in 2023. Though it is true that women are better represented in politics now than they were in 2013, progress toward parity has been slow and uneven between states and over time. While some states have made gradual progress over the years, others have regressed. Consequently, large gaps remain between states in 2023. These gaps become more obvious when we compare this year’s parity map with the first Index.

How the GPI Map Has Changed Over Time (2013-2023)



Comparing the 2013 and 2023 Gender Parity Indices

In the first Gender Parity Index, most states were far from reaching parity. Forty states achieved a “D” grade or worse, and eight of those states failed. While no state earned enough points to receive an “A,” two states were within ten points of parity: New Hampshire, which had a Parity Score of 47/100, and Washington, which had a score of 42/100. Including New Hampshire and Washington, the top ten states in the first GPI were evenly split between “B” states and “C” states.

In 2023, two states (Maine and Oregon) achieved an “A” simultaneously for the first time in the history of the GPI. Twenty-four states are evenly split between “B” and “C” states, and the remaining 24 states have achieved a “D” grade or worse. Louisiana is the only remaining state to receive a failing score and grade. Notably, comparisons between the 2013 and 2023 Gender Parity Maps show that progress toward parity has been concentrated in a few geographic areas in the United States; most “A” and “B” states are concentrated along the Northeast and West Coast.

Comparing the 2013 and 2023 Indices makes it easier to identify states that have made progress over time, such as Maine and Oregon, as well as states that have lost progress towards parity and earned lower Parity Scores in 2023 than they did in 2013, such as New Hampshire, Hawaii, Connecticut, North Carolina, and Louisiana.

States that Have Made Progress Since 2013

In 2013, Maine earned a Parity Score of 26/100 (grade: C) and ranked 10th in the U.S.; by 2023, Maine's score had more than doubled, achieving a total of 53.6 points, first place on the GPI, and an "A" grade. Oregon has similarly made record progress in the last decade, going from a score of 23/100 (rank: 13th, grade: D) to 53/100 in ten years. As later described in the case studies section, both states made gains in the GPI following record progress for women in state government in the last decade.³⁴

Other states have made even more dramatic progress in the last ten years. For example, Iowa achieved a Parity Score of 11/100 (grade: D) and ranked 40th in the 2013 GPI; this year, Iowa has earned a score of 43/100 (grade: B) and ranks 7th in the U.S. Virginia has similarly made notable progress since the 2013 Index, when it ranked 50th in the U.S. with a Parity Score of 5/100 (grade: F); in 2023, Virginia has achieved a score of 22/100 (grade: D) and ranks 28th in the country.

In addition to identifying the states that have made the most progress toward parity, the Gender Parity Index also enables us to identify states that have made little to no progress or are regressing. In addition to electing more women to office, states need to maintain the same number of women already in office to build progress toward parity. When more women leave office than are elected, particularly in the U.S. Congress or state executive offices, Gender Parity Scores decline.

States that Have Regressed Since 2013

While most states have made at least marginal progress toward parity since 2013, some states have earned lower scores in 2023 than they achieved in the first Index. New Hampshire, for example, ranked 1st in 2013 with a score of 47.5 (grade: B). Despite earning 57/100 points in 2015 and an "A" between 2015-2018 and 2020, New Hampshire now ranks 10th in the country with a 41/100 (grade: B). Though New Hampshire still outperforms most states in the GPI, its declining score shows that progress toward parity can be undone if women leave elected office.

Hawaii has similarly lost progress toward gender parity over the last decade. In 2013, Hawaii ranked 3rd with a score of 40/100 (grade: B); in 2023, Hawaii ranks 22nd in the country with a score of 27/100 (grade: C). Other states that received notably lower Parity Scores in 2023 than they did in 2013 include: Connecticut (27/100 in 2013 to 24/100 in 2023), North Carolina (29/100 in 2013 to 21/100 in 2023), and Louisiana (16/100 in 2013 to 9/100 in 2023).³⁵ All four states have also dropped a letter grade since 2013.

³⁴ Reminder: states earn points according to the outcome of the last three gubernatorial elections; in cases where a woman governor was re-elected in 2022, states earn extra points. While this can provide states a quick, short-term boost to their Parity Scores, it also means that their scores will drop after their governor leaves office (as happened in New Hampshire), unless they are replaced by another woman (as happened in Oregon).

³⁵ Note: we excluded states that received approximately one point less in 2023 than they did in 2013, including Maryland, North Dakota, and Texas. A table is included in the following pages so the interested reader can see how their state performed in 2013 versus 2023.

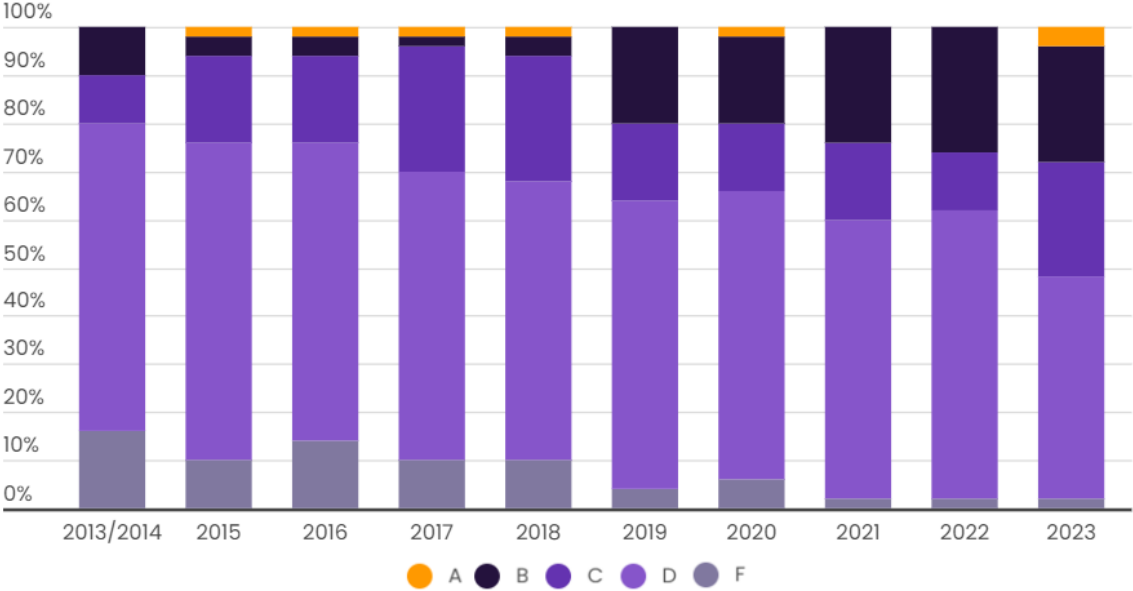
Table: 2013 v 2023 Gender Parity Scores							
2013 Rank	State	Grade	Score	2023 Rank	State	Grade	Score
1	New Hampshire	B	47.5	1	Maine	A	53.6
2	Washington	B	42.5	2	Oregon	A	53.2
3	Hawaii	B	39.6	3	Michigan	B	49.5
4	California	B	34.1	4	New Mexico	B	46.7
5	Arizona	B	33.8	5	Nevada	B	45.7
6	Minnesota	C	30.9	6	Washington	B	44.3
7	North Carolina	C	29.4	7	Iowa	B	43.0
8	Michigan	C	27.4	8	Minnesota	B	42.5
9	Connecticut	C	26.6	9	Massachusetts	B	42.4
10	Maine	C	25.7	10	New Hampshire	B	41.2
11	New Mexico	D	24.4	11	Arizona	B	39.2
12	Alaska	D	23.6	12	New York	B	36.6
13	Oregon	D	23.3	13	California	B	36.0
14	Kansas	D	22.0	14	Illinois	B	33.2
15	Maryland	D	21.2	15	Alaska	C	32.0
16	Massachusetts	D	20.6	16	Delaware	C	30.8
17	Florida	D	18.8	17	Colorado	C	30.6
18	Nevada	D	18.6	18	Kansas	C	30.1
19	Illinois	D	18.1	19 "	Rhode Island	C	27.6
20	New York	D	17.1	19 "	Alabama	C	27.6
21 "	Wyoming	D	16.8	21	Florida	C	27.2
21 "	Wisconsin	D	16.8	22	Hawaii	C	26.6
23	Missouri	D	16.6	23 "	Vermont	C	26.5
24	New Jersey	D	16.1	23 "	Wyoming	C	26.5
25	Oklahoma	D	15.9	25	South Dakota	C	25.8

Table: 2013 v 2023 Gender Parity Scores							
2013 Rank	State	Grade	Score	2023 Rank	State	Grade	Score
26	South Dakota	D	15.8	26	Nebraska	C	25.0
27 "	Nebraska	D	15.7	27	Connecticut	D	24.4
27 "	Louisiana	D	15.7	28	Virginia	D	21.9
29	Colorado	D	15.4	29	West Virginia	D	21.8
30	Texas	D	15.1	30	Wisconsin	D	21.6
31 "	Rhode Island	D	14.7	31	North Carolina	D	20.5
31 "	South Carolina	D	14.7	32	Arkansas	D	19.9
33	Indiana	D	14.0	33	Maryland	D	19.5
34	Delaware	D	13.9	34	New Jersey	D	18.3
35	North Dakota	D	12.9	35	Pennsylvania	D	18.0
36 "	Alabama	D	12.0	36	Oklahoma	D	17.8
36 "	Ohio	D	12.0	37	Missouri	D	16.3
38	Montana	D	11.9	38	Montana	D	16.2
39	Vermont	D	11.5	39	Georgia	D	16.1
40	Iowa	D	10.9	40	Mississippi	D	15.6
41	West Virginia	D	10.5	41	Ohio	D	15.5
42	Idaho	D	10.4	42	South Carolina	D	15.2
43 "	Arkansas	F	9.6	43	Indiana	D	15.1
43 "	Georgia	F	9.6	44	Texas	D	14.2
45	Tennessee	F	9.4	45 "	Tennessee	D	13.3
46	Pennsylvania	F	9.0	45 "	Utah	D	13.3
47	Kentucky	F	7.5	47	Idaho	D	12.7
48	Mississippi	F	6.4	48	Kentucky	D	12.6
49	Utah	F	5.7	49	North Dakota	D	11.5
50	Virginia	F	4.5	50	Louisiana	F	9.2
Average Gender Parity Score in 2013			18.3	Average Gender Parity Score in 2023			26.9

Year-by-Year Changes in State Grades Since the First Gender Parity Index

While comparing the 2013 and 2023 Indices shows what states have individually made the most - and least - progress in the last decade, this obscures the more gradual changes that have occurred from year-to-year. The following chart and table show how many states received each letter grade in the 2013 through 2023 Indices.

Gender Parity Index Grades: 2013–2023



	2013/14	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
A	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	2
B	5	2	2	1	2	10	9	12	13	12
C	5	9	9	13	13	8	7	8	6	12
D	32	33	31	30	29	30	30	29	30	23
F	8	5	7	5	5	2	3	1	1	1

Note: the first GPI was updated several times over the course of 2013 and re-released in 2014; the original GPI scores and letter grades reported in 2013 cannot be displayed due to data loss.



The table and chart above show:

- 1. The number of failing states has declined over time.** In the 2013/2014 Index, eight states received an “F”; between 2021 and 2023, only one state failed.
- 2. Until 2023, the majority of states received a “D” grade.** The number of states to receive a Parity Score of < 25 appears to be slowly decreasing with time.
- 3. As fewer states fail, more states have received a “C” or greater.** Peaking in 2017 and 2018, the number of states receiving a “C” rose as some of the bottom-ranked states have made gradual progress toward parity.
- 4. Starting in 2019, the number of “B” states notably improved.** Following the 2018 midterm elections, hailed as the second “Year of the Woman,” the number of states receiving a “B” grade or higher has notably risen.

Case Studies

Gender Parity Scores vary between states and over time. While some states have earned higher scores each year (ex., Maine, Oregon, Michigan, and New Mexico), others have had scores that fluctuate from year-to-year (ex., Alaska and Alabama) or gradually drop (ex., New Hampshire and Louisiana). In the following section, we dive deeper into eight case states to demonstrate how recent changes in women’s representation and systemic factors impact state scores. For more information about all 50 states, turn to the 2023 State Pages at the end of this report.

Maine - 1st Place - 53.6 Points out of 100

In 2022, Maine was less than five points away from reaching parity and receiving an “A” grade. In the last year, it gained nearly eight points and achieved an “A” for the first time. While the re-election of Governor Janet Mills has had the biggest impact on Maine’s Parity Score, the state also benefits from having a gender-balanced congressional delegation, with Susan Collins (R, 1997-present) in the U.S. Senate and Chellie Pingree (D, 2009-present) in the U.S. House of Representatives.

At the state level, Maine has a woman governor, Janet Mills (D, 2019-present), who was first nominated in a ranked choice primary in 2018. Along with two other states (New Hampshire and Tennessee), the only elected state executive is the governor in Maine; all other state executive offices are either appointed or indirectly elected. In the state legislature, women hold 44% of all seats; in 2013, women held 30%. Maine also receives credit for having a woman speaker in its state house; Rachel Talbot Ross (2022-present) is also the first Black woman speaker in Maine.

Two of Maine’s five largest cities have women mayors: Portland, Kate Snyder (2019-present), and South Portland, Katherine W. Lewis (2023-present). Kate Snyder is Portland’s first popularly elected woman mayor, first elected with RCV.

Maine’s Parity Scores: 2018 - 2023					
Year	U.S. Congress	State Executive	State Legislative	Local Executive	Parity Score
2018	18.2	0.0	10.0	2.7	30.9
2019	15.0	15.0	10.8	2.2	43.0
2020	15.0	15.0	10.7	4.9	45.5
2021	15.0	15.0	11.5	2.8	44.3
2022	15.0	15.0	11.7	4.1	45.9
2023	15.0	22.5	12.4	3.7	53.6

Structures and Systems in Maine

In November 2016, Maine became the first state to adopt ranked choice voting (RCV) for all state and federal primary elections, as well as general congressional elections.³⁶ In its first ranked choice gubernatorial primary in 2018, Janet Mills ran against six other candidates and won with 54% of the vote after four rounds of counting.³⁷ Since then, Maine has expanded its use of RCV to include presidential primaries and general elections. Over the years, voters in Maine have adapted well to using RCV, with the majority of voters ranking at least two candidates in elections.³⁸

In the GPI, Maine earned a “C” grade until 2019, when it jumped to a “B” grade following both the state’s transition to RCV and the election of its first woman governor. Offices elected with RCV have seen between 6.4% and 9.3% increases in women candidates and winners, respectively, from the 2014/16 elections (pre-RCV) to the 2018/20 elections (which used RCV).³⁹ This jump aligns with existing research on voting systems and their impact on women’s representation. Our research finds that RCV cities elect higher percentages of women and people of color overall.⁴⁰

Oregon - 2nd Place - 53.2 Points out of 100

Ten years ago, Oregon had a score of 23 and received a “D” in the GPI. Just last year, Oregon had a score of 41. As of the 2023 Index, Oregon has a score of 53, ranks second, and has achieved an “A” for the first time. Two of the biggest changes in Oregon between this year and last have included the election of a new woman governor, Tina Kotek, and the election of three additional women to the U.S. House.

Oregon has had a woman governor since 2015 when Kate Brown (D, 2015-2022) was appointed to fill a vacancy. Governor Brown went on to win the 2016 special election and 2018 general election before vacating her seat in 2022 due to term limits. In 2022, Tina Kotek (D, 2023-present) ran a successful campaign against two other women, Christine Drazan (R) and Betsy Johnson (I), before becoming the third woman governor of Oregon and the second consecutively elected woman governor.

Between 2022 and 2023, Oregon gained an additional seat in the U.S. House due to redistricting. In 2022, three women won open-seat races, bringing women’s representation in Oregon’s delegation from 20% (1/5) to 67% (4/6). Despite recent progress in the U.S. House, Oregon has not had a woman in the U.S. Senate since 1967. Oregon ties with California in 10th place for the composition of women in its state legislature (42%). Eight of Oregon’s 18 major cities (44%) have women mayors.

³⁶ Maine adopted RCV via ballot initiative, which received 52% approval from voters. Ballotpedia, “Maine Question 5, Ranked-Choice Voting Initiative (2016)” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

³⁷ Ballotpedia. “Maine Gubernatorial Election, 2018” ([Accessed August 2023](#)).

³⁸ Matt Germer, “An Analysis of Ranked Choice Voting in Maine,” R Street ([September 2021](#)).

³⁹ These figures are drawn from data we collected on the 2012-2020 state and federal elections in Maine. Please reach out to our team if you are interested in this data.

⁴⁰ Courtney Lamendola, Marvelous Maeze, and Steph Scaglia. “Voting Design and Women’s Representation: Ranked Choice Voting,” RepresentWomen ([23 January 2023](#)).

Oregon's Parity Scores: 2018 - 2023					
Year	U.S. Congress	State Executive	State Legislative	Local Executive	Parity Score
2018	2.8	13.8	10.9	2.2	29.7
2019	2.8	19.3	11.7	3.3	37.1
2020	2.8	23.1	12.2	3.3	41.4
2021	2.8	23.1	12.2	3.6	41.7
2022	2.8	23.1	11.4	3.4	40.7
2023	10.0	28.1	11.0	4.1	53.2

Structures and Systems in Oregon

The case of Oregon shows the power of open seats. Research shows that when incumbents don't run, men and women have the same chance at electoral success.⁴¹ In 2022, Oregon's former governor, Kate Brown, was termed out, and half of the state's seats in the U.S. House (3/6) had no incumbent in the running. Women won all of these open seats, which directly contributed to the state's higher Parity Score this year. In addition to open seats created by term limits and redistricting, pipeline strategies have had the greatest impact on women's representation in Oregon.

Pipeline strategies broadly refer to candidate recruitment and leadership training organizations that serve to create an ecosystem of women supporting women at every stage of their political careers and building a pipeline of women candidates. In Oregon, women have attributed recent progress to the lasting influence of Oregon's first woman governor, Barbara Roberts (D, 1991-1994), who led candidate training programs for women after leaving office.⁴² Other candidate groups and programs, such as Emerge Oregon, Oregon Women's Campaign School, and New Leadership Oregon, have worked to build a woman candidate pipeline for state-level positions.⁴³

While formal rules and systems like term limits and redistricting help create open seats every few election cycles, relatively few other systems are in place that level the playing field for women running for office in Oregon. Since the conditions of the 2022 election cycle were relatively unique, additional reforms may be needed to help Oregon create and maintain opportunities for women in politics in the future.

⁴¹ Sarah A. Fulton. "Running Backwards and in High Heels: The Gendered Quality Gap and Incumbent Electoral Success" *Political Research Quarterly* 65(2): 303-314 ([June 2012](#)).

⁴² Kirk Johnson. "Political Year of the Woman? Been There, Done That, Oregon Says" *New York Times* ([2 September 2018](#)).

⁴³ Hillary Borrud. "Oregon ranks 10th in the nation for the percentage of women in its Legislature" *Oregon Live* ([25 July 2016](#)).

Michigan - 3rd Place - 49.5 Points out of 100

Michigan’s Parity Score similarly jumped between 2022 (42) and 2023 (49.5) after women made gains at every level of government, meaning Michigan is half a point away from parity this year. This said, seven women in Michigan’s congressional delegation are up for election in 2024. Of these women, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D, 2001-present), the state’s first and only woman senator, will not run for re-election, meaning the six other Congresswomen must win their elections, and another woman must replace Senator Stabenow for Michigan to keep its high score.

Between 2022 and 2023, Michigan’s state executive score improved the most. In the GPI, states receive points for the women winners of the last three gubernatorial elections, in addition to receiving points for the current officeholder in other elected statewide executive positions. As was also the case for Maine, which re-elected Governor Mills in 2022, this means Michigan received a bonus after re-electing its governor, Gretchen Whitmer (D, 2019-present).

In addition to receiving credit for women’s representation at the state executive level, Michigan’s score benefits from the gains women have made in its congressional delegation and state legislature over time. Interestingly, Michigan’s improved congressional score in 2023 comes from losing a seat due to redistricting; in 2022, women held six of 14 seats (43%) in the U.S. House; in 2023, women hold six of 13 seats (46%). Progress for women in Michigan’s state legislature has been more obvious, with women’s representation increasing from 25% in 2018 to 40% in 2023.

Michigan’s Parity Scores: 2021 - 2023					
Year	U.S. Congress	State Executive	State Legislative	Local Executive	Parity Score
2021	13.9	16.7	9.9	2.2	42.7
2022	13.9	16.7	9.9	1.5	42.0
2023	14.4	21.7	11.6	1.7	49.5

Structures and Systems in Michigan

Beyond term limits, which are used at the state level, and RCV, which is used at the local level, Michigan benefits from having a congressional delegation that is at near-parity (46%) and women in 75% of its statewide elected executive offices. As we saw in Oregon, women’s leadership can have a ripple effect on women’s candidacy and representation. In the wake of Senator Stabenow’s retirement announcement this year, several women have already put their names forward as her replacement.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ Colby Itkowitz. “In Michigan, Democratic women are rising. Now some are weighing a Senate run.” *Washington Post* ([19 January 2023](#)).

New Mexico - 4th Place - 46.7 Points out of 100

In 2021 and 2022, New Mexico was within one point of parity, with scores of 49.0 and 49.2, respectively, and ranked first in the GPI. This year, however, New Mexico’s score has dropped to 46.7, bringing its state ranking down to 4th place. While Maine, Oregon, and Michigan made gains between this year and last, New Mexico went from having an all-woman delegation in the U.S. House last year to having women in 67% (2/3) of its House seats, causing the state’s score to drop.

New Mexico’s Parity Scores: 2021 - 2023					
Year	U.S. Congress	State Executive	State Legislative	Local Executive	Parity Score
2021	12.0	23.3	11.7	2.0	49.0
2022	12.0	23.3	11.7	2.3	49.2
2023	8.0	23.5	12.1	3.1	46.7

Structures and Systems in New Mexico

New Mexico is one of two states (the other is Oregon) that has elected a woman governor in at least the last three gubernatorial elections, earning both states the maximum number of points for women governors in the Gender Parity Index.⁴⁵ As has been the case in many of the preceding states, term limits paved the way for first Susana Martinez (R, 2011-2018) and then Michelle Lujan Grisham (D, 2019-present) to become governor. For New Mexico to maintain its Parity Score, it will need to elect another woman governor after the current governor is termed out in 2026.

Unlike most other states, women of color, particularly Latinas, have a strong foothold in New Mexico, starting with the election of Secretary of State Soledad Chávez Chacón (D, 1923-1926).⁴⁶ As other scholars and researchers have pointed out, socio-cultural norms around which offices women are most “suited for,” the demographic makeup of the electorate, and a Democratic shift have contributed to the election of more women of color in New Mexico, compared to the rest of the U.S.⁴⁷ Like Oregon, pipeline strategies have helped to mobilize women candidates.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ While this is the first time Oregon has maxed out its score for women governors through the election of Governor Kotek in 2022, women have won the last four gubernatorial elections in New Mexico, meaning New Mexico first maxed out its score for women governors in 2020, when Governor Grisham entered office. As such, New Mexico did not receive additional points for its fourth consecutive election/re-election of a woman governor in 2022.

⁴⁶ New Mexico has had 20 women Secretaries of State; 11 (55%) have been Latinas. CAWP. “New Mexico” ([Accessed August 2023](#)); New Mexico Historic Women Marker Program. “Soledad Chávez Chacón” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

⁴⁷ Amelia Thomson-DeVeaux and Meredith Conroy. “Why New Mexico Elects More Women Of Color Than The Rest Of The Country” *FiveThirtyEight* ([31 January 2020](#)).

⁴⁸ Emerge New Mexico specifically works to mobilize women of color candidates. Ibid.

Alaska - 15th Place - 32.0 Points out of 100

Between 2022 and 2023, Alaska moved from being a “D” state, scoring 21 points, to a “C” state, scoring 32 points. While Alaska made progress for women in elected office at every level of government in the last year, it made the most progress in Congress, which now has a woman, Mary Peltola (D, 2022-present), in the U.S. House for the first time. Alaska also went from having no women in statewide elected executive office to electing a new Lieutenant Governor, Nancy Dahlstrom (R, 2023-present), last year, bringing the state’s state executive score from 0 in 2022 to 3.8 in 2023.

Alaska’s Parity Scores: 2020 - 2023					
Year	U.S. Congress	State Executive	State Legislative	Local Executive	Parity Score
2020	10.0	0.0	10.3	1.3	21.6
2021	10.0	0.0	8.6	4.0	22.6
2022	10.0	0.0	8.6	2.7	21.2
2023	15.0	3.8	9.3	4.0	32.0

Structures and Systems in Alaska

In 2020, voters in Alaska narrowly adopted ranked choice voting by a ballot initiative (51% approval); Ballot Measure 2 replaced partisan primaries with non-partisan top-four elections for state and federal level offices and implemented RCV in state and federal general elections. In Alaska’s first RCV election, a competitive special election for its at-large congressional district, Mary Peltola won by running a positive, issue-focused campaign that paired well with the new system.⁴⁹

While women’s representation in Congress and state executive offices improved after the last election, progress has been slower and less stable for women in state legislative offices in Alaska. This said women made some progress after the 2022 elections. In the state legislature, a combination of top-four open primaries, RCV, and the presence of open seats may have contributed to the increase in women’s representation between 2022 (30%) and 2023 (33%). Of the 15 state house seats that had no incumbents running, 11 had at least one woman running (73%); eight of those seats (73%) were won by women.⁵⁰ In the state senate, three of four open seats had at least one woman running (75%); two of these seats were won by women (67%).⁵¹

⁴⁹ Representative Peltola is currently the only Democrat in statewide office in Alaska; campaigning on fisheries, gas and oil exploration, and other themes that are uncommon for Democratic candidates may have helped her build cross-partisan support. Deb Otis and Matthew Oberstaedt. “Results from Alaska’s First RCV Election” FairVote ([31 August 2022](#)).

⁵⁰ Ballotpedia. “Alaska House of Representatives elections, 2022” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

⁵¹ Ballotpedia. “Alaska State Senate elections, 2022” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

Alabama - 19th Place - 27.6 Points out of 100

In the first GPI, Alabama earned a score of 12 and ranked 36th in the U.S. for women’s representation in politics. Over the last ten years, Alabama’s score has fluctuated, jumping to 20 in 2018, following the ascension of Governor Kay Ivey (R, 2017-present). The departure of Martha Roby (R, 2011-2020) from the U.S. House later pulled Alabama’s score down to 18 in 2021, as this left only one woman, Terri Sewell (D, 2011-present), in the state’s seven-member delegation. Between 2022 and 2023, Alabama’s Parity Score jumped from 18 to 28 following the re-election of Governor Ivey and the election of U.S. Senator Katie Britt (R, 2023-present).

Alabama’s Parity Scores: 2018 - 2023					
Year	U.S. Congress	State Executive	State Legislative	Local Executive	Parity Score
2018	4.3	10.5	3.9	1.1	19.8
2019	4.3	10.5	4.0	1.1	19.9
2020	4.3	10.5	4.0	1.1	19.9
2021	2.1	10.5	4.4	0.7	17.7
2022	2.1	10.5	4.4	1.3	18.4
2023	7.1	15.5	4.3	0.7	27.6

Structures and Systems in Alabama

Alabama’s score has been historically low because little progress has been made in its state legislature, where women have only held between 19 and 24 of 140 seats in the last decade. Part of the reason why Alabama has elected so few women to its state legislature is because there are no term limits, which leads to less frequent turnover. While women’s representation is low in Alabama’s state legislature, the state has had a relatively long history of electing women statewide executives.

Of the 18 women who have served in Alabama’s elected state executive offices, many were career politicians who moved from one office to the next when they were termed out.⁵² Though Alabama has a woman governor currently, the majority of women elected to state executive positions have served as the secretary of state, treasurer, or auditor - offices that have historically been known as “women’s offices,” as one former state legislator and political columnist, Steve Flowers, observed. This suggests that social biases have contrarily helped elect more women in Alabama but still ultimately limit which offices they hold.⁵³

⁵² CAWP. “Alabama,” ([Accessed August 2023](#)).

⁵³ Steve Flowers. “Women in Alabama Politics” *Cullman Times* ([23 May 2023](#)).

New Hampshire - 10th Place - 41.2 Points out of 100

The case of New Hampshire demonstrates that progress toward parity is far from linear; scores can change drastically from year to year, and there are no guarantees that a state will maintain parity once it has been achieved. Despite earning an “A” five times between 2015-2018 and 2020, New Hampshire’s score has since fallen to 41, earning the state a “B” grade and pulling its ranking down to 10th place in 2023.

Notably, New Hampshire is one of three states (other than Maine and Tennessee) that only has one elected state executive: the governor. All other positions are either appointed or indirectly elected and do not impact the GPI. As a result, the election of a woman governor - and her eventual departure from office - has a powerful effect on these states’ scores. Governor Maggie Hassan’s (D, 2013-2016) election in 2012 and 2014 had a residual effect on New Hampshire’s score until three elections had lapsed since she had last been elected, leading New Hampshire’s score to drop in 2021.⁵⁴

Though New Hampshire has the highest percentage of women in Congress (75%), its congressional score has also declined over the last few years following the departure of U.S. Representative Carol Shea-Porter (D), who served three separate terms, the last of which ended in 2018.⁵⁵ New Hampshire still outperforms most other states for women’s representation in Congress, however, with two women in the U.S. Senate and one woman in the U.S. House, thus stabilizing its high score.

New Hampshire’s Parity Scores: 2018 - 2023					
Year	U.S. Congress	State Executive	State Legislative	Local Executive	Parity Score
2018	28.6	15.0	9.1	4.0	56.7
2019	25.9	7.5	11.1	4.7	49.1
2020	25.9	7.5	12.1	4.7	50.1
2021	25.9	0.0	11.8	4.2	41.9
2022	25.9	0.0	11.1	2.9	39.8
2023	24.5	0.0	12.7	4.0	41.2

⁵⁴ In 2017-2018, New Hampshire still received points for electing Governor Hassan in 2012 and 2014; following the 2018 re-election of her successor, Governor Chris Sununu, New Hampshire only received credit for electing Governor Hassan in 2014, as two elections (2016 and 2018) had lapsed since she had last been elected. Following the 2020 re-election of Governor Sununu, three full elections (2016, 2018, and 2020) had lapsed since Governor Hassan was last elected, leading New Hampshire’s state executive score to drop to zero in 2021.

⁵⁵ New Hampshire has a two-member House delegation; as such, it receives credit for women elected to the House over the last three election cycles. Its congressional score has gone down in 2023 because three elections have lapsed since Rep. Shea-Porter was last elected.

Structures and Systems in New Hampshire

While term limits will ultimately push women governors out of office in almost all of the preceding cases mentioned,⁵⁶ New Hampshire is one of a handful of states that has no term limits. As such, it is interesting that both of New Hampshire's most recently elected women governors, Jeanne Shaheen (D, 1997-2002) and Maggie Hassan (D, 2013-2016), chose to leave the governor's office after a few short terms and run for the U.S. Senate instead. Both serve concurrently in the U.S. Senate presently.

Meanwhile, New Hampshire ranks 16th in the U.S. for the composition of women in its legislature (38%). Despite not having term limits, the state senate is at parity, while 37% (149/400) women hold office in the house.⁵⁷ Although women's representation in New Hampshire's state legislature is higher today than it was ten years ago (33%), this progress is by no means significant. As reported by CAWP, women's representation in New Hampshire's state legislature has fluctuated between 24% and 38% since 1975, reaching a high of 38.4% in 2009 before it dropped to 24.3% in 2012.⁵⁸

One factor that limits potential progress for women's representation in New Hampshire's legislature is its low pay. While pay for state legislators varies from state to state and is often tied to the length of the legislative session, legislators in New Hampshire are among the lowest-paid in the U.S., earning \$100 per year despite being in session for approximately six months at a time. Between the unusually large size of New Hampshire's legislature and its low pay, a relatively high number of women run for office, seeing it as a low-risk opportunity to gain political experience, but they are less likely to stay in office, thus limiting progress towards parity.⁵⁹

Louisiana - 50th Place - 9.2 Points out of 100

A decade ago, Louisiana ranked 28th in the GPI with a score of 16, which resulted in a "D" grade. In the 2015 GPI, Louisiana's state score dropped to 13, and in 2016, its score dropped to 8, which resulted in the state's first failed grade. Louisiana has now earned an "F" in every GPI since 2016. In 2023, Louisiana ranks 50th with a score of 9.

Across all levels of government, women are severely underrepresented, particularly at the state executive level, where women hold none of the seven elected positions. The drops in Louisiana's state score between the first Index and 2016 reflect the impact of U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu's (D, 1997-2015) departure from office, as well as the third election (2007, 2011, 2015) since Governor Kathleen Blanco (D, 2004-2007) had last won. At present, Louisiana has one U.S. House Representative, Julia Letlow (R, 2021-present), 19% (28/144) women state legislators, and two women mayors: LaToya Cantrell of New Orleans and Sharon Weston Broome of Baton Rouge.

⁵⁶ Alaska is the only case we have highlighted so far that does not have a woman governor.

⁵⁷ This is potentially due to the size of the lower legislature, which is the largest in the U.S.

⁵⁸ CAWP. "New Hampshire" ([Accessed August 2023](#)).

⁵⁹ Amanda Hess. "How Did New Hampshire Come to Be Ruled by Women?" *Slate* ([2 January 2013](#)); Geoff Cunningham Jr. "Why run for NH Legislature? It's not for \$100, fame, or a license plate," *Foster's Daily Democrat* ([22 August 2010](#)).

Louisiana's Parity Scores: 2021 - 2023					
Year	U.S. Congress	State Executive	State Legislative	Local Executive	Parity Score
2021	2.5	0.0	5.5	1.3	9.3
2022	2.5	0.0	5.4	1.3	9.2
2023	2.5	0.0	5.4	1.3	9.2

Structures and Systems in Louisiana

Louisiana has gubernatorial and legislative term limits, but its reform landscape is otherwise lacking. On the other hand, a large number of state-level women’s empowerment organizations have emerged in the last ten years.⁶⁰ While many of these organizations focus on women’s rights advocacy and policy, we found a few that encourage women to run for office. A recent report by the Louisiana Women’s Policy and Research Commission provides further insight into many of the barriers women face everywhere in the United States, but in Louisiana especially.⁶¹

According to the report, Louisiana has the largest disparity in the country between what men and women are paid,⁶² and this difference is even larger for Black and Latinx women.⁶³ Only 35% (compared to a national average of 55%) of new mothers were able to take any sort of leave after giving birth, and women quit their jobs because of childcare issues much more often than men.⁶⁴ Women in Louisiana face more violence than the majority of women in the U.S.,⁶⁵ and 2018 research shows the maternal mortality rate to be three times higher than the country’s average.⁶⁶

These barriers impact women in all realms of life but serve as a potential explanation for why more women have not entered the political sphere in Louisiana. In order to run and win, women must not only break down the barriers of entering politics but also have relative security for the rest of their lives. Without equal pay, access to childcare, balanced domestic responsibilities, and improved protections against violence, Louisiana is unlikely to make gains in coming Gender Parity Indices.

⁶⁰ Ellevest, Power Pump Girls, Louisiana Center for Women in Government, and the YWCA LA.

⁶¹ Amanda Brunson. *Status of Women in Louisiana*, Louisiana Women’s Policy and Research Commission (2020).

⁶² National Women’s Law Center. “Wage Gap Overall State Rankings: 2019” (February 2020).

⁶³ National Women’s Law Center. “The Wage Gap for Black Women State Rankings: 2019” (February 2020).

⁶⁴ Louisiana Policy Institute for Children. “Losing Ground: How Child Care Impacts Louisiana’s Workforce Productivity and the State Economy” (May 2017); Louisiana Women’s Policy and Research Commission. “Status of Women in Louisiana” (2020).

⁶⁵ Amanda Brunson. *Status of Women in Louisiana* (2020).

⁶⁶ Lyn Kieltyka, Pooja Mehta, Karis Schoellmann, and Chloe Lake. “Louisiana Maternal Mortality Review Report 2011-2016” (August 2018).

Improving Women's Representation

Individual, systemic, and socio-cultural barriers are all partially responsible for the underrepresentation of women in politics. Internalized misogyny as a result of societal gender norms can result in “election aversion,” or the lack of women’s desire to run.⁶⁷ However, election aversion does not necessarily come from an inherent lack of political ambition. It also stems from women’s rational assessments of the political climate, their likelihood of experiencing harassment, and their chances of winning.⁶⁸

Women may win at the same rates as men when controlling for incumbency, but part of this is due to women’s self-selection. Because they appear to weigh the pros and cons more than men, often waiting until they are overqualified to overcome voter bias, only the best women candidates run and thus win.⁶⁹ Political gatekeepers such as parties and donors also have a major role to play. Party bias shows in candidate recruitment and often exemplifies “strategic discrimination.”⁷⁰ For instance, Black women are about a third less likely to be considered “very electable” in comparison to white men with the same education and experience levels.⁷¹

Our political systems reinforce these cultural norms and biases, which in turn shape individual behaviors. Single-winner plurality voting, for example, favors incumbents and status-quo candidates, making it difficult for nontraditional candidates to break through. Party leaders and donors then respond to these systemic factors by applying bias against women candidates who are not deemed strategically viable. Together, these barriers reinforce one another and bar women from politics.

At RepresentWomen, we have found that the most actionable solutions to these barriers can be divided into two main levels of approach:

1. **The individual level, via pipeline strategies**, seeks to create a self-sustaining ecosystem of support for women at every stage of their political careers and ensure more women run for office.
2. **The systems level, via structural reform**, seeks to either change existing systems or enact new rules that level the playing field for all candidates and create more opportunities for women to enter and remain in politics.

While each approach has its own history, usefulness, and potential drawbacks, together, they constitute a better blueprint for improving women’s representation.

⁶⁷ Naomi Cahn. “Why Aren’t There Even More Women Political Leaders?” *Forbes* (2020).

⁶⁸ Kristin Kanthak and Jonathan Woon. “Women Don’t Run? Election Aversion and Candidate Entry” *American Journal of Political Science* 59(3): 595-612 (July 2015).

⁶⁹ Sarah F. Anzia and Christopher R. Berry. “The Jackie (and Jill) Robinson Effect: Why Do Congresswomen Outperform Congressmen?” *American Journal of Political Science* 55(3): 478-493 (July 2011).

⁷⁰ Regina Bateson. “Strategic Discrimination” *Perspectives on Politics* 18(4): 1068-1087 (16 September 2020).

⁷¹ Ibid.

Pipeline Strategies

In response to the “pipeline issue,” which assumes women are less likely to run for office because they lack political ambition, confidence, networks, and resources,⁷² organizations have emerged to build a pipeline of women running for elected office. Women's candidate organizations usually have two primary functions: 1) mentoring future women leaders and 2) recruiting and training women candidates. Our research shows that the depth and breadth of support matters. Organizations that provide mentorship, networking opportunities, and continued backing post-election have a more substantial impact and are vital to sustaining long-term progress.⁷³

According to a 2019 “census” of women’s groups in the U.S., candidate organizations have a long history, with some forming as early as the 1920s and 1940s, following the passage of the 19th Amendment.⁷⁴ This same study found that the majority of women’s candidate groups emerged during the second wave of feminism in the 1960s and 1970s, which coincided with an increased focus on recruiting and funding pro-choice candidates. Since the turn of the century, candidate groups have become increasingly popular, with estimates ranging from 400-600 groups today.⁷⁵

Women’s candidate groups can vary greatly from one another, with each prioritizing different groups of women, levels of office, or geographic locations. Some ask prospective candidates to pay for one-off training or recurring membership dues, creating a barrier to entry, while others are free and simply require an application. Differences between women’s candidate groups partially explain some of the racial, partisan, and geographic disparities we have observed in the GPI, with more groups focusing on electing Democratic or pro-choice candidates than Republican women and some geographic regions attracting more attention from groups than others.

Ultimately, women’s candidate groups and training programs allow women to view themselves as capable and electable, encouraging them to dismantle culturally imposed, learned biases,⁷⁶ and strengthening the pipeline of women candidates. Having more women on the ballot habituates voters to seeing women in politics, ultimately making it easier for those who come after them to do the same.⁷⁷

⁷² Danielle M. Thomsen and Aaron S. King. “Women’s Representation and the Gendered Pipeline to Power” *American Political Science Review* 114(4): 989-1000 (2020).

⁷³ Courtney Lamendola, Steph Scaglia, and Paige Chan. “Why Women Won in 2021: How a Twin-Track Approach Advanced Women’s Representation on the New York City Council” *RepresentWomen* (September 2022).

⁷⁴ Rebecca J. Kreitzer and Tracy L. Osborn. “The emergence and activities of women’s recruiting groups in the U.S.,” *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 7(4): 842-852 (2019).

⁷⁵ Kreitzer and Osborn identified approximately 600 women’s candidate recruitment groups in their 2019 study, but noted that as many as 200 may be defunct. *Ibid*: 844.

⁷⁶ Sarah A. Carson. “The New Girls’ Clubs: Candidate Training Programs and the Women Changing the Face of United States Politics” *Open Anthropological Research* 2: 59-75 (27 October 2022).

⁷⁷ Amelia Thomson-DeVeaux and Meredith Conroy. “Why New Mexico Elects More Women Of Color Than The Rest Of The Country” *FiveThirtyEight* (31 January 2020).

Structural Reform

Candidate groups are well-equipped to support women at the individual level, but increasing the number of women running for office is only half the challenge. Over the past decade, we have found that women candidates do not run on an even playing field. For example, gerrymandering and single-winner plurality systems have greatly limited the competitiveness of our elections, creating incentives for party leaders and donors to look for the safest candidates to back over nontraditional candidates, thus limiting opportunities for women to run viable campaigns.

Individual-level efforts only go so far in addressing the barriers women face after being elected, such as low pay, non-regular working hours, and gender-based violence. In addition to training individual women to run for office and supporting women candidates, we need to implement structural reforms to retain women in elected office and promote women's leadership at all levels of government.

At RepresentWomen, identifying systemic barriers and solutions for women in politics is the cornerstone of our work.⁷⁸ The following section outlines how rules and systems impact women's abilities to [Run](#), [Win](#), [Serve](#), and [Lead](#). Solutions ranging from implementing party recruitment targets, revamping campaign finance rules, adopting single- or multi-winner ranked choice voting, and ensuring equitable pay would level the playing field and improve women's representation.

The Twin-Track Approach

Though RepresentWomen has historically placed a greater emphasis on system strategies as a means to achieve gender-balanced governance, our recent research has shown that a multi-pronged approach is necessary if we are to reach this goal within our lifetimes. Neither pipeline strategies nor structural reforms would suffice on their own; combining individual- and systems-level strategies would have a more powerful accelerating effect on women's representation.

In our 2022 report, *Why Women Won in 2021: How a Twin-Track Approach Advanced Women's Representation on the New York City Council*,⁷⁹ we found that systems strategies such as ranked choice voting, term limits, and a matching funds program worked in tandem with candidate-focused strategies to level the playing field and elect a woman majority council. Our follow-up report, *Women's Representation & the Twin-Track Ecosystem in the 100 Largest Cities*,⁸⁰ solidified these findings, showing the necessity and value of a multi-dimensional, "twin-track" approach.

⁷⁸ RepresentWomen. "Run, Win, Serve, and Lead: Best Practices for a Gender-Balanced Democracy" ([May 2021](#)).

⁷⁹ Courtney Lamendola, Steph Scaglia, and Paige Chan. "Why Women Won in 2021: How a Twin-Track Approach Advanced Women's Representation on the New York City Council" RepresentWomen ([September 2022](#)).

⁸⁰ Courtney Lamendola and Steph Scaglia. "Women's Representation & the Twin-Track Ecosystem in the 100 Largest Cities" RepresentWomen ([October 2022](#)).

Zooming in: Systems Strategies

Women encounter obstacles to political participation at every step of the electoral process. As identified by our research, both individual and systems-level solutions are needed to achieve gender-balanced governance. At RepresentWomen, our primary focus and expertise remain on evidence-based solutions that break the structural, deeply embedded barriers to women’s representation. Systems strategies exist that can increase women’s political representation by creating more opportunities for women to [Run](#), [Win](#), [Serve](#), and [Lead](#).

RUN: Recruitment Targets for Political Parties

Gatekeepers, such as political parties, political action committees (PACs), and major donors, have long been known to control which candidates or potential candidates receive endorsements, funding, and support. In line with the status quo, these gatekeepers tend to support men in larger numbers than women. Voluntary party recruitment targets are a means of challenging these longstanding norms.

Recruitment targets serve a similar function as gender quotas, which are used voluntarily by political parties in 60 countries around the world.⁸¹ While it is unlikely that the U.S. will ever pass more binding legislated or reserved seat quotas, either of the major parties could elect to adopt quotas.⁸² Interestingly, both parties already have a legal precedent for adopting voluntary recruitment targets for women.⁸³

Since the 1980s, the Democratic Party has followed the Equal Division Rule, which requires state delegations to send an equal number of men and women to national conventions. Though not a candidate quota, the rule was designed to help women attain more power within the Democratic Party, which its proponents hoped would later lead more women to run for office.⁸⁴ In recent years, the language used in the rule has been updated to foster the inclusion of nonbinary delegates as well.⁸⁵

Though the Republican Party does not go as far as to mandate gender balance in its convention delegates, it too sets the precedent for gender targets by stating that “each state shall endeavor to have equal representation of men and women in its delegation to the Republican National Convention.”⁸⁶ This suggests that, once upon a time at least, both parties may have been open to considering recruitment targets.

⁸¹ Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. “Gender Quotas Around the World” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

⁸² Anisa Somani. “The Use of Gender Quotas in America: Are Voluntary Party Quotas the Way to Go?” *William & Mary Law Review* 54(4): 1451-1488 ([2013](#)).

⁸³ Maura Reilly. “The Equal Division Rule: Making the Case for Political Gender Quotas in the U.S.,” RepresentWomen ([27 January 2020](#)); Claire Halffield. “Brief on Party Rules and Gender Parity,” RepresentWomen ([July 2020](#)).

⁸⁴ Elizabeth Musick. “The equal division rule of the democratic national committee and its effects on female leadership,” *Honors Theses* ([1997](#)).

⁸⁵ California Democratic Party. “Gender Non-Binary and the Equal Division of District-Level Delegates and Alternatives” ([Accessed August 2023](#)).

⁸⁶ Republican National Committee. “The Rules of the Republican Party” ([24 August 2020](#)): 20.

RUN: Campaign Finance Reform

Not only do gatekeepers play a major role in determining which candidates receive endorsements, but they also determine which candidates receive enough financial support to run viable campaigns. Women may not raise less money than men in political races, but women *do* need more money to win.⁸⁷ Campaign finance reforms help level the playing field by disrupting the power imbalance that occurs between institutional donors and political newcomers.

Public financing can take many forms, including lump sum funds, democracy vouchers, and matching funds programs.⁸⁸ These programs are usually opt-in, asking candidates to submit to financial transparency requirements, adhere to spending limits, and give up their funds if they do not end up facing a challenger. Importantly, many of these programs incentivize candidates to connect with their constituents to raise money, a process that ultimately restores power to voters.

According to the Brennan Center, matching funds programs, like the one used in New York City, stand to remedy the disproportionate influence of big money in politics by matching and multiplying small-dollar donations from local residents in exchange for candidates turning down funds from special interest groups.⁸⁹ In our 2022 New York City research, we found that many of the women who won would not have been able to run without the program, reaffirming its value.⁹⁰

A major component of political fundraising comes down to networking. Political newcomers, especially women, and women of color, are less likely to have expansive donor networks than men. As a result, they are more likely to rely on small donors to fund their campaigns. For example, in the 2018 U.S. House elections, women candidates, on average, raised a 70% larger share of their campaign funds from donors who contributed \$200 or less.⁹¹

Public campaign financing programs fit well with the fundraising patterns women follow, which is part of the reason why they have been so successful at supporting women candidates. Our research has shown that local public financing programs also pair well with other reforms, such as ranked choice voting. Together, these programs have helped to improve women's representation on city councils.⁹²

⁸⁷ Cynthia Richie Terrell and Maura Reilly. "PACs and Donors: Agents of Change for Women's Representation," RepresentWomen ([June 2020](#)).

⁸⁸ Brennan Center. "Guide to Public Financing Programs Nationwide" ([Updated 11 July 2023](#)).

⁸⁹ Brennan Center. "Public Campaign Financing" ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

⁹⁰ Courtney Lamendola, Steph Scaglia, and Paige Chan. "Why Women Won in 2021: How a Twin-Track Approach Advanced Women's Representation on the New York City Council" RepresentWomen ([September 2022](#)).

⁹¹ Brennan Center. "Small Donor Public Financing Could Advance Race and Gender Equity in Congress" ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

⁹² Courtney Lamendola and Steph Scaglia. "Women's Representation & the Twin-Track Ecosystem in the 100 Largest Cities" RepresentWomen ([October 2022](#)).

WIN: Ranked Choice Voting

Plurality voting, the “status quo” form of voting in the United States, is one of the key culprits of our unfair, unrepresentative electoral system. In plurality elections, voters select their preferred candidate for each seat on the ballot. Votes are then tallied, and the candidate with the most votes wins, even if they receive less than 50% of the vote. As was the case in the 2022 congressional primaries, candidates can win with as little as 20% of the vote under plurality voting rules.⁹³ Twenty percent of voters should not be representing 100% of the people.

Single- and multi-winner ranked choice voting is our preferred alternative to plurality voting because it enables voters to rank candidates in order of preference, with no fear of “splitting to vote” between a preferred candidate and a “safe” candidate or otherwise two similar candidates. Our signature research⁹⁴ has shown that ranked choice voting also levels the playing field for women candidates by

1. **Mitigating the spoiler effect.** In an election where multiple similar candidates can run without splitting the vote, women and candidates of color are less likely to be told to “wait their turn.” Moreover, multiple women can run in the same election without negatively impacting one another.
2. **Incentivizing campaign civility and engagement with voters.** In ranked choice elections, candidates are incentivized to appeal more broadly to voters to earn first-, second-, and third-choice votes. This tends to create more civil campaigns, allowing candidates to spend more time campaigning on issues than launching or defending against negative attacks from their competitors.
3. **Reducing campaign costs.** Ranked choice elections mean costly runoffs are unnecessary,⁹⁵ saving both voters and candidates time and money. Women candidates often need to outspend men to secure a win; RCV allows them to focus on voters rather than campaign costs.

As of July 2023, 51 jurisdictions use ranked choice voting, down from the 63 jurisdictions we reported at the start of the year.⁹⁶ Of the jurisdictions that currently use RCV, this includes two states (Maine and Alaska), three counties, and 47 cities, including New York Cities.⁹⁷ According to our research, women make up 49% of RCV-elected city council seats and 40% of the 30 sitting RCV-elected mayors.⁹⁸ Oregon and Nevada will vote on adopting RCV for statewide elections in November.⁹⁹

⁹³ Rachel Hutchinson. “Fewest Votes Wins,” FairVote ([October 2022](#)).

⁹⁴Courtney Lamendola, Marvelous Maeze, and Steph Scaglia. “Voting Design and Women’s Representation: Ranked Choice Voting” RepresentWomen ([23 January 2023](#)).

⁹⁵ Casey Atkins. “Ranked Choice Voting Would Prevent Situations Like the Georgia Runoff,” *Campaign Legal Center* ([1 December 2020](#)).

⁹⁶ Fewer cities have opted-in to using RCV in Utah, compared with previous years. Other municipalities, such as Eastpointe, MI, and Palm Desert, CA no longer use RCV.

⁹⁷ FairVote. “Where is Ranked Choice Voting Used?” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

⁹⁸ RepresentWomen. “RCV Dashboard” ([January 2023](#)).

⁹⁹ FairVote. “Ballot Measures” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

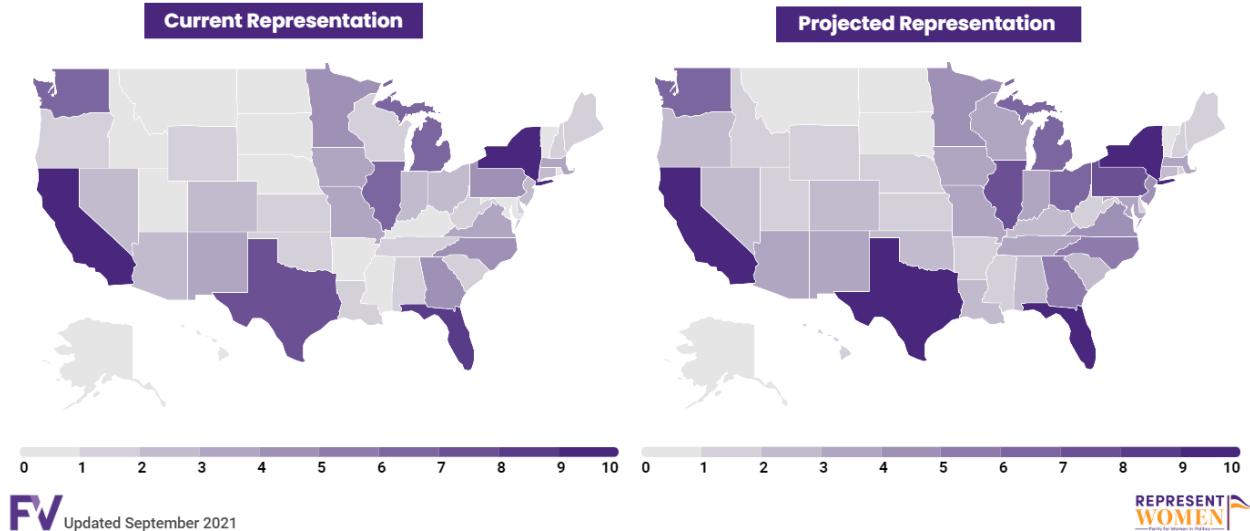
WIN: Proportional Representation and the Fair Representation Act

Heavily gerrymandered, single-winner congressional districts fuel hyperpartisanship and pose one of the most pressing issues for the health of our democracy. According to FairVote’s annual *Monopoly Politics* report, 85% of congressional districts are “safe” for one party.¹⁰⁰ This puts an inordinate amount of power in the hands of party leaders and reinforces the gatekeeping behaviors that keep women out of politics.

The Fair Representation Act (FRA)¹⁰¹ would help to mitigate this by establishing new requirements for redistricting and implementing proportional representation (PR) through the use of RCV in multi-winner districts (MWDs). Under PR, multiple representatives are elected to represent a single district, creating more opportunities for women to be nominated and elected. In a 2021 joint study with FairVote, we found that women’s representation in the U.S. House, which is now 29% (125/435), could reach 39% (169/435) under the FRA.¹⁰²

Women’s State by State Representation in the U.S. House

Currently and Under the Fair Representation Act



According to our research, women are more likely to be recruited by parties if more candidates are needed to fill multi-winner districts.¹⁰³ In the nine states that presently use MWDs in their state houses, six (AZ, MD, NH, NJ, VT, and WA) have higher women’s representation than the national average (34%) for state houses. With more competition and decreased barriers to entry, the FRA has the power to create a more inclusive and representative government by creating space for women candidates.

¹⁰⁰ FairVote. “Monopoly Politics 2024” ([Accessed August 2023](#)).

¹⁰¹ FairVote. “The Fair Representation Act” ([Accessed August 2023](#)).

¹⁰² At the time of this study, there were 119 women in the U.S. House. RepresentWomen and FairVote. “Women’s State by State Representation in the U.S. House” ([September 2021](#)).

¹⁰³ Courtney Lamendola, Fatma Tawfik, Marvelous Maeze, and Steph Scaglia. “Voting Systems and Women’s Representation,” RepresentWomen ([8 March 2023](#)); RepresentWomen. “Run, Win, Serve, and Lead: Best Practices for a Gender-Balanced Democracy” ([May 2021](#)).

SERVE: Ensuring Equal Pay & Equal Access

Pay inequity among electeds is a critical barrier to women’s representation in politics. In all sectors, pay inequity takes the form of part-time positions, low compensation, and a lack of caregiving access or stipends. Together, these issues put an undue strain on women’s ability to run for office and serve. As we found in New Hampshire, pay inequity contributes to turnover and ultimately limits progress toward parity.

To complicate matters, it is more difficult than it should be to find reliable information about elected officials’ salaries, which tend to change from year to year. We have identified the following pay ranges for elected officials at each level of government. With the exception of congressional salaries, which are the same for almost all members,¹⁰⁴ there is little consistency in what elected officials earn.

Compensation for Elected Officials		
Office	Pay Range	True as of:
U.S. Congress	\$174,000	2023, pay set in March 2022
Governors	\$70,000 to \$250,000	2022
Other State Executives	\$7,200 to \$222,252	2022
State Legislators	\$0 to \$142,000	2023
Mayors (Top 100 Cities)	\$901 to \$357,084	2017-2023

Data collection on updated state salaries is part of an ongoing project at RepresentWomen.¹⁰⁵

In state legislatures, compensation rates range between no pay and six figures. As of 2023, part-time legislators in 40 states earn between \$0 to \$58,000. This is \$3,000 to \$89,000 less than their state’s median household income. Legislators that serve full-time make between \$50,400 and \$142,000, which still works out to be \$9,000 to \$31,000 below the state’s median household incomes in half of these states.

Low salaries are a barrier primarily for women and minority candidates, but even women who earn higher salaries may find that their pay is insufficient when caregiving expenses are factored in. When paid more, women in office are less likely to seek outside employment and more likely to be responsive to their constituents, introduce more legislation, and miss fewer votes.¹⁰⁶ Pay equity is crucial for retention.

¹⁰⁴ The Speaker of the House earns \$223,500; the Senate President pro tempore and Majority and Minority Leaders in both chambers earn \$193,400. Congressional Research Service. “Congressional Salaries and Allowances: In Brief” ([16 December 2022](#)): 11.

¹⁰⁵ The Council of State Governments. “State Executive Salaries: Regional and State-level Comparisons” ([20 January 2023](#)); NCSL “2022 Legislator Compensation” ([Updated July 2022](#)).

¹⁰⁶ Nicholas Carnes and Eric R. Hansen. “Does Paying Politicians More Promote Economic Diversity in Legislatures?” *American Political Science Review* 110.4 ([November 2016](#)): 699–716..

SERVE: Addressing Violence Against Women

Women in politics are 3.4 times more likely than men to encounter violence such as physical attacks, online threats, and verbal abuse.¹⁰⁷ Online, this phenomenon is even more pronounced, with women receiving abusive comments 10-29% more often than men.¹⁰⁸ Women of color are twice as likely as other candidates to be the targets of online harassment and abuse.¹⁰⁹ In addition to deterring women from running for office, violence against women threatens to limit how long women opt to stay in office, thus posing a barrier to achieving sustained progress toward gender parity.

Documented examples of violence against women in politics range in severity from abusive and discriminatory language on social media targeting the appearance or personal identity of women officials,¹¹⁰ to doxing and attempted physical violence, such as the attempted kidnapping of Governor Gretchen Whitmer in 2020¹¹¹ and the attack on former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband in late 2022.¹¹² In addition to these high-profile examples, harassment and violence against women in local offices are also becoming more prevalent,¹¹³ which underscores the severity of the issue.

Our political system proliferates this type of harassment and abuse. Plurality voting systems encourage cutthroat political strategies that pair dangerously with social media, which has made it easier for perpetrators to target women in politics with few repercussions. Abuse and harassment discourage women from running for office and interacting with voters.¹¹⁴ Women electeds who are the victims of abuse are then incentivized to disengage with their constituencies as a means to ensure their safety.

Steps to make politics safer for women range from passing federal legislation like the Public Servant Protection Act, which would make it harder to find the home addresses of public officials,¹¹⁵ and requiring social media companies to dedicate more time and resources to regulating content and improving security controls.

¹⁰⁷ Erin Spencer Sairam. "Women In Politics Have To Deal With More Harassment And Violence. A New Database Tracks The Threats" *Forbes* ([2 November 2022](#)).

¹⁰⁸ Abby Ohlheiser. "How Much More Abuse Do Female Politicians Face? A Lot." *MIT Technology Review*, ([15 March 2023](#)).

¹⁰⁹ Dhanaraj Thakur and DeVan Hankerson Madrigal. "An Unrepresentative Democracy: How Disinformation and Online Abuse Hinder Women of Color Candidates in the United States," Center for Democracy and Technology ([27 October 2022](#)).

¹¹⁰ Cécile Guerin and Eisha Marharasingam-Shah. "Public Figures, Public Rage: Candidate Abuse on Social Media." *ISD*: 3 ([12 October 2022](#)).

¹¹¹ Gretchen Whitmer. "The Plot to Kidnap Me," *The Atlantic* ([27 October 2020](#)).

¹¹² Kaia Hubbard. "New Details of Pelosi Attack Undercut Misinformation, Reveal Attacker Had Other Targets," *US News* ([2 November 2022](#)).

¹¹³ Erin Spencer Sairam. "Women in Politics Have to Deal with More Harassment and Violence. A New Database Tracks the Threats," *Forbes* ([2 November 2022](#)); Princeton University. "Understanding Threats and Harassment to Local Officials," ([Accessed August 2023](#)).

¹¹⁴ Lucina Di Meco and Saskia Brechenmacher. "Tackling Online Abuse and Disinformation Targeting Women in Politics" ([20 November 2020](#)).

¹¹⁵ Masters, Matt. "Sen. Blackburn, Hagerty Push for Privacy for Government Officials in Wake of Abortion Protests." *The News*, ([12 May 2022](#)).

LEAD: Removing Bias with Gender-Balanced Appointments

While the Gender Parity Index primarily tracks women’s representation in elected office, RepresentWomen acknowledges the benefits of having women in appointed office, particularly at the national and state executive levels, where appointed cabinet officials manage federal and state agencies and enforce policy. Overall, women’s representation in executive cabinets and other appointed positions matters because it normalizes women in leadership positions.

Cabinet positions are nearly all appointed and continue to be largely dominated by men. Current President Joe Biden’s cabinet is the most diverse in history and has twelve women total (46%);¹¹⁶ five head one of the 15 executive departments (33%). In most state cabinets, the governor appoints all or most members.¹¹⁷ Last year, we found that women consist of less than 40%, on average, of cabinet members, and only 12 states,¹¹⁸ have gender-balanced cabinets. RepresentWomen also found that women governors are much more likely to appoint gender-balanced cabinets.¹¹⁹

The U.S. could advance women’s representation in leadership roles by adopting the Rankin-Chisholm Rule, which was modeled after the National Football League’s Rooney Rule to implement diverse-slate requirements for hiring campaign and legislative staff, though it can be applied elsewhere to foster balanced appointments.

The Rankin-Chisholm Rule is as follows:

“The decision-maker for top staff positions in personal offices, on committees, and in caucus leadership offices should conduct an in-person interview with a slate of candidates from diverse perspectives and backgrounds on the basis of gender, race, and other factors, including multiple women and people of color.”¹²⁰

Mandating that candidates for top-level positions come from diverse backgrounds will allow for a government that better reflects the demographics of the country and ensure equal access to positions. Although this rule is not a fix-all – interviewing one woman does not necessarily result in diverse hiring outcomes – it can still contribute to constructing a diverse public-sector workforce.

Women deserve equal opportunity and must not be constrained to only leading on traditional “women’s issues” such as social affairs, family, education, and maternal health. Creating gender-balanced governance is evidently multi-pronged and thus requires solutions at all stages of the political process.

¹¹⁶ Inclusive America. “Biden Administration” ([Accessed 7 August 2023](#)).

¹¹⁷ Grace Beyer. “Gender Balanced Cabinets” RepresentWomen ([July 2022](#)).

¹¹⁸ Florida’s state cabinet consists entirely of elected members.

¹¹⁹ The average for women governors’ cabinets is 50% women, and the average for men governors’ cabinets is 27% women.

¹²⁰ RepresentWomen. “Women Leading” ([Accessed July 2023](#)).

Takeaways

Generally, the U.S. has progressed towards political parity. There are fewer “F” states than ten years ago, particularly since 2019, and more states have received “B” grades. But progress is not sustained year-to-year; New Mexico and New Hampshire, though still top-ranked states, are no longer within a point of or at parity.

For progress to be sustained, women must both maintain the seats they hold now and gain additional seats in the next election. This becomes complicated when incumbent women exit office, which can occur for various reasons. Women, of course, can be term-limited out, but other times they simply face too many barriers to serving and decide to step down, emphasizing the need for support of not just women candidates but women electeds as well.

The Gender Parity Index allows us to celebrate our progress and see how far we have to go. However, our research shows that parity can be achieved *faster* and that proven solutions exist. Blueprints for representative government exist both at home and abroad and carry both cautionary tales and signs of encouragement.

Given what we have observed, here are a few takeaways from the 2023 GPI:

- 1. The U.S. is a little over halfway to parity with an average Parity Score of 27.** Progress in the U.S. continues but is distributed unevenly. This year is the first with two “A” states: Maine (54 points) and Oregon (53 points), but not all states are on an upward trend; With a low score of 9/100, Louisiana has achieved an “F” for the eighth year in a row.
- 2. Earning an “A” doesn’t guarantee that a state will maintain parity.** Between 2015-2018 and again in 2020, New Hampshire ranked first and earned an “A” grade. New Hampshire presently ranks 10th with a score of 41 points, showing how quickly progress can slow.
- 3. Representation matters at all levels of government.** Women’s voices, experiences, and perspectives are necessary at the federal, state, and local levels, hence why the GPI weighs all three. The new record-high for women governors has boosted state grades in the last year, bringing the national average to 27 in 2023 from 25 in 2022.
- 4. Gains for women are unevenly distributed between the two major parties.** Presently two paths exist to achieve parity in state legislatures. Either the Democratic party largely surpasses parity, or Republicans must become more intentional in their efforts to support women.¹²¹
- 5. Both individual- and systems-level strategies are needed to achieve parity.** Pipeline initiatives and system reforms are valid approaches to improving women’s political representation. Our research suggests that combining these approaches would yield better, faster results.

¹²¹ RepresentWomen. “Gender and Party in State Legislatures” ([April 2023](#)).

Conclusion

Despite inconsistent progress, the U.S. is on an upward trend toward parity overall. But ensuring and accelerating future gains requires creating fair and balanced systems while simultaneously fighting social and cultural bias and normalizing women in positions of power. When women see that more women are running for political office and winning, they are more likely to feel inspired to do the same.¹²² States with a woman governor or senator see roughly seven additional women state candidates in their legislatures.¹²³ Having prominent women in office creates a ripple effect, motivating women to enter politics.

However, this alone does not mitigate the barriers women in the U.S. face, such as rising childcare costs, higher costs of living than men, and disproportionate household responsibilities. All of these factors contribute to women's ability to enter politics and stay in it. At the current rate of progress, we are unlikely to achieve gender-balanced governance in our lifetimes. Even after the last few record-breaking election cycles, this has been our finding in every Gender Parity Index since 2013.

Over the last ten years, we have learned that existing strategies for advancing women's representation are insufficient. Around the world, other countries have made greater strides toward gender balance because they have adopted direct measures to increase the number of women candidates and officeholders. In the U.S., where gender quotas are less politically viable, candidate support organizations have emerged to build a pipeline of women candidates. But these strategies, alone, do not level the playing field for women candidates.

Opportunities, created through both candidate support and systems-level changes, are what shape whether or not women successfully enter politics. After ten years of analysis, our theory of change is clear. Without significant structural changes to our election system, sexist norms and antiquated policies will continue to block women candidates from entering and remaining in politics. As we have observed in NYC and elsewhere in local politics, a combined, twin-track approach offers the best opportunity for accelerating the pace of change at all levels of government.

The goal is not just to achieve gender-balanced governance but to sustain it. This maintenance involves supporting women at all stages of the political process. Women remain underrepresented at all levels of government, but this need not be the case. Sustained gender balance within our lifetimes is achievable, but only if we pursue multiple strategies in tandem and strategies that challenge the status quo.

¹²² Christina Ladam, Jeffrey J. Harden, and Jason H. Windett. "Prominent Role Models: High-Profile Female Politicians and the Emergence of Women as Candidates for Public Office" *American Journal of Political Science* 62(2): 369-381 ([April 2018](#)).

¹²³ Ibid.



Alabama



—Parity for Women in Politics—

STATE RANKING

19th "

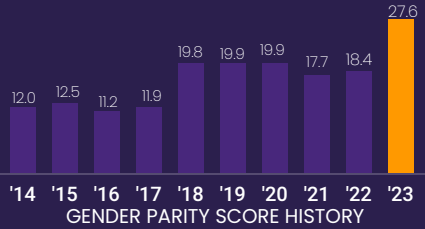
GENDER PARITY SCORE

27.6

THE FORMULA

Grade: C

This is the first year that Alabama achieved higher than a "D" grade.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

7.1

/30 points

Women in Congress

Katie Britt (R, 2023–present) is the first woman in Alabama to be elected to the U.S. Senate. Those before her, Maryon Pittman Allen (D, 1978) and Dixie Bibb Graves (D, 1937–1938), were appointed to fill vacancies. Terri Sewell (D, 2011–present) remains the only woman of Alabama's seven representatives in the U.S. House.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	3
U.S. House	1 of 7	3

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

15.5

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There have been more women (33) in statewide executive offices in Alabama than in any other state. Presently, women hold two of the state's ten executive positions. Kay Ivey (R, 2017–present) became the second woman to serve as governor when her predecessor resigned in 2017; she later won a full term in the 2018 election. Twinkle Cavanaugh (R, 2011–present) serves as the state's Public Service Commissioner.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	1	2
Other	1 of 9	31

STATE LEGISLATURE

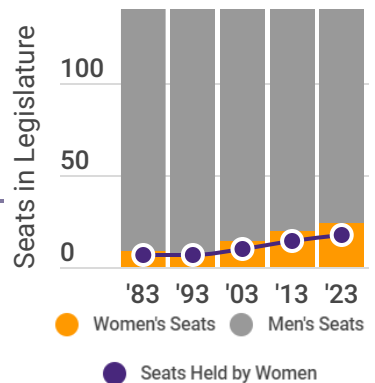
4.3

/30 points

Women State Legislators

From 1994 to 2002, Alabama ranked last in the nation for its share of state legislators who were women. In 2023, with women making up more than 17% of the state legislature, Alabama ranks 46th. Of these legislators, 54% are Democrats and 45% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

0.7

/10 points

Women's Representation

Alabama has eighteen cities with a population of at least 30,000 people, none have a woman serving as mayor. Out of Alabama's five largest counties, only Mobile County has a woman serving as county commission president.

TOTAL

27.6/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Alabama



STATE RANKING

19th "

GENDER PARITY SCORE

27.6

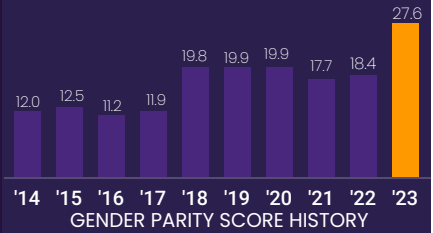
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

In primary elections, the governor must win a **majority** otherwise a runoff is held. In general elections, a **plurality** is required.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Alabama uses **single-winner districts** in the state legislature.

In primary elections, if no candidate wins a **majority**, a runoff is held. In general elections, a **plurality** is required.

Vacancies are filled by **special elections** and legislators **do not have term limits**.

Alabama has **no contribution limits** for individuals, parties, PACs, or corporations.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Alabama this November.

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Alaska

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

15th

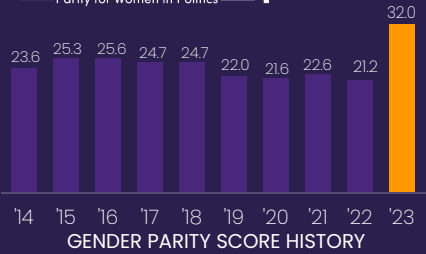
GENDER PARITY SCORE

32.0

THE FORMULA

Grade: C

Alaska has wavered between being a D and C state since 2013. This year AK earned their highest score ever received.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

15.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Lisa Murkowski (R, 2002–present) was appointed by her father to replace him in the U.S. Senate when he resigned to become governor in 2002. She won her most recent re-election in 2016. Murkowski is the only woman Alaska has ever elected to Congress. Mary Peltola (D, 2022–present) became the first woman member of the U.S. House from the state of Alaska.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	1
U.S. House	1 of 1	1

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

3.8

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are two statewide elective executives in Alaska: Governor and lieutenant governor. Nancy Dahlstrom (R) currently serves as Lt. Governor, making her the third woman in Alaska's history to have held this statewide executive office. In 2006, Sarah Palin (R, 2007–09) became the first woman elected Governor of Alaska.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	1 of 1	3

STATE LEGISLATURE

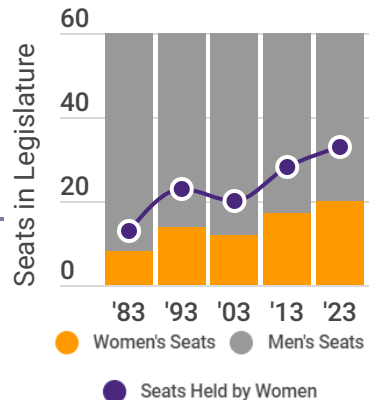
9.3

/30 points

Women State Legislators

The proportion of women in Alaska's state legislature has increased by roughly 20% since 1983. Currently, 33% of the state's legislators are women. Of these legislators, 45% are Democrats, 45% are Republicans, and 10% are nonpartisan

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

4.0

/10 points

Women's Representation

Presently, two cities out of Alaska's five most populated cities have a woman serving as mayor; Beth Weldon (NP, 2018–present) was elected mayor of Juneau in 2018 and re-elected in 2021, and Glenda D. Ledford (R, 2020–present) was elected mayor of Wasilla in 2020. None of Alaska's five largest counties

TOTAL are led by women.

32.0/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Alaska



STATE RANKING

15th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

32.0

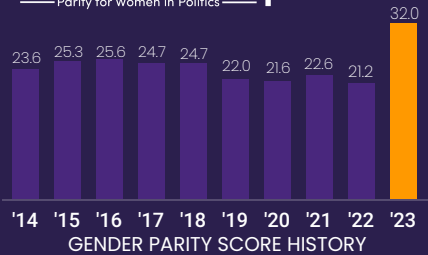
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts
Ranked Choice Voting

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **ranked choice voting** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through a **top four open** primary and a **ranked choice voting** general election.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Alaska uses **single-winner districts** in the state legislature.

Primary elections are **top-four open** and general elections use **ranked choice voting**.

Vacancies are filled by **governor appointments** and legislators **do not have term limits**.

Alaska has no contribution limits for individuals. Local and state parties are limited, as well as PACs. Corporations are prohibited from making campaign contributions.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Alaska this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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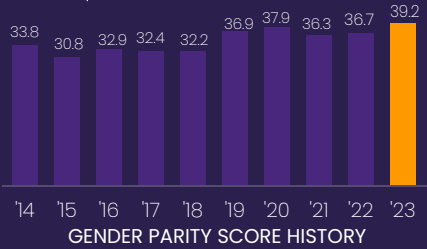




Arizona

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

11th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

39.2

THE FORMULA

Grade: B

AZ received a B once in 2013, and again in 2019. It has maintained a B grade since 2019.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

6.7

/30 points

Women in Congress

Kyrsten Sinema (D, 2019-present) is the first woman to represent Arizona in the U.S. Senate. In the U.S. House, one out of the state's nine representatives is a woman, Debbie Lesko (R, 2018-present). Kyrsten Sinema is the first openly bisexual member of Congress.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	2
U.S. House	1 of 9	7

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

15.9

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are eleven statewide elective executive offices in Arizona. Presently, five are held by women. Overall, Arizona has had the second-highest number of women (29) hold statewide executive office; the state has further had the highest number of women (5) serve as governor, with Katie Hobbs (D, 2023-present) serving as the current governor of Arizona.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	1	5
Other	4 of 10	30

STATE LEGISLATURE

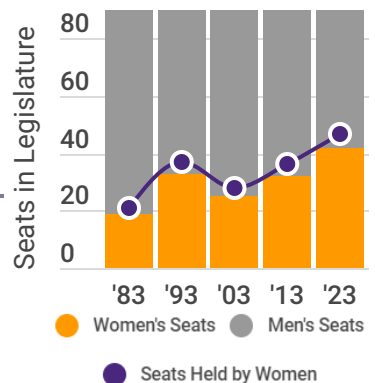
13.5

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Arizona's state senate is at perfect parity (50%). Overall, 43% of Arizona state legislators are women. Of these women, 70% are Democrats and 30% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

3.1

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of Arizona's thirty cities with a population of at least 30,000 people, eight have women serving as mayor. Of Arizona's five most populous counties, Pima and Mohave Counties are the only counties with a woman county chairperson.

TOTAL

39.2/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

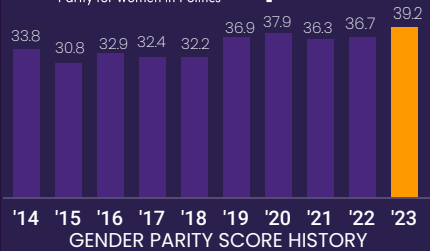
* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Arizona

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

11th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

39.2

STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner and Multi-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No

#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality** elections and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality** elections.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Arizona uses **single-winner districts** in the upper house and **multi-winner districts** in the lower house..

State legislators are limited to **four consecutive terms**.

Primary and general elections are **plurality** elections.

Vacancies are filled by by **board of county commissioners appointments**.

Arizona has contribution limits for individuals, PACs, and parties. Corporations are prohibited from making campaign contributions.

Arizona has a **Clean Funds Program** for candidates that agree to forgo high dollar contributions.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Arizona this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Arkansas



STATE RANKING

32nd

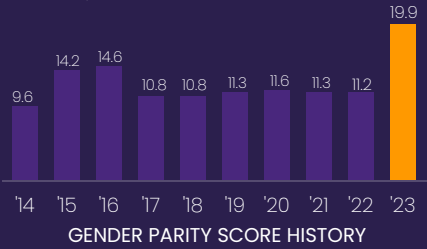
GENDER PARITY SCORE

19.9

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Though Arkansas still received a D this year, this is the highest score they have ever received.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

0.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Historically, only two of Arkansas's U.S. Senators and four of its U.S. Representatives have been women. Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D, 1931-1944) was initially appointed to fill a vacancy, but later won her re-election, becoming the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate. Presently, there are no congresswomen from Arkansas.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	2
U.S. House	0 of 4	4

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

12.4

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

This year, Arkansas elected their first woman governor, Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R, 2023-present). Additionally, Leslie Rutledge (R, 2023-present) was elected as the first woman to hold office as the Lt. Governor of Arkansas.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	1	1
Other	1 of 6	11

STATE LEGISLATURE

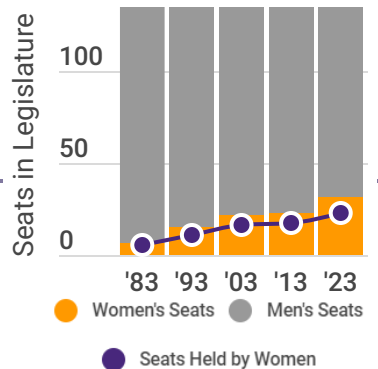
6.1

/30 points

Women State Legislators

The share of women in Arkansas's state legislature has more than doubled, from 11% to 23%, since 1994. Of the women serving in Arkansas's state legislature, 39% are Democrats and 61% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.4

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of Arkansas's fourteen cities with a population of at least 30,000 people, three have women mayors. None of Arkansas's five largest counties have women serving as county judges.

TOTAL

19.9 / 100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Arkansas



STATE RANKING

32nd

GENDER PARITY SCORE

19.9

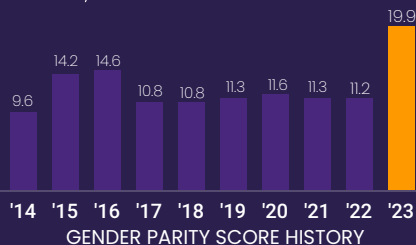
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Partisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality** elections and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality** elections.

The governor is limited to **two terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Arkansas uses **single-winner districts**. In primary elections, a **majority is required** or a runoff ensues. In general elections, a **plurality** is required.

State legislators are limited to **twelve consecutive years**.

Vacancies are filled by **special elections**.

Arkansas has the same **contribution limits** for individuals, parties, and PACs. Corporations are prohibited from making contributions.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Arkansas this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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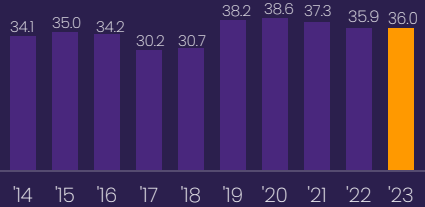




California

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



GENDER PARITY SCORE HISTORY

STATE RANKING

13th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

36.0

THE FORMULA

Grade: B

California has consistently been a B state since 2003, with 2017 and 2018 as exceptions.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

12.4

/30 points

Women in Congress

California is the first state to have been represented by two women simultaneously in the U.S. Senate, and was so from 1993-2021. Presently, only one seat is filled by a woman: Senator Dianne Feinstein (D). Of California's 52 U.S. Representatives, seventeen (33%) are women.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	3
U.S. House	17 of 52	46

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

6.8

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are eight statewide elective executive positions in California. Presently, four women hold these roles: State Comptroller Malia Cohen (D, 2023-present), Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis (D, 2019-present), Secretary of State Shirley Weber (D, 2021-present), and State Treasurer Fiona Ma (D, 2019-present). No woman has served as governor, but Kounalakis is the first woman elected to serve as lieutenant governor.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	4 of 7	14

STATE LEGISLATURE

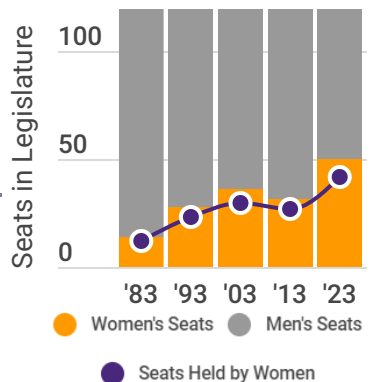
12.4

/30 points

Women State Legislators

California was an early leader in electing women to the state legislature, having elected the first four women to its State Assembly in 1918. Today's share of women in the state's legislature has risen nineteen percentage points since 1993, from 23% to 42% this year. Of the women serving in California's state legislature, 84% are Democrats and 16% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

4.5

/10 points

Women's Representation

California has 246 cities with at least 30,000 people; 91 (37%) have women mayors. Ranked choice voting is used in Albany, Berkeley, Oakland, Palm Desert, San Francisco, and San Leandro and will be implemented in Eureka and Redondo Beach. Out of California's five largest counties, Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Bernadino are led by women.

TOTAL

36.0/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

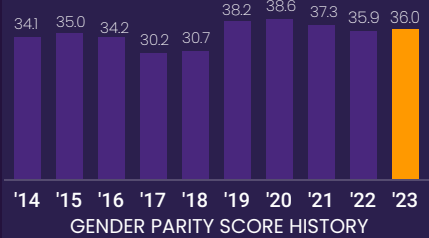
* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



California



Parity for Women in Politics



#GenderParityIndex2023

STATE RANKING

13th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

36.0

STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality** elections and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality** elections.

The governor is limited to **two terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

California uses **single-winner districts**, a **top two open primary**, and **plurality** general elections.

State legislators are limited to **twelve years**.

Vacancies are filled by by **special elections**.

California has the same **contribution limits** for individuals, corporations, and PACs.

Parties do not have contribution limits.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	6	2
Multi-Winner RCV	1	0	3

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in California this November.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. In 2023, Redondo Beach joined an existing many cities in passing RCV.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Colorado



STATE RANKING

17th

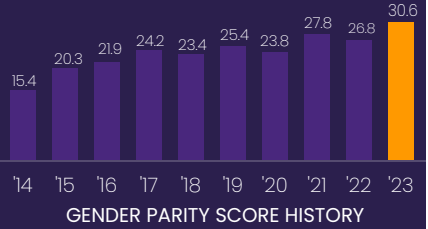
GENDER PARITY SCORE

30.6

THE FORMULA

Grade: C

Colorado has hovered between receiving a C and D since 2017.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

7.5
/30 points

Women in Congress

Since 1972, Colorado has been represented by at least one woman every year. In 2023, four of Colorado's eight U.S. Representatives are women: Diana DeGette (D, 1997-present), Lauren Boebert (R, 2021-present), Brittany L. Pettersen (D, 2023-present), and Yadira Caraveo (D, 2023-present). Colorado has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	4 of 8	7

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

5.7
/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are five statewide elective executive positions in Colorado, and two are held by women: Secretary of State Jena Griswold (D, 2019-present) and Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera (D, 2019-present). No woman has ever served as Governor of Colorado, but six women have served as lieutenant governor.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	2 of 4	27

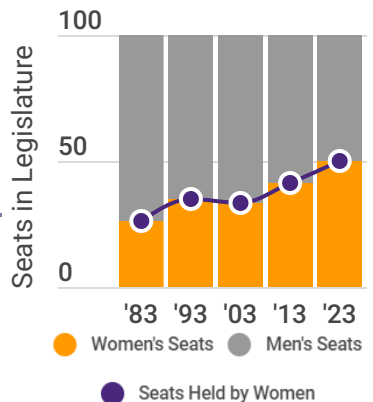
STATE LEGISLATURE

13.5
/30 points

Women State Legislators

Colorado has the highest share of women state legislators in the country, with women making up 50% of its members in the state legislature as a whole. Colorado is one of the five states with gender parity in one of its state legislative bodies this year. Of the women serving in Colorado's state legislature, 86% are Democrats and 14% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

3.9
/10 points

Women's Representation

Colorado has twenty-seven cities with populations of at least 30,000 people. Of these cities, nine (33%) have women serving as mayor. Cumulatively, women make up 51% of county chairs and commissioners in 4 out of 5 of Colorado's most populous counties. RCV is used in Basalt, Boulder, Broomfield,

Carbondale, and Telluride.

TOTAL

30.6/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

Colorado

REPRESENT
WOMEN 
Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

17th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

30.6

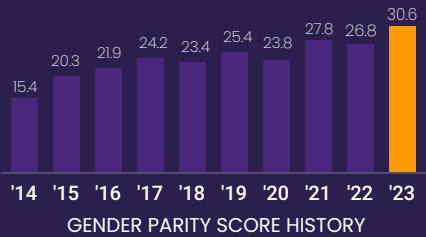
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Partisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Colorado uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections** for the state legislature.

State legislators are limited to **eight consecutive years**.

Colorado has the **same contribution limits** for individuals, and PACs. Parties have significantly higher contribution limits. Corporations are prohibited from making contributions.

Vacancies in Colorado's state legislature are filled by political party **appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Five localities in Colorado have either adopted RCV, previously used RCV, or will use RCV in 2023 or 2025.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	1	2	3
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There is **1 RCV ballot initiative** in Colorado this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Connecticut



STATE RANKING

27th

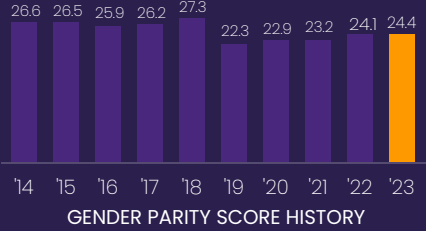
GENDER PARITY SCORE

24.4

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Connecticut was a C state from 2013 to 2018, but has been a D state ever since.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

5.6

/30 points

Women in Congress

Connecticut has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate. Of the state's five representatives to the U.S. House, two are presently women. These women are Rosa DeLauro (D, 1991-present), and Jahana Hayes (D, 2019-present).

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	2 of 5	8

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

5.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are six statewide elective executive positions in Connecticut. Presently, two are filled by women; Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas (D, 2023-present), and Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz (D, 2019-present). Connecticut is also home to the first woman elected governor who was not married to or otherwise related to a previous governor: Ella Grasso (D, 1975-1980).

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	2
Other	2 of 5	23

STATE LEGISLATURE

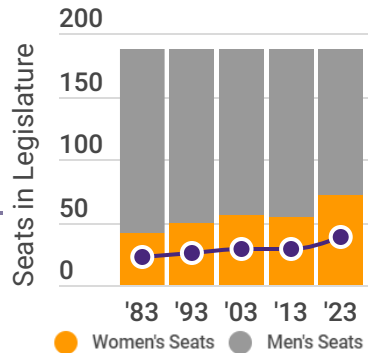
10.6

/30 points

Women State Legislators

The share of women elected to Connecticut's General Assembly has been above the national average for the last 40 years. This year, 38% of state legislators are women in Connecticut. Of these women, 70% are Democrats and 30% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

3.1

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of Connecticut's thirty-two cities with a population of at least 30,000 people, ten have women mayors. Connecticut's second-largest city, Stamford, elected its first woman mayor, Caroline Simmons (D), in 2021.

● Seats Held by Women

TOTAL

24.4/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



Connecticut



STATE RANKING

27th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

24.4

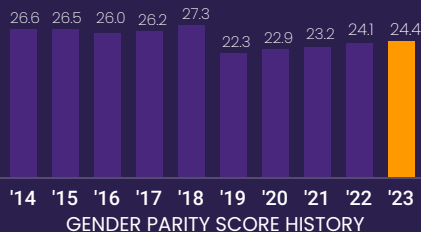
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor **does not have** term limits.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Connecticut uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections** for the state legislature.

State legislators **do not have term limits**.

Connecticut has **contribution limits** for individuals, parties and PACs. Corporations are prohibited from making contributions.

Connecticut also has a **Citizens' Election public financing** program.

Vacancies in Connecticut's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Connecticut this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Delaware



STATE RANKING

16th

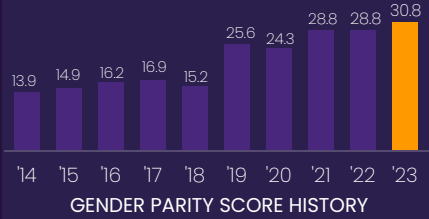
GENDER PARITY SCORE

30.8

THE FORMULA

Grade: C

Delaware has been a C state since 2019, with the exception of 2020.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

10.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

In 2016, Delaware elected its first woman to Congress; Lisa Blunt Rochester (D, 2017–present) presently holds Delaware’s lone U.S. House seat. Congresswoman Rochester is also the first Black woman to represent Delaware in the U.S. Congress.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	1 of 1	1

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

9.5

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

Ruth Ann Minner (D, 2001–2008) was Delaware’s first and only woman governor. In 2023, four of Delaware’s six statewide executive offices are held by women: Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long (D, 2017–present), State Auditor Lydia York (D, 2023–present), State Treasurer Colleen Davis (D, 2019–present), and Attorney General Kathleen Jennings (D, 2019–present).

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	4 of 5	16

STATE LEGISLATURE

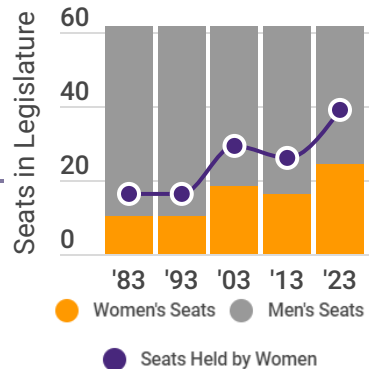
11.3

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Delaware’s state legislature is made up of 62 members – 24 of which are women. Of these women, 96% are Democrats and 4% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

0.0

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of Delaware’s five largest cities, none have a woman mayor. None of Delaware’s three counties are led by chairwomen.

TOTAL

30.8/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Delaware



STATE RANKING

16th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

30.8

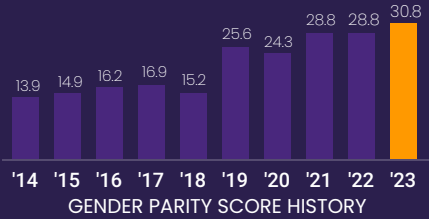
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Delaware uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections** for the state legislature.

State legislators **do not have term limits**.

Delaware has the **same contribution limits** for individuals, corporations, and PACs. Parties have higher contributions limits.

Vacancies in Delaware's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Arden uses proportional RCV for town council elections and has done so since the 20th century.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	1	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Delaware this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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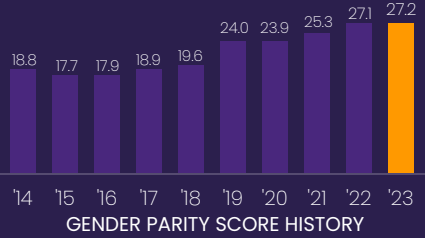




Florida

REPRESENT WOMEN

—Parity for Women in Politics—



STATE RANKING

21st

GENDER PARITY SCORE

27.2

THE FORMULA

Grade: C

From 2003–2020, Florida was a D state. It has maintained a C grade since 2021.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

4.8

/30 points

Women in Congress

In 1980, Paula F. Hawkins (R, 1981–1986) became the first and only woman to serve as a U.S. Senator representing Florida. Presently, there are nine women in Florida’s 28-member delegation to the U.S. House.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	1
U.S. House	9 of 28	24

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

7.6

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are five statewide elective executive roles in Florida. This year, two of these roles are filled by women: Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez (R, 2019–present) and Attorney General Ashley B. Moody (R, 2019–present). No woman has ever served as Governor of Florida.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	2 of 4	12

STATE LEGISLATURE

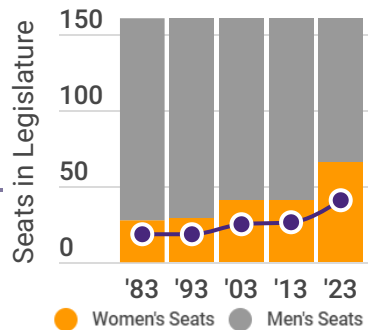
11.9

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Women make up 41% of Florida’s state legislature. Of these women, 48% are Democrats and 52% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

2.8

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of Florida’s ninety cities with a population over 30,000 people, twenty (22%) have women mayors. In two of Florida’s five most populous counties, women are the chief executives.

TOTAL

27.2/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Florida



STATE RANKING

21st

GENDER PARITY SCORE

27.2

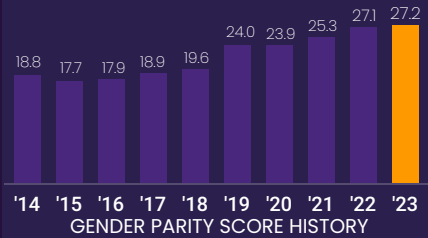
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Florida uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections** for the state legislature.

State legislators are limited to **eight consecutive years**.

Florida has the **same contribution limits** for individuals, corporations, and PACs. Parties have higher contributions limits.

Florida has a **Matching Funds Program** available to candidates for governor and lieutenant governor.

Vacancies in Florida's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Sarasota approved the use of RCV for city commission elections in 2007 but the system has yet to be used.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	1
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Florida this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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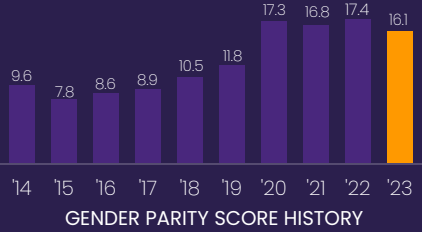




Georgia

REPRESENT WOMEN

—Parity for Women in Politics—



STATE RANKING

39th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

16.1

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Georgia has been a D state since 2018. Prior to 2018 it was consistently given an F grade.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

3.2

/30 points

Women in Congress

Rebecca Latimer Felton (D, 1922) was the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate for Georgia, but her appointment was largely symbolic as she only served one day. Georgia is represented by fourteen U.S. Representatives in the House, three of which are women: Lucy McBath (D), Marjorie Green (R), and Nikema Williams(D).

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	2
U.S. House	3 of 14	10

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

0.5

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are thirteen statewide elective executive positions in Georgia, but the state did not elect a woman to one of these offices until 1995. The only woman serving as a statewide executive in Georgia is Public Service Commissioner Tricia Pridemore (R, 2018-present). No woman has served as Governor of Georgia.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	1 of 12	6

STATE LEGISLATURE

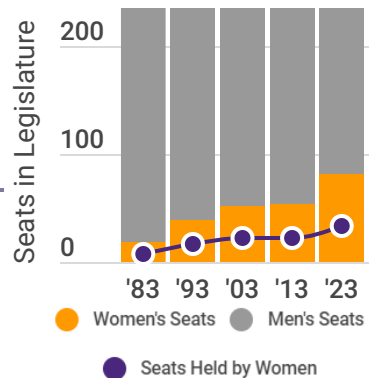
9.6

/30 points

Women State Legislators

While Georgia has historically lagged in terms of women's representation in the state legislature, it now ranks 22nd in the nation, with women making up 34% of the state's legislature. Of these women, 75% are Democrats and 25% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

2.8

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of Georgia's thirty-six cities with populations of more than 30,000 people, eight (22%) have women serving as mayor. Two of Georgia's five most populous counties have a woman chair: Gwinnett County and Cobb County.

TOTAL

16.1 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Georgia



STATE RANKING

39th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

16.1

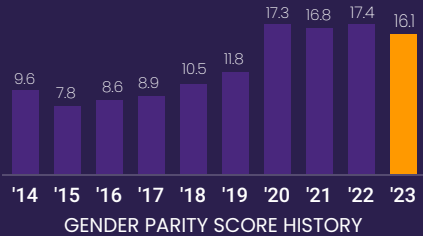
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Georgia uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections** for the state legislature.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Georgia has the **same contribution limits** for individuals, corporations, parties, and PACs. Contribution limits are different and slightly lower for runoff elections.

Vacancies in Georgia's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Georgia this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Hawaii

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

22nd

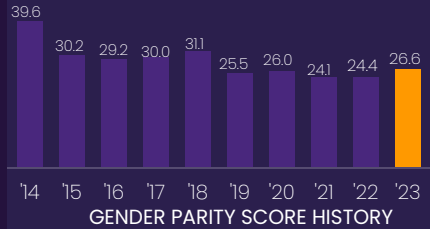
GENDER PARITY SCORE

26.6

THE FORMULA

Grade: C

Hawaii was consistently a C state until 2021 when it dropped to a D grade. In 2023 it is once again a C state.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

13.6

/30 points

Women in Congress

Mazie Hirono (D, 2013-present) is the first woman Hawaii has ever elected to the U.S. Senate. Currently, one of Hawaii's two U.S. Representatives is a woman: Jill N. Tokuda (D, 2023-present).

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	1
U.S. House	1 of 2	7

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

2.5

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are two statewide elective executive positions in Hawaii: governor and lieutenant governor. Linda Lingle (R, 2003-11) is the first and only woman to have served as Governor of Hawaii. Jean King (D, 1978-82) and Mazie Hirono (D, 1994-2002) previously served as lieutenant governor, and Sylvia J. Luke (D, 2023-present) currently serves as lieutenant governor of Hawaii.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	1 of 1	3

STATE LEGISLATURE

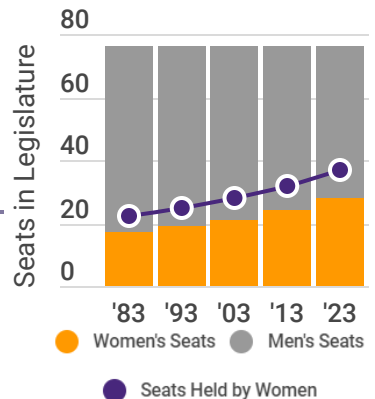
10.5

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Women in Hawaii hold 37% of the statewide legislature seats. Of these women, 93% are Democrats and 7% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

0.0

/10 points

Women's Representation

Out of Hawaii's four consolidated city-counties, none have women mayors.

TOTAL

26.6/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Hawaii



STATE RANKING

22nd

GENDER PARITY SCORE

26.6

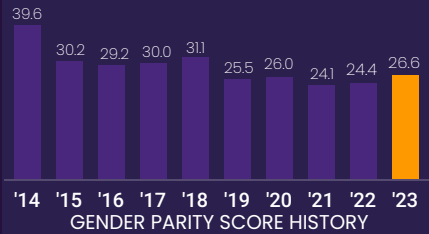
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Hawaii uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections** for the state legislature.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Hawaii has the **same limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, PACs, parties, or corporations can make to a candidate.

Hawaii has a **public financing program**: the Partial Public Funding Program.

Vacancies in Hawaii's state legislature are filled by **governor appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	1
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Hawaii this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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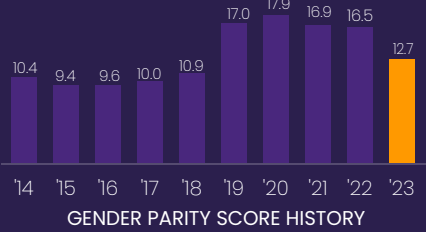




Idaho

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

47th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

12.7

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Idaho has received a D grade since 2017.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

0.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Idaho has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate. There have only ever been two women elected to the U.S. House from Idaho: Gracie Bowers Pfof (D, 1953-1963) and Helen Chenoweth (R, 1995-2001). Currently, no woman represents Idaho in the U.S. House.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	0 of 2	2

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

1.7

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are seven statewide elective executive positions in Idaho. Of these, two are presently held by women: Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield (R, 2023-present), and State Treasurer Julie Ellsworth (R, 2019-present). Historically, of the 22 women that held statewide executive positions in Idaho, 13 served as Superintendent of Public Instruction.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	2 of 6	22

STATE LEGISLATURE

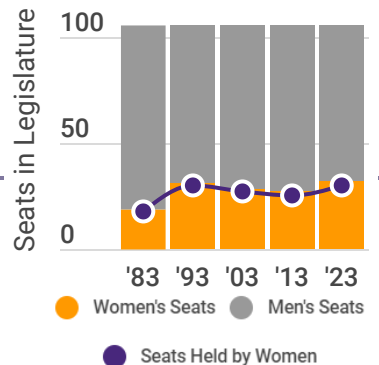
8.6

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Women make up 30% of Idaho's statewide legislatures. Of these women, 28% are Democrats and 72% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

2.4

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of Idaho's twelve cities with populations of more than 30,000 people, four have women mayors. Women make up just 7% of all county chairs in Idaho's five largest counties; Kootenai County is the only one with women's representation.

TOTAL

12.7 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Idaho



STATE RANKING

47th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

12.7

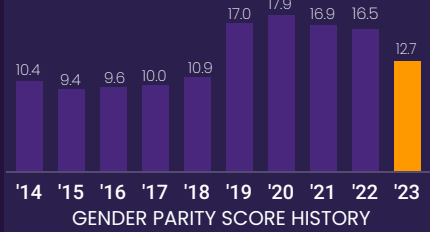
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner and Multi-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has **no term limits**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Idaho uses **single-winner districts** in the upper house and **multi-winner districts** in the lower house. State legislators are elected through **plurality elections**. State legislators have **no term limits**.

Idaho **has contribution limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, PACs, parties, or corporations can make to a candidate.

Vacancies in Idaho's state legislature are filled by **governor appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Idaho this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Illinois

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

14th

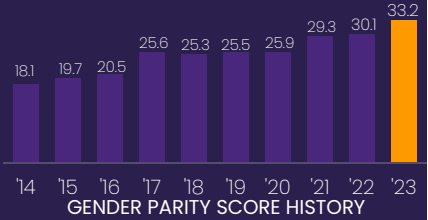
GENDER PARITY SCORE

33.2

THE FORMULA

Grade: B

This is the first year that Illinois has received a B grade.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

12.8

/30 points

Women in Congress

Tammy Duckworth (D, 2017-present) is the second woman to serve as a U.S. Senator representing Illinois. Of the state's 17 House representatives, six are women.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	2
U.S. House	6 of 17	21

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

3.8

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are six statewide elective executive positions in Illinois. Presently, two of these posts are held by women: Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton (D, 2019-present) and State Comptroller Susana Mendoza (D, 2017-present). A woman has never served as Governor of Illinois.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	2 of 5	11

STATE LEGISLATURE

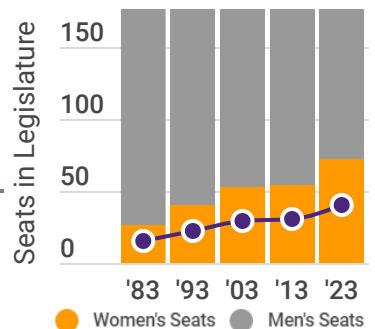
11.6

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Since 1983, the share of women in Illinois' state legislature has risen from 15% to 41%. Of these women serving as statewide legislators, 85% are Democrats and 15% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

5.1

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of Illinois' sixty-five cities with populations of over 30,000 people, seventeen (26%) have women serving as mayor. Illinois' five most populous counties all have a woman serving as chair, the most of any state.

● Seats Held by Women

TOTAL

33.2/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Illinois



STATE RANKING

14th

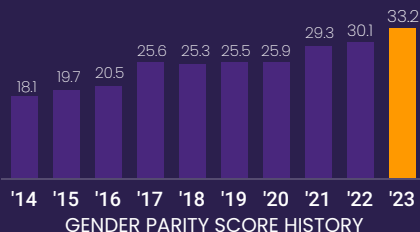
GENDER PARITY SCORE

33.2

THE FORMULA

VOTING SYSTEM(S)
Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?
Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has **no term limits**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Illinois uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Illinois **has contribution limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, PACs, parties, or corporations can make to a candidate.

Vacancies in Illinois' state legislature are filled by **political party appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Evanston will use RCV starting in 2025.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	1
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Illinois this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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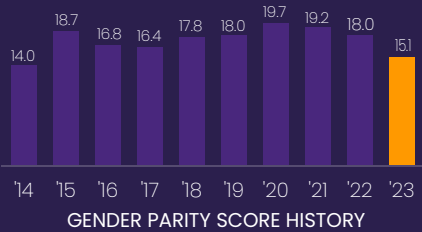




Indiana

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

43rd

GENDER PARITY SCORE

15.1

Grade: D

This year, Indiana received its lowest D score since 2014.

THE FORMULA

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

3.3

/30 points

Women in Congress

Indiana has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate. Of Indiana's U.S. House's nine representatives, only two are women: Erin Houchin (R, 2023-present) and Victoria Spartz (R, 2021-present).

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	2 of 9	9

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

3.8

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are seven statewide elective executive positions in Indiana, and two are filled by women: Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch (R, 2017-present) and State Auditor, Tera Klutz (R, 2017-present) who was appointed after Suzanne Crouch vacated the position to become Lt. Governor. A woman has never served as governor in Indiana.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	2 of 6	23

STATE LEGISLATURE

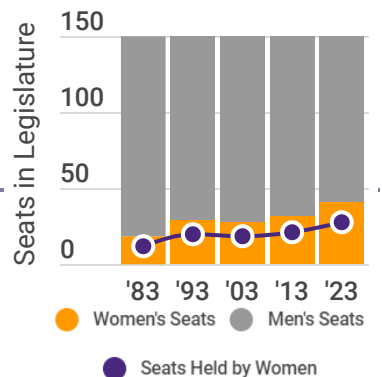
7.4

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Currently, women make up 27% of the state legislature in Indiana. Of these women, 45% are Democrats and 55% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

0.6

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of Indiana's thirty-three cities with at least 30,000 people, only one (3%) has a woman mayor. Of Indiana's five most populous counties, women serve as one-third (33%) of those counties commissioners: Allen and Hamilton counties.

TOTAL

15.1 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Indiana



STATE RANKING

43rd

GENDER PARITY SCORE

15.1

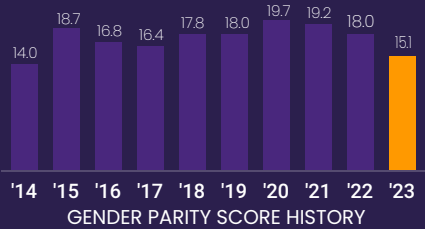
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor can serve **eight years** in a twelve year time span.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Indiana uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Indiana has **no contribution limits** for individuals, local and state parties, PACs, or corporations.

Vacancies in Indiana's' state legislature are filled by **political party appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Indiana this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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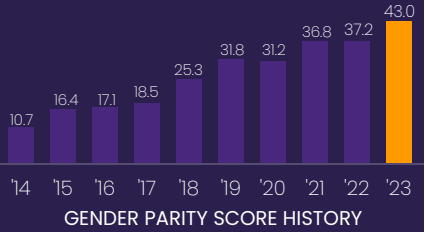




Iowa

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

7th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

43.0

THE FORMULA

Grade: B

Iowa's gender parity score has consistently climbed over the years. It has maintained a B since 2021.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

15.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Senator Joni Ernst (R, 2015-present) is the first woman Iowa sent to the U.S. Congress. As of 2023, two of the four seats in Iowa's delegation to the U.S. House are filled by women: Ashley Hinson (R, 2021-present), and Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R, 2021-present).

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	1
U.S. House	2 of 4	4

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

17.4

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are seven statewide elective executives in Iowa. Of those seats, two are held by women: Governor Kim Reynolds (R, 2017-present), who is the first woman to serve as Governor of Iowa, and Attorney General Brenna Bird (R, 2023-present).

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	1	1
Other	1 of 6	15

STATE LEGISLATURE

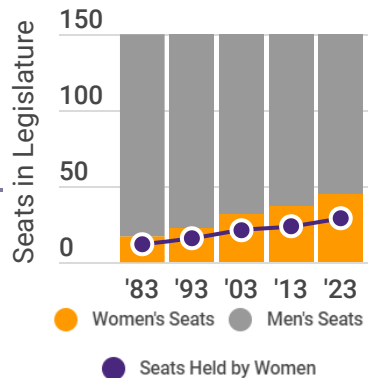
8.8

/30 points

Women State Legislators

In 1983, Iowa's share of women in the state legislature was 11%; today, women make up 29% of the state's legislators. Of the women who are now state legislators in Iowa, 55% are Democrats and 45% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.9

/10 points

Women's Representation

Iowa has fifteen cities with a population of at least 30,000 people; only one has a woman mayor. Of Iowa's five largest counties, Johnson County and Black Hawk County have a woman serving as chair, while one-fifth (20%) of board supervisors are women in Polk County.

TOTAL

43.0/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Iowa



STATE RANKING

7th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

43.0

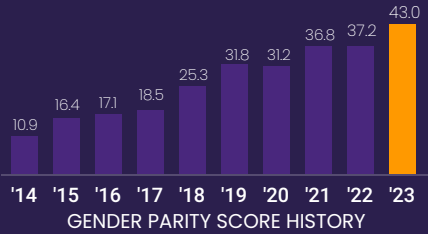
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has **no term limits**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Iowa uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Iowa has **no contribution limits** for individuals, local and state parties, PACs, or corporations.

Vacancies in Iowa's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Iowa this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Kansas

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

18th

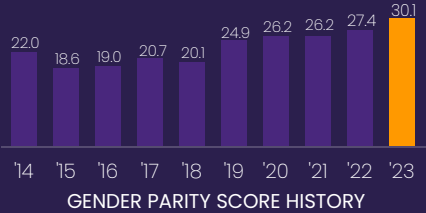
GENDER PARITY SCORE

30.1

THE FORMULA

Grade: C

Kansas has been a C state since 2020, and was consistently a D state in the years prior.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

3.3

/30 points

Women in Congress

Of the four representatives Kansas sends to the U.S. House, only one is a woman: Sharice Davids (D, 2019-present). Davids is the first openly gay Native American woman elected to Congress. Two women have served as U.S. Senators from Kansas: Nancy Kassebaum (R, 1978-1997), the first woman to be elected to a full term, and Sheila Frahm (R), who was appointed in 1996.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	2
U.S. House	1 of 4	6

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

15.5

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are six statewide elective executive offices in Kansas. Women presently hold two of these offices; Governor Laura Kelly (D, 2019-present) and Commissioner of Insurance Vicki Schmidt (R, 2019-present). Kansas's first woman governor, Joan Finney (D, 1991-1995), was also the first woman to defeat an incumbent governor. Kansas has had three women governors.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	1	3
Other	1 of 5	11

STATE LEGISLATURE

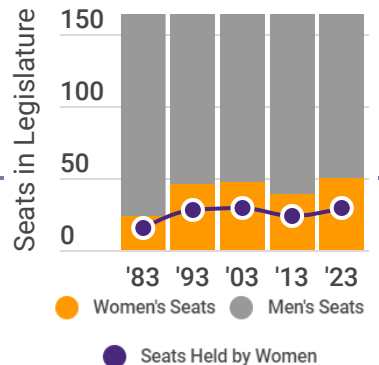
9.6

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Women hold 30% of the available seats in Kansas' statewide legislatures. Of these women, 48% are Democrats and 52% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.7

/10 points

Women's Representation

Women serve as mayor in three of Kansas' thirteen cities with populations of over 30,000. Leavenworth County is the only one of Kansas' five most populous counties to have women serving, with one-fifth (20%) commissioners being women.

TOTAL

30.1/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

Kansas



STATE RANKING

18th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

30.1

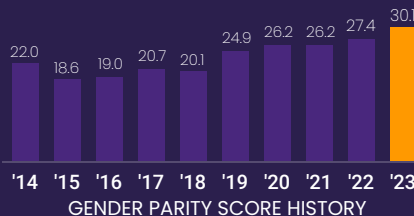
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Kansas uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Kansas has the **same limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, PACs, parties, or corporations can make to a candidate.

Vacancies in Kansas' state legislature are filled by a hybrid system of **governor appointments** and **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Kansas this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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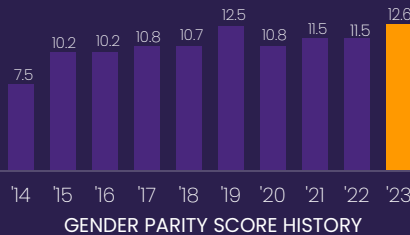




Kentucky

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

48th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

12.6

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Kentucky received F grades until 2014 and has received a D grade since 2015.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

0.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Only two women have ever been elected as U.S. Representatives from Kentucky Katherine Gudger Langley (R, 1927-1931) and Anne Northup (R, 1997-2007). Kentucky has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	0 of 6	2

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

3.6

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are eight statewide elective executive offices in Kentucky. Presently, only two of the state's executives are women: Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman (D, 2020-present) and Treasurer Allison Ball (R, 2016-present). Kentucky has had one woman governor: Martha Layne Collins (D, 1984-1987).

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	2 of 7	22

STATE LEGISLATURE

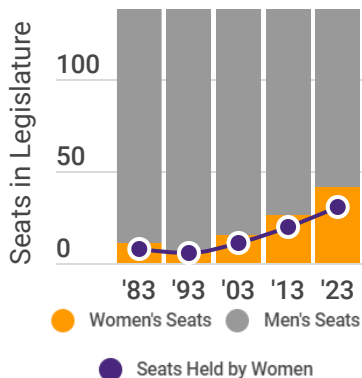
7.8

/30 points

Women State Legislators

In 1993, women held only 5% of seats in Kentucky's state legislature. Women now hold 30% of these seats. Of these women, 44% are Democrats and 56% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.2

/10 points

Women's Representation

Two of Kentucky's eleven cities with a population of at least 30,000 people have a woman serving as mayor. None of Kentucky's five most populous counties have a woman chair.

TOTAL

12.6 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Kentucky



STATE RANKING

48th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

12.6

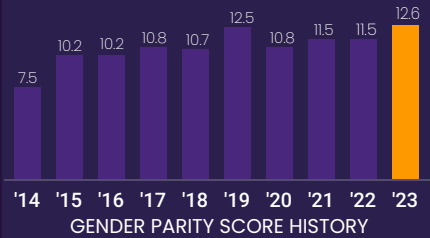
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Kentucky uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Kentucky has **contribution limits** for individuals and PACs. Local and state parties have **no limits**. Corporations are **prohibited** from making campaign contributions.

Vacancies in Kentucky's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Kentucky this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Louisiana



STATE RANKING

50th

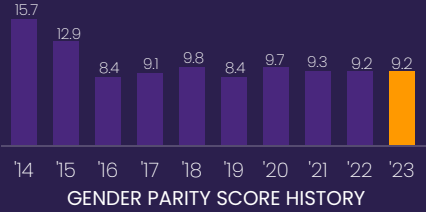
GENDER PARITY SCORE

9.2

THE FORMULA

Grade: F

Louisiana has consistently been given an F grade since 2016.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

2.5

/30 points

Women in Congress

Louisiana has only elected one woman to the US Senate, Mary L. Landrieu (D, 1997-2015). The only other women to have been Senators for LA were appointed to their roles. Only three women have ever been elected to serve as representatives to the US House; Corinne "Lindy" Claiborne Boggs (D, 1973-1991), Catherine S. Long (D, 1985-1987), and Julia Letlow (R, 2021-present).

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	3
U.S. House	1 of 6	3

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

0.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are seven statewide elective executive positions in Louisiana; presently, none are held by women. In 2003, Kathleen Blanco (D, 2004-2007) became the first woman elected Governor of Louisiana. She only served one term.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	0 of 6	8

STATE LEGISLATURE

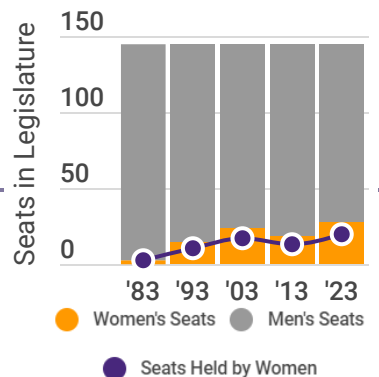
5.4

/30 points

Women State Legislators

From 1983 to the present, the share of women in Louisiana's state legislature has more than doubled. In 1983, just 2% of state legislators were women; today the proportion is 19%. Still, Louisiana ranks 45th in the nation for its share of women legislators. Of these women, 43% are Democrats and 57% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.3

/10 points

Women's Representation

Two of Louisiana's ten cities with at least 30,000 people have women mayors. None of Louisiana's five most populous parishes has a woman serving as president.

TOTAL

9.2 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Louisiana



STATE RANKING

50th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

9.2

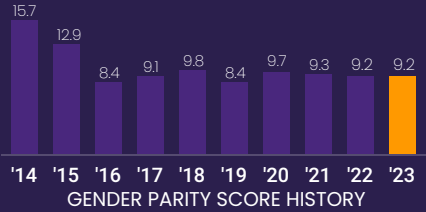
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Louisiana uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**. State legislators are limited to **three consecutive terms**.

Louisiana **has contribution limits** for individuals, PACs, and corporations. There are **no contribution limits** for local and state parties.

Vacancies in Louisiana's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Louisiana this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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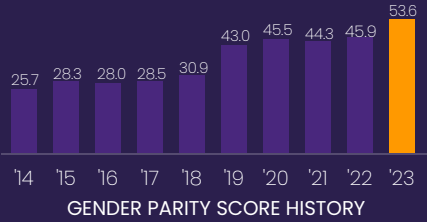




Maine

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

1st

GENDER PARITY SCORE

53.6

THE FORMULA

Grade: A

This year, Maine has earned its first A grade.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

15.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

There are two women in Maine's U.S. Congressional delegation, Senator Susan Collins (R, 1997-present) and Representative Chellie Pingree (D, 2009-present). The first woman elected to Maine's delegation was Margaret Chase Smith (R, House 1940-1948, Senate 1949-1972).

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	3
U.S. House	1 of 2	3

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

22.5

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

Maine's only statewide elective executive is the governor. Janet Mills (D, 2019-present) was elected in 2018. The 2018 primary in Maine also marked the state's first statewide use of RCV. In 2018, Mills was one of seven candidates in the primary. After the first round of voting, she secured 33% of first-choice votes; an instant runoff resulted in Mills winning with 54% of the vote.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	1	1
Other	0 of 0	0

STATE LEGISLATURE

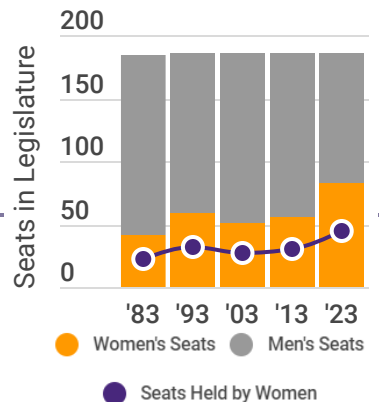
12.4

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Maine ranks seventh in the U.S. for the number of women in its state legislature. In 2023, women hold 82 of 186 seats (44%) in the state legislature; 73% are Democrat and 27% are Republican. Ten years ago, Maine ranked 10th in the U.S. for the number of women in the state legislature, with women holding 30% of all seats.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

3.7

/10 points

Women's Representation

Two of Maine's top-five populous, incorporated cities have a woman mayor, Portland and South Portland. Of Maine's five most populous counties, three have women serving: Androscoggin County with a woman chair, Kennebec County with women in 33% of the chairs, and York County with women

TOTAL in 20% of the chairs.

53.6/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Maine



STATE RANKING

1st

GENDER PARITY SCORE

53.6

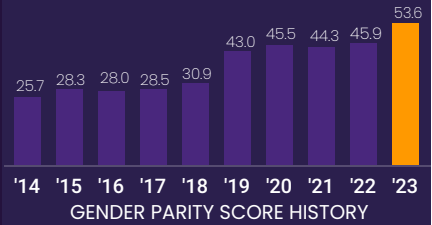
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts
Ranked Choice Voting

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **ranked choice voting** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through a **ranked choice voting** primary and **plurality** general election.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Maine uses **single-winner districts, ranked choice voting** primaries, and **plurality** general elections.

State legislators are limited to **four consecutive terms**.

Maine has the **same limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, PACs, parties, or corporations can make to a candidate.

Maine has a **public financing program** for elections called the "Clean Elections Act".

Vacancies in Maine's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Two localities, Portland and Westbrook have passed RCV, but only Portland has used it so far.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	1	1
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Maine this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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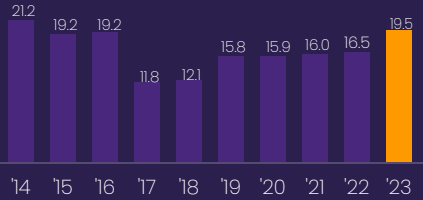




Maryland

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

33rd

GENDER PARITY SCORE

19.5

Grade: D

Maryland has received a D since 2013.

GENDER PARITY SCORE HISTORY

#GenderParityIndex2023

THE FORMULA

U.S. CONGRESS

0.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Maryland sends eight representatives to the U.S. House each year; in 2023, none are women. The first and only woman to serve as U.S. Senator of Maryland, Barbara Ann Mikulski (D, 1987–2017) was also the longest-serving woman in the history of the U.S. Congress, with a combined total of forty years served between the U.S. House and U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	1
U.S. House	0 of 8	8

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

6.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are four statewide elective executive offices in Maryland; two are currently held by women. Aruna Miller (D, 2023–present) is the second woman to serve as Lt. Governor of Maryland, and Brooke Lierman (D, 2023–present) is the first woman to serve as the state's Comptroller. No woman has served as Governor of Maryland.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	2 of 3	3

STATE LEGISLATURE

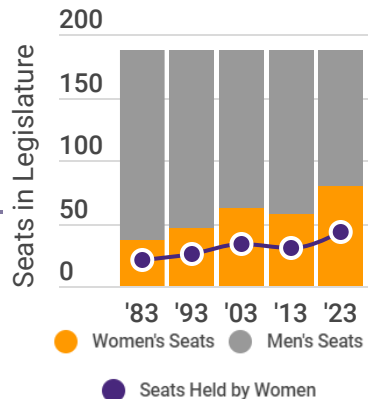
12.1

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Maryland ranks ninth in the country for the proportion of women serving in its statewide legislatures, with 43% of total seats held by women. Representation in the lower house, which uses multi-winner districts, is 11% higher than the upper house, which uses single member districts. Within the legislature, 90% of these women are Democrats and 10% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.4

/10 points

Women's Representation

Three (33%) of Maryland's nine cities with a population of at least 30,000 have women mayors: Hagerstown, Rockville, and College Park. One of Maryland's five largest counties has a woman executive: Prince George's County. Ranked choice voting is used in Takoma Park, MD.

TOTAL

19.5 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

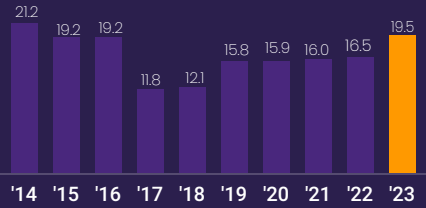
* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Maryland

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



GENDER PARITY SCORE HISTORY

#GenderParityIndex2023

STATE RANKING

33rd

GENDER PARITY SCORE

19.5

STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner and Multi-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through a **ranked choice voting** primary and **plurality** general election.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Maryland uses **single-winner districts** for its upper house and multi-member districts for its lower house. Legislators are elected through **plurality elections**. State legislators **do not have term limits**.

Maryland **has contribution limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, PACs, parties, or corporations can make to a candidate. Public funding does not include state legislative offices.

Vacancies in Maryland's state legislature are filled by **governor appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Takoma Park uses RCV in mayoral and city council elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	1	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There is **1 RCV ballot initiative** in Maryland this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Massachusetts



STATE RANKING

9th

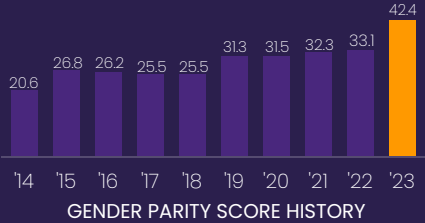
GENDER PARITY SCORE

42.4

THE FORMULA

Grade: B

This is the second year in a row that Massachusetts has been awarded a B.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

12.5

/30 points

Women in Congress

Massachusetts sends nine U.S. Representatives to the U.S. House each year; this year, three are women: Katherine Clark (D, 2013-present), Lori Trahan (D, 2019-present), and Ayanna Pressley (D, 2019-present). Senator Elizabeth Warren (D, 2013-present) is the first and only woman from Massachusetts to represent the state in the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	1
U.S. House	3 of 9	7

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

17.5

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are six statewide elective executive offices in Massachusetts; five are presently held by women: Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell (D, 2023-present), Auditor Diana DIZoglio (D, 2023-present), Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll (D, 2023-present), Treasurer Deborah Goldberg (D, 2015-present), and Governor Maura Healy (D, 2023-present), the second woman to ever serve as Governor of Massachusetts.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	1	2
Other	4 of 5	12

STATE LEGISLATURE

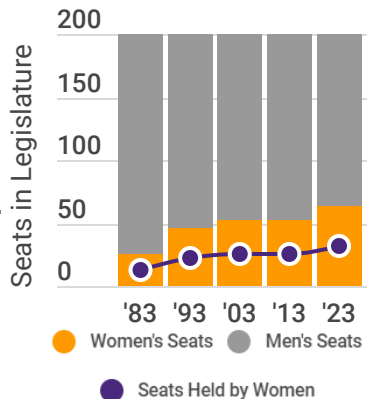
9.7

/30 points

Women State Legislators

The percentage of women in the state legislature has risen by roughly nine percentage points since 1993, rising from 23% to 32% today. Within the Massachusetts legislature, 58 (92%) women are Democrats, four (6%) are Republicans, and one (2%) is an independent.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

2.7

/10 points

Women's Representation

Sixteen (28%) of Massachusetts' fifty-eight cities with populations over 30,000 have women mayors. Of the five most populous counties with county governments in Massachusetts, Dukes County has a woman serving as county manager and one-third of Plymouth County's chairs are women. Ranked choice voting is used in Cambridge and Easthampton, MA.

TOTAL

42.4/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.



Massachusetts



STATE RANKING

9th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

42.4

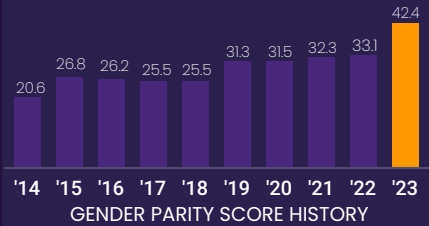
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has **no term limits**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Massachusetts uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections** for the state legislature.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Massachusetts **has limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, parties, or PACs can make to a candidate. Corporations are **prohibited** from contributing.

Massachusetts has a **public financing** program but it **does not include** state legislative offices.

Vacancies in Massachusetts' state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

Three localities have approved RCV: Easthampton, Cambridge, and Amherst.

Cambridge uses proportional RCV and Amherst is awaiting implementation.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	1	0
Multi-Winner RCV	6	2	1

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Massachusetts this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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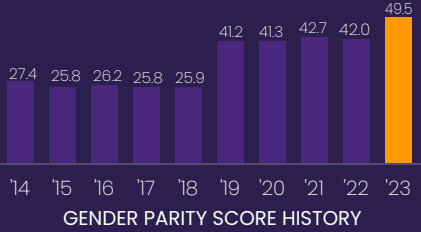




Michigan

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

3rd

GENDER PARITY SCORE

49.5

THE FORMULA

Grade: B

Michigan first received a B grade in 2019.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

14.4

/30 points

Women in Congress

Michigan sends fourteen representatives to the U.S. House each year; in 2023, six (43%) are women. Ruth Thompson (R, 1951-1957) was the first woman to represent Michigan in Congress as a representative to the U.S. House. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D, 2001-present) is the only woman Michigan has ever elected to serve in the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	1
U.S. House	6 of 14	15

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

21.7

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are four statewide elective executive positions in Michigan. As of this year, three are held by women. Gretchen Whitmer (D, 2019-present) is the second woman to serve as Michigan's Governor. She is joined by Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson (D, 2019-present) and Attorney General Dana Nessel (D, 2019-present). Jennifer Granholm (D, 2003-2011) was the first woman to serve as Governor of Michigan.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	1	2
Other	2 of 3	9

STATE LEGISLATURE

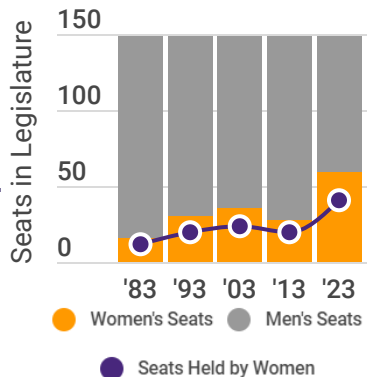
11.6

/30 points

Women State Legislators

The share of women in Michigan's statewide legislatures has risen twenty-nine percentage points from 11% in 1983 to 40% today. Currently, 75% of these women in office are Democrats and 25% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.7

/10 points

Women's Representation

Eight (23%) of Michigan's thirty-five cities with populations of over 30,000 people have women serving as mayor. Of the state's five largest counties, only Genesee County has women serving; women make up one-third (33%) of the county's commissioners (33%).

TOTAL

49.5/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.



Michigan



STATE RANKING

3rd

GENDER PARITY SCORE

49.5

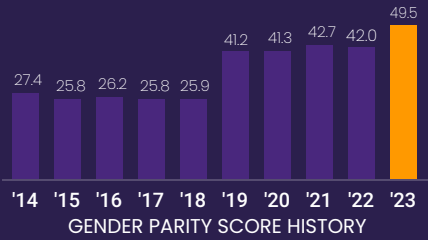
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Partisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Michigan uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators in the lower house are limited to **three terms** and those in the upper house are limited to **two terms**.

Michigan has the **same limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals and PACs can make to a candidate. Parties have **higher** limits. Corporations are **prohibited** from contributing.

Public funding is available for gubernatorial candidates only.

Vacancies in Michigan's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Five localities have shown interest in RCV but none presently use the system.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	1	0	2
Multi-Winner RCV	2	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Michigan this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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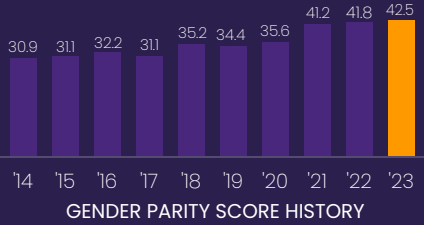




Minnesota

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

8th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

42.5

THE FORMULA

Grade: B

Minnesota first received a B grade in 2018.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

22.5

/30 points

Women in Congress

In 2023, four (50%) of Michigan's eight U.S. House Representatives are women. Both of Minnesota's U.S. Senators are women. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D) has served since 2007. In January 2018, Tina Smith (D) was appointed to fill Al Franken's seat in the U.S. Senate; in November 2018, she won the special election to fill the remainder of her predecessor's term.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	2	3
U.S. House	4 of 8	6

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

4.3

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are five statewide elective executive offices in Minnesota; two are currently held by women. Although a woman has never served as governor in Minnesota, its last nine lieutenant governors, including Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan (D, 2018–present), have been women. Lt. Governor Flanagan is joined by State Auditor Julie Blaha (DFL, 2018–present).

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	2 of 4	18

STATE LEGISLATURE

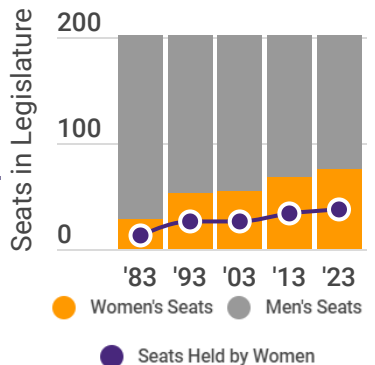
11.2

/30 points

Women State Legislators

In 1983, roughly 14% of state legislators in Minnesota were women. Currently, women make up about 38% of state legislators. Within the legislature, 74% of the women serving are Democrats and 26% are Republicans. Representation in the lower house, which uses multi-winner districts, is 7% higher than the upper house, which uses single member districts.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

4.5

/10 points

Women's Representation

Twelve (38%) of Minnesota's thirty-two cities with populations of at least 30,000 have women serving as mayor. Three of Minnesota's five most populous counties have women serving as county commission chair. Ranked choice voting is used in Bloomington, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park, and St. Paul.

TOTAL Paul.

42.5/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.



Minnesota



STATE RANKING

8th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

42.5

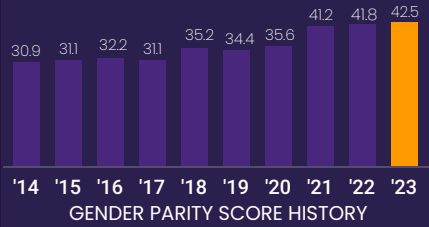
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has no **term limits**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Minnesota uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Minnesota has the **same limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals and PACs can make to a candidate. Parties have **higher** limits. Corporations are **prohibited** from contributing.

Minnesota also has a **public subsidy** program.

Vacancies in Minnesota's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

Five localities currently use RCV.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	4	0
Multi-Winner RCV	1	1	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Minnesota this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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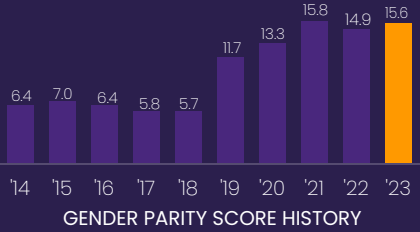




Mississippi

REPRESENT WOMEN

—Parity for Women in Politics—



STATE RANKING

40th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

15.6

Grade: D

Mississippi has received a D grade since 2019.

THE FORMULA

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

8.5

/30 points

Women in Congress

Mississippi sends four representatives to the U.S. House; none have ever been women. The state has only ever sent one woman to the U.S. Congress; Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R, 2018-present) was appointed to fill a vacancy in 2018. She subsequently won a special runoff election in November 2018 to complete the remainder of her predecessor's term.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	1
U.S. House	0 of 4	0

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

2.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are eight statewide elective executive offices in Mississippi; only one is held by a woman in 2023. Lynn Fitch (R, 2020-present) is the first woman to serve as the Attorney General of Mississippi. Mississippi has never had a woman governor.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	1 of 7	7

STATE LEGISLATURE

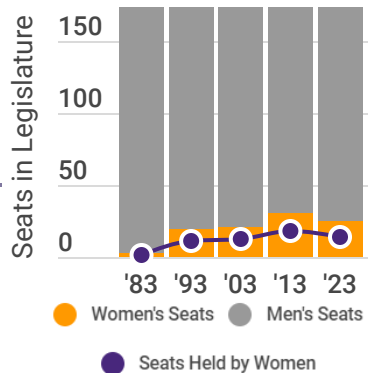
4.4

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Mississippi ranks 48th in the country for the proportion of women in its state legislature. Just 14% of its state legislators are women, a three percent increase from 1993 when women roughly made up 11% of state legislators. Within the legislature, 38% of the women members are Democrats, 56% are Republicans, and 8% are independent.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

0.7

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of Mississippi's eight cities with at least 30,000 people, zero women hold mayoral office. Only one of Mississippi's five most populous counties has a woman serving as the executive: Harrison County.

TOTAL

15.6 / 100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.



Mississippi



STATE RANKING

40th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

15.6

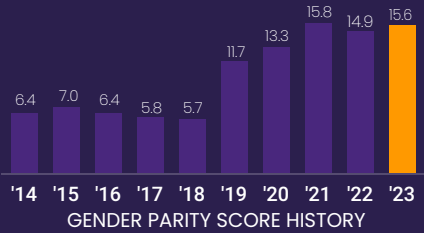
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Mississippi uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Mississippi has **no limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, parties, and PACs can make to a candidate. Corporations, however, **have limits**.

Vacancies in Mississippi's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Mississippi this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Missouri

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

37th

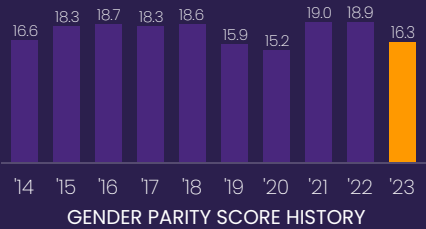
GENDER PARITY SCORE

16.3

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Missouri has received a D grade since 2003.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

6.3

/30 points

Women in Congress

In 2023, two of Missouri's eight representatives to the U.S. House are women: Ann Wagner (R, 2013-present) and Cori Bush (D, 2021-present). Missouri has historically sent two women to the U.S. Senate, but neither of Missouri's two current U.S. Senators are women.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	2
U.S. House	2 of 8	8

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

0.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are six statewide elective executive offices in Missouri; currently none are held by women. Missouri has never had a woman governor.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	0 of 5	10

STATE LEGISLATURE

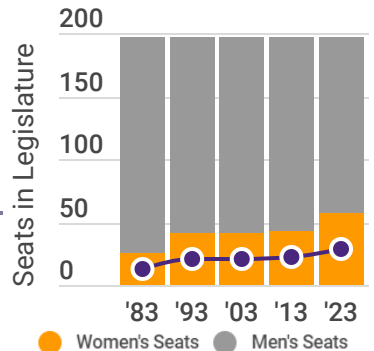
8.8

/30 points

Women State Legislators

The proportion of women in Missouri's statewide legislatures has risen eight percentage points from 21% in 1993 to 29% today. Of the women legislators, 58% are Democrats and 42% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.3

/10 points

Women's Representation

Four (19%) of Missouri's twenty-one cities with populations of over 30,000 people, have women mayors. Across Missouri's five largest counties, there are no women county executives.

● Seats Held by Women

TOTAL

16.3 / 100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.



Missouri



STATE RANKING

37th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

16.3

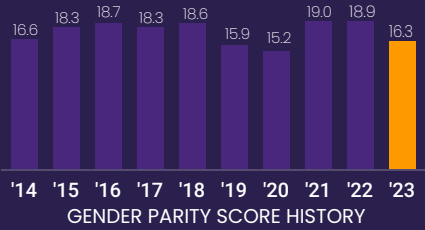
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Missouri uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators are limited to **eight years** in their lifetime.

Missouri has the **same limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, parties, and PACs can make to a candidate. Corporations are **prohibited** from contributing.

Vacancies in Missouri's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Missouri this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Montana

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

38th

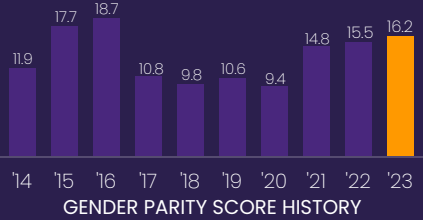
GENDER PARITY SCORE

16.2

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Montana has hovered between receiving a D and F grade since 1993.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

0.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Montana sends one representative to the U.S. House; there is only one woman who has ever held this position: Jeannette Rankin (R, 1917-1919; 1941-1943). Representative Rankin is the first U.S. Congresswoman to serve in any state. Montana has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	0 of 1	1

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

5.5

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are eleven statewide elective executive offices in Montana; three are held by a woman in 2023: Lt. Governor Kristen Juras (R, 2021-present), Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen (R, 2021-present), and Sup. of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen (R, 2017-present). Only one woman has ever served as Governor of Montana; Governor Judy Martz (R, 2001-2005).

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	3 of 10	21

STATE LEGISLATURE

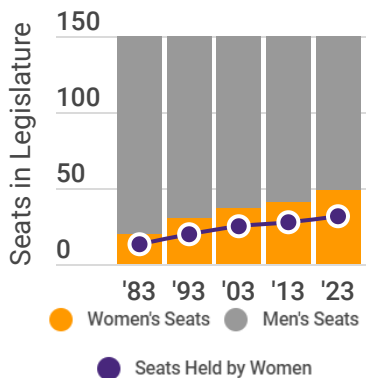
9.2

/30 points

Women State Legislators

The share of women in Montana's statewide legislatures has increased from roughly 20% in 1993 to 32% today. Approximately 52% of the women serving as legislators in Montana are Democrats; 48% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.6

/10 points

Women's Representation

There are six cities in Montana with populations of at least 30,000 people or more. Of these cities, just one has a woman serving as mayor. In the state's five most populous counties, only Flathead County and Gallatin County have women serving as chairs.

TOTAL

16.2 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.



Montana



STATE RANKING

38th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

16.2

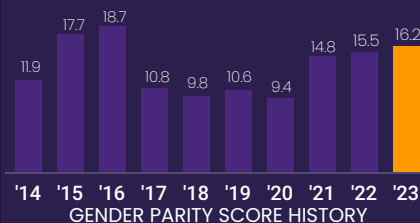
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **eight years** in any sixteen year period.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Montana uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators are limited to **eight years** in any sixteen year period.

Montana has the **same limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals and PACs can make to a candidate. Parties have **higher** limits. Corporations are **prohibited** from contributing.

Vacancies in Montana's state legislature are filled by **board of county commissioners appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Montana this November.

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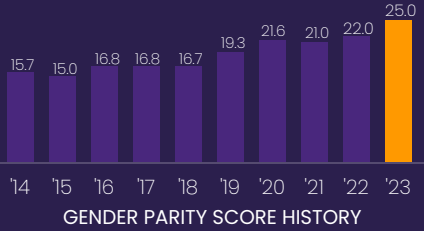




Nebraska

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

26th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

25.0

THE FORMULA

Grade: C

This is the first time Nebraska has received a C grade since 2013.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

9.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Senator Deb Fischer (R, 2013-present) is the only woman representing Nebraska in the U.S. Congress. In its history, the state has only ever sent three women to the U.S. Senate and one to the U.S. House: Senator Eva Bowring (R, 1954), Senator Hazel Hempel Abel (R, 1954), and Congresswoman Virginia Dodd Smith (R, 1975-1991).

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	3
U.S. House	0 of 3	1

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

1.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are eleven statewide elective executives in Nebraska; two are women in 2023. In 1982, Kay A. Orr (R) became the first woman elected to a statewide executive office in Nebraska (State Treasurer) after being appointed the year prior. In 1986, Orr defeated Helen Boosalis (D) in the first U.S. gubernatorial election that featured women from both major parties, becoming Nebraska's first woman governor (1987-1990).

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	2 of 10	10

STATE LEGISLATURE

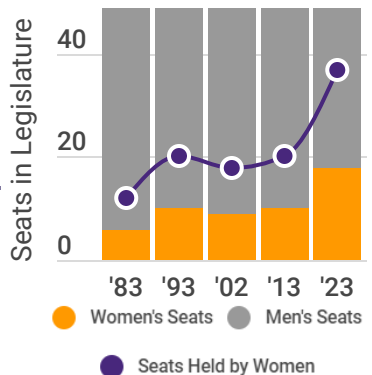
10.3

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Since 1993, the share of women in Nebraska's unicameral and nonpartisan state legislature has increased from roughly 20% to 37% today.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

4.7

/10 points

Women's Representation

There are five cities in Nebraska with populations of 30,000 people or more; two have a woman serving as mayor. In the state's five most populous counties, Douglass County, Sarpy County, and Lancaster County have a woman serving as chair.

TOTAL

25.0/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.



Nebraska



STATE RANKING

26th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

25.0

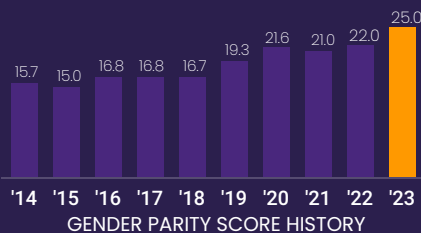
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Nebraska uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators are limited to **two consecutive terms**.

Nebraska has the **no limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, PACs, parties, and corporations can make to a candidate.

Vacancies in Nebraska's state legislature are filled by **governor appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Nebraska this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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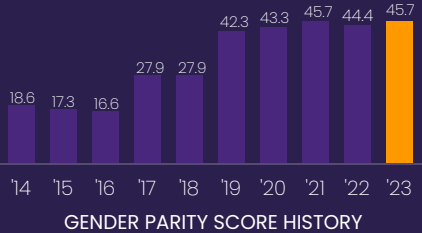
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Nevada

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

5th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

45.7

THE FORMULA

Grade: B

Nevada has received a B grade since 2019.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

20.7

/30 points

Women in Congress

Both of Nevada's U.S. Senators and two of its four U.S. Representatives are women. Catherine Cortez-Masto (D, 2017-present) is the first woman to serve as a U.S. Senator in Nevada and the first Latina to serve as a U.S. Senator in any state. Dina Titus (D, 2013-present) and Susie Lee (D, 2019-present) represent Nevada in the U.S. House.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	2	2
U.S. House	2 of 4	6

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

0.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are six statewide elective executives in Nevada; in 2022, three (50%) were women, but now in 2023, none are women. Lieutenant Governor: Lisa Cano Burkhead (D, 2021-2022), Secretary of State: Barbara Cegavske (R, 2015-2022), and Comptroller, Catherine Byrne (D, 2019-2022) all left office in 2022. A woman has never been Governor of Nevada.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	0 of 5	16

STATE LEGISLATURE

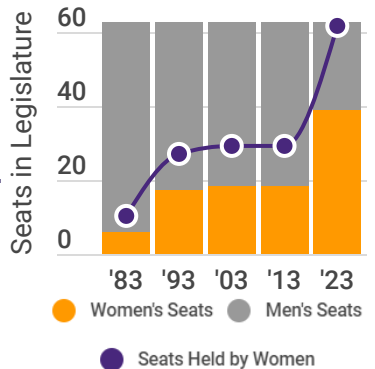
18.8

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Nevada was the first state to achieve parity between its statewide legislatures in 2019. In 2023, women hold 62% of the seats in the state senate, the state house, and of the available seats overall. Approximately 77% of the women legislators holding these seats are Democrats and 23% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

6.2

/10 points

Women's Representation

There are six cities in Nevada with populations of 30,000 people or more. Of these cities, almost all (5) have women serving as mayor. Of the state's five most populous counties, one has a woman serving as the executive: Washoe County.

TOTAL

45.7/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Nevada



Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

5th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

45.7

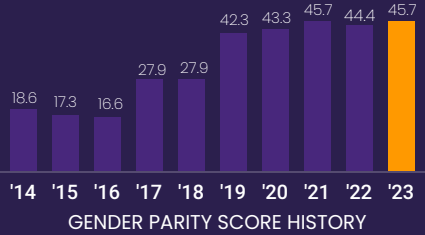
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Nevada uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators are limited to **twelve years in their lifetime**.

Nevada has the **no limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, PACs, parties, and corporations can make to a candidate.

Vacancies in Nevada's state legislature are filled by the **City Board**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There is **1 potential RCV ballot initiative** in Nevada in 2024.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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New Hampshire

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

10th

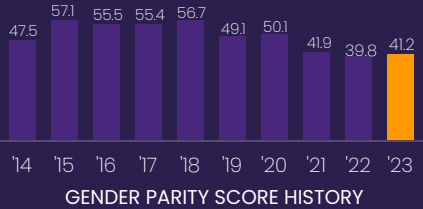
GENDER PARITY SCORE

41.2

THE FORMULA

Grade: B

In 2015, NH was the first state to receive an A grade. It maintained parity until 2018. NH also received an A in 2020.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

24.5

/30 points

Women in Congress

Since 2017, New Hampshire has been represented by two women in the U.S. Senate: Maggie Hassan (D, 2017-present) and Jeanne Shaheen (D, 2009-present) serve. Only one of New Hampshire's two U.S. Representatives is a woman: Congresswoman Ann McLane Kuster (D, 2013-present).

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	2	3
U.S. House	1 of 2	4

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

0.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

The sole statewide elective executive for New Hampshire is the state's governor. There have been three women to have held this office in the state's history. The most recent woman was Maggie Hassan (D), who served from 2013-2017.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	3
Other	0 of 0	0

STATE LEGISLATURE

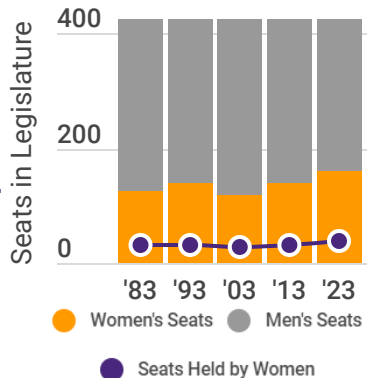
12.7

/30 points

Women State Legislators

The share of women in New Hampshire's state legislature has slightly increased since 1993. In 1993, women made up 33%; in 2023 it is 38%. Within the legislature, 66% of the women who serve are Democrats and 34% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

4.0

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of the six cities in New Hampshire with populations of 30,000 people or more, only two have a woman mayor. In the five most populous counties, three of the counties have woman chairs or supervisors: Hillsborough, Merrimack, and Grafton.

TOTAL

41.2 / 100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



New Hampshire



STATE RANKING

10th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

41.2

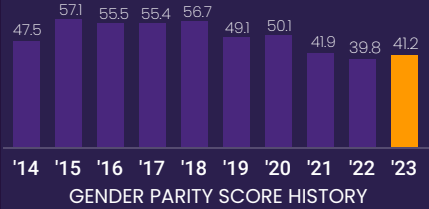
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner and Multi-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has **no term limits**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

New Hampshire uses **single-winner districts** for its upper house, **multi-winner districts** for its lower house, and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

New Hampshire has the **same limits** for the amounts individuals, parties, corporations, and PACs can contribute.

Vacancies in New Hampshire's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in New Hampshire this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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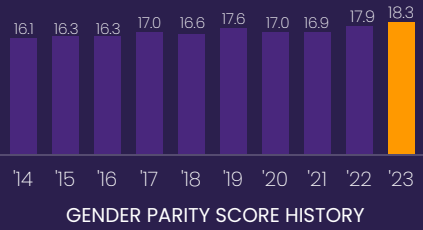
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New Jersey



STATE RANKING

34th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

18.3

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

New Jersey has received a D grade since 2003.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

2.5

/30 points

Women in Congress

New Jersey sends twelve representatives to the U.S. House; in 2023, two are women. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D) has served since 2015 and has the distinction of being the first Black woman elected to the U.S. House from New Jersey. In 2019, Mikie Sherrill (D) joined her. New Jersey has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	2 of 12	7

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

5.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are two statewide elective executive positions in New Jersey: the governor and lieutenant governor. The state's first two lieutenant governors have been women, with the first being Kim Guadagno (R, 2010–2017); Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver (D, 2018–present) is the second. Lt. Governor Oliver is also the first woman of color to serve in statewide elected office in the history of the state.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	1 of 1	2

STATE LEGISLATURE

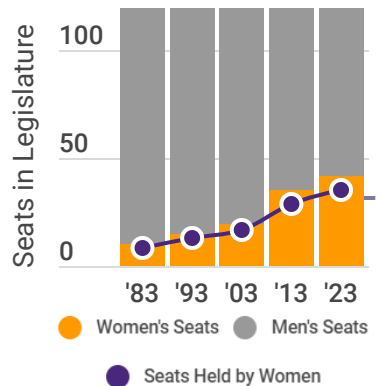
9.8

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Since 1993, the share of women in New Jersey's legislature has increased over two and a half times from 13% to 35%. Representation in the lower house, which uses multi-member districts, is 11% greater than in the upper house, which uses single-member districts. Within the legislature, 67% of the women serving as legislators are Democrats and 33% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.0

/100 points

Women's Representation

New Jersey has seventy-four cities with populations over 30,000 people. Eleven of them (15%) have women mayors. None of the state's five largest counties have women serving as executive leaders.

TOTAL

18.3 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



New Jersey



STATE RANKING

34th
GENDER PARITY SCORE

18.3

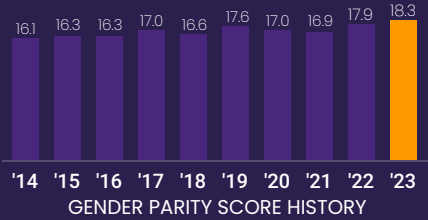
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner and Multi-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

New Jersey uses **single-winner districts** for its upper house, **multi-winner districts for its lower house**, and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

New Jersey has the **same limits** for contributions made by individuals or corporations. PACs have **higher limits** and parties have **no limits**.

Vacancies in New Jersey are filled by a **hybrid model** of **appointments** and **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in New Jersey this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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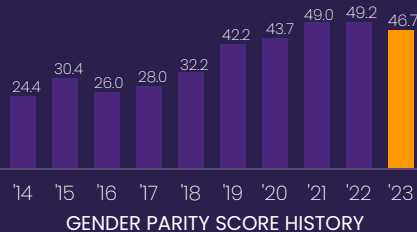
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New Mexico

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

4th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

46.7

THE FORMULA

Grade: B

This is the first time in two years that New Mexico has been ranked lower than 1st place. However, NM has never received an A grade.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

8.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

New Mexico used to be the only state with an all-woman U.S. House delegation. However, Yvette S. Herrell (R-2022) left office in January 2023. The current New Mexico U.S. Congresswomen are Teresa Leger Fernandez (D, 2021-present), and Melainie Stansbury (D, 2021-present). New Mexico has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	2 of 3	8

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

23.5

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are ten statewide elective executive officers in New Mexico; in 2023, four are women including Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (D, 2019-present). New Mexico has had the second-most total women (30) serve as statewide executives in the country; since 1923, all twenty of its secretaries of state have been women.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	1	1
Other	3 of 9	30

STATE LEGISLATURE

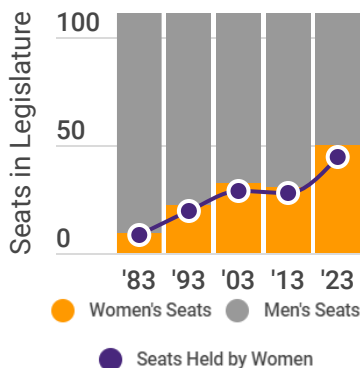
12.1

/30 points

Women State Legislators

The proportion of women serving in New Mexico's state legislature has more than doubled from 20% in 1993 to 45% in 2023. It is one of three states where their lower house has achieved or surpassed gender parity (54% in New Mexico). Of the women serving as state legislators, 82% of them are Democrats and 18% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

3.1

/10 points

Women's Representation

New Mexico has ten cities with populations of 30,000 people or greater; only one has a woman serving as mayor. Of the state's five most populous counties, four are led by women. Ranked choice voting is used in Santa Fe, NM, and Las Cruces, NM.

TOTAL

46.7/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.

New Mexico



STATE RANKING

4th

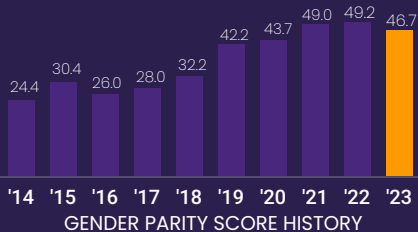
GENDER PARITY SCORE

46.7

STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)
Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?
Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

New Mexico uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

New Mexico has the **same limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, PACs, parties, or corporations can make to a candidate.

Vacancies in New Mexico's state legislature are filled by **board of county commissioners appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Las Cruces and Santa Fe use RCV for municipal elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	2	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in New Mexico this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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New York



STATE RANKING

12th

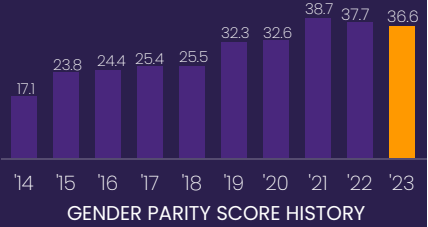
GENDER PARITY SCORE

36.6

THE FORMULA

Grade: B

New York has received a B grade since 2021.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

11.5

/30 points

Women in Congress

Hillary Clinton (D, 2001-2009) was the first woman to represent New York in the U.S. Senate. In 2009, Kristen Gillibrand (D, 2009-present) was appointed to fill her vacated seat and has since been re-elected. New York sends twenty-six U.S. Representatives to the U.S House; in 2023, seven of these representatives are women.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	2
U.S. House	7 of 26	29

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

14.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are four statewide elective executives in New York; in 2023, two are women. In 2021, Kathy Hochul (D, 2021-present) became the first woman to serve as the Governor of New York when her predecessor vacated the seat. Attorney General Letitia James (D, 2019-present) has the distinction of being the first woman and African-American to be elected Attorney General of New York.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	1	1
Other	1 of 3	7

STATE LEGISLATURE

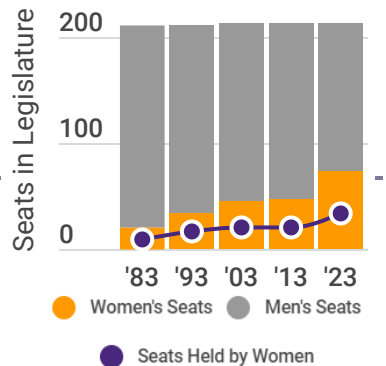
9.9

/30 points

Women State Legislators

The proportion of women holding seats in New York's statewide legislatures has nearly doubled from 17% in 1993 to 34% in 2023. Of these legislators, 92% are Democrats and 8% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.2

/10 points

Women's Representation

There are sixty-seven cities in New York with populations of at least 30,000 people; twelve of these cities (17%) are led by women mayors. Of New York's five most populous counties, zero are led by women. In 2021, New York City used ranked-choice voting for its primary municipal elections.

TOTAL

36.6/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



New York



STATE RANKING

12th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

36.6

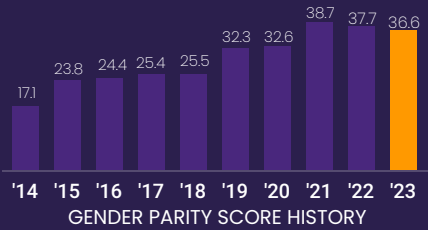
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has **no term limits**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

New York uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

New York has the **same limits** on the monetary contributions that individuals, PACs, or parties, can make to a candidate. Corporations have **lower limits**. Campaign contribution limits are different for primary and general elections.

Vacancies in New York's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. New York City uses RCV in municipal primaries.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	1	0
Multi-Winner RCV	2	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in New York this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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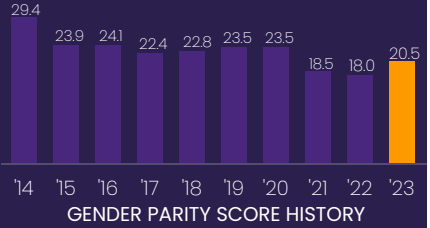




North Carolina

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

31st

GENDER PARITY SCORE

20.5

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

North Carolina's score has been decreasing since 2014. This is the state's highest D grade in three years

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

5.4

/30 points

Women in Congress

North Carolina sends fourteen representatives to the U.S. House; in 2023, five are women: Virginia Foxx (R, 2005-present), Alma Adams (D, 2014-present) Kathy Manning (D, 2021-present), Valerie Foushee (D, 2023-present), and Deborah Ross (D, 2021-present). Neither of North Carolina's two U.S. Senators are women.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	2
U.S. House	5 of 14	9

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

3.5

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are ten statewide elective executives in NC; in 2023, three are women: Secretary of State Elaine Marshall (D, 1997-present), Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt (R, 2021-present), and State Auditor Beth Wood (D, 2009-present). SoS Marshall was the first woman elected to statewide executive office in NC. Only one woman has served as Governor of NC: Beverly M. Perdue (R, 2009-2012).

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	3 of 9	9

STATE LEGISLATURE

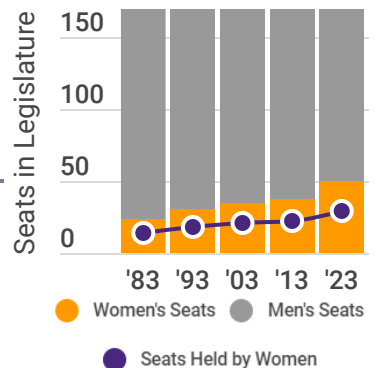
9.1

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Women hold 50 out of the 170 seats (29%) in North Carolina's statewide legislatures. Of these women, 74% are Democrats and 26% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

2.6

/10 points

Women's Representation

There are thirty-five cities in North Carolina with populations of at least 30,000 people; ten of these cities have women mayors. In the five most populous counties, two of the county executives are women.

TOTAL

20.5/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



North Carolina



STATE RANKING

31st

GENDER PARITY SCORE

20.5

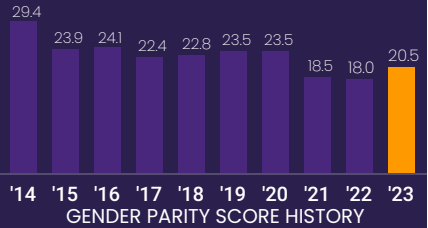
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

North Carolina uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**. State legislators have **no term limits**.

North Carolina has the **same limits** for how much individuals and PACs can contribute to candidates. Parties have **no limits**, and corporations are **prohibited** from making contributions.

Vacancies in North Carolina's state legislature are filled by **governor appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Cary and Hendersonville used RCV in a 2007 pilot program.

RCV was also used for local-level judicial vacancy elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	3	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in North Carolina this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.

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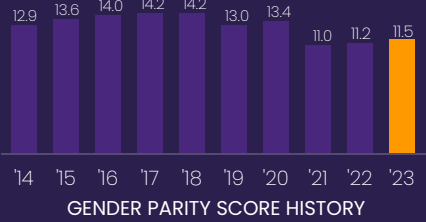
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North Dakota

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

49th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

11.5

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

North Dakota has received a D grade since 2013.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

3.3

/30 points

Women in Congress

ND sends a single representative to the U.S. House; this representative has never been a woman. In the U.S. Senate, ND has had two separate women: Jocelyn Birch Burdick (D, 1992) was appointed to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband. The only woman to win a congressional election in ND was Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D, 2013-2019).

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	2
U.S. House	0 of 1	0

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

1.5

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are thirteen statewide elective executive offices in North Dakota; four are presently held by women. These women are Public Service Commissioner's Julie Fedorchak (R, 2013-present) and Sheri Haugen-Hoffart (R, 2022-present), Superintendent of Public Instruction Kristen Baesler (NP, 2013-present), and Lt. Governor Tammy Miller (R, 2023-present). North Dakota has never had a woman governor.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	4 of 12	20

STATE LEGISLATURE

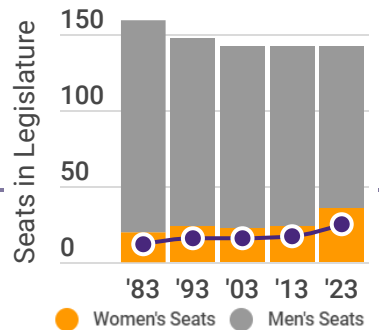
6.4

/30 points

Women State Legislators

In North Dakota's statewide legislatures, women hold 25% seats. Of these women, about 29% are Democrats and 71% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

0.3

/10 points

Women's Representation

In North Dakota's five most populous cities, none have a woman mayor. Women hold executive office in two of North Dakota's five most populous counties.

TOTAL

11.5 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.

North Dakota



STATE RANKING

49th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

11.5

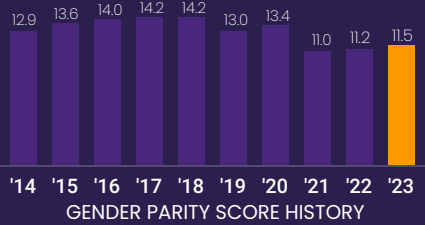
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner and Multi-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has **no term limits**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

North Dakota uses **single-winner districts** in its upper house, **multi-winner districts** in its lower house, and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

North Dakota has **no limits** on how much individuals, PACs, parties, or corporations can contribute to candidates.

Vacancies in North Dakota's state legislature are filled by **political party appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in North Dakota this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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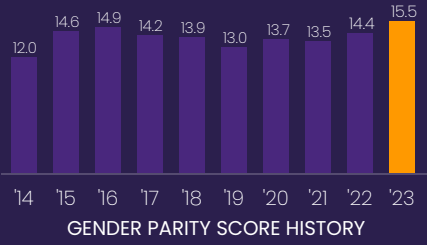




Ohio

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

41st

GENDER PARITY SCORE

15.5

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Ohio has received a D grade since 2013.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

4.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Ohio sends sixteen representatives to the U.S. House; presently, four are women: Marcy Kaptur (D, 1983–present), Shontel Brown (D, 2021–present), Joyce Beatty (D, 2013–present), and Emily Strong Sykes (D, 2023–present). Of these women, Congresswoman Kaptur, elected in 1982, is the longest-serving woman member in the House. Ohio has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	4 of 15	12

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

0.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are six statewide elective executives in Ohio; none are women in 2023. Lt. Governor Mary Taylor (R, 2011–2019) was the most recent statewide executive to hold office in Ohio. Nancy Hollister (R, 1998–1999) temporarily served as governor for eleven days in the late 90s, but Ohio has never elected a woman to the office.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	0 of 5	12

STATE LEGISLATURE

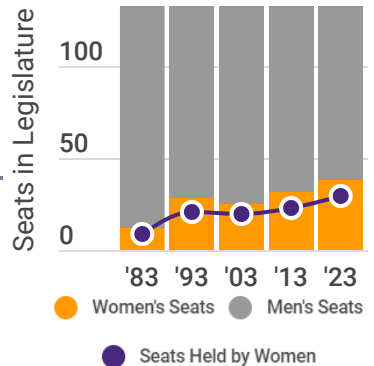
7.6

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Women hold 29% of the statewide legislative positions in Ohio. Of these women, 42% are Democrats and 58% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

3.9

/10 points

Women's Representation

There are forty-nine cities in Ohio with populations of over 30,000 people; twelve (24%) of these cities are led by women mayors. Of the state's five most populous counties, three are led by women.

TOTAL

15.5/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

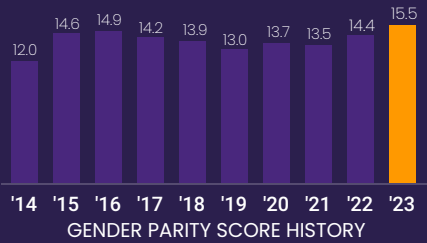
* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



Ohio

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



#GenderParityIndex2023

STATE RANKING

41st

GENDER PARITY SCORE

15.5

STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Ohio uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators in the lower house are limited to **four consecutive terms**, and state legislators in the upper house are limited to **two consecutive terms**.

Ohio has the **same limits** for how much individuals and PACs can contribute to candidates. Parties have **higher contribution limits** and corporations are **prohibited** from making monetary contributions.

Vacancies in Ohio's state legislature are filled by an **election by members of the legislative house** of the party that previously held the seat.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Ashtabula, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Hamilton have all used multi-winner RCV for city council elections in the past.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	4	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Ohio this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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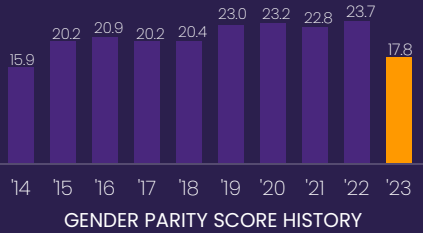




Oklahoma

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

36th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

17.8

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Oklahoma has received a D grade since 2013. This is the lowest D grade the state has received since 2014

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

2.8

/30 points

Women in Congress

Of the five representatives Oklahoma sends to the U.S. House; only one is a woman: Representative Stephanie Bice (R, 2021-present). Bice is the first Iranian-American to be elected to Congress. The state has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	1 of 5	4

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

7.2

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are eleven statewide elective executives in Oklahoma; three are women. These women include Corporation Commissioner Kim David (R, 2023-present), Sup. of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister (R, 2015-present), Commissioner of Labor Leslie Osborn (R, 2019-present), and State Auditor Cindy Byrd (R, 2019-present). The first and only woman to serve as Governor of Oklahoma was Mary Fallin (R, 2011-2018).

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	3 of 10	17

STATE LEGISLATURE

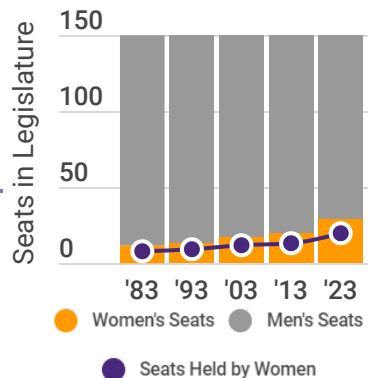
5.6

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Women compose 19% of Oklahoma state representatives. Of those women, 52% of the women are Democrats and 48% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

2.3

/10 points

Women's Representation

There are fourteen cities in Oklahoma with populations of 30,000 people and above, presently only three of these cities have women mayors. Of the five most populous counties in Oklahoma, only two have women county executives: Oklahoma County and Canadian County.

TOTAL

17.8 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



Oklahoma



STATE RANKING

36th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

17.8

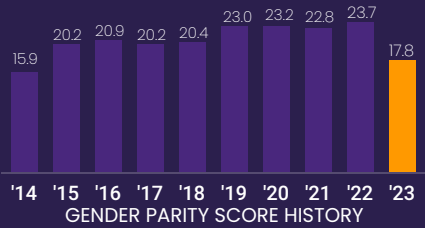
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Oklahoma uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators are limited to **twelve years**.

Oklahoma **has contribution limits** for individuals, parties, and PACs. Corporations are **prohibited** from making monetary contributions to candidates.

Vacancies in Oklahoma's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Oklahoma this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Oregon



STATE RANKING

2nd

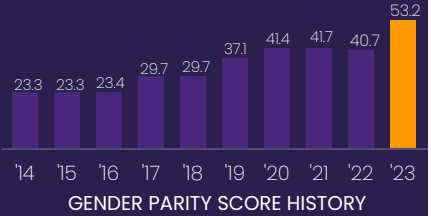
GENDER PARITY SCORE

53.2

THE FORMULA

Grade: A

Oregon is one of the only two states to receive an A grade. Before 2023, Oregon had received consistent B grades.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

10.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Oregon elected three new women to the House of Representatives in 2023. These women are Lori Chavez-DeRemner (R, 2023-present), Val Hoyle (D, 2023-present), and Andrea Salinas (D, 2023-present) Oregon has not elected a woman to the U.S. Senate since Maurine Brown Neuberger (D, 1960-1967).

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	1
U.S. House	4 of 6	8

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

28.1

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are five statewide elective executive officers in Oregon; in 2022, four are women: Governor Tina Kotek (D, 2023-present), Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum (D, 2013-present), and Commissioner of Labor Christina Stephenson (NP, 2023-present). Former Oregon governor, Kate Brown (D, 2015-2022) was the first openly bisexual governor in the country.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	1	2
Other	3 of 4	12

STATE LEGISLATURE

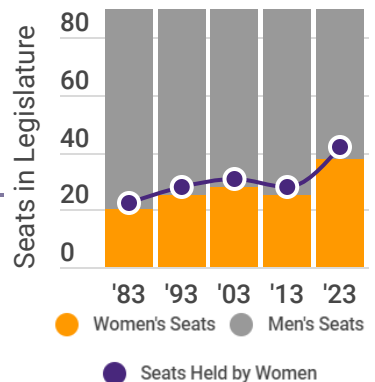
11.0

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Oregon ranks tenth in the country for the proportion of women who hold seats in its statewide legislatures. Overall, 42% of representatives are women. Of these women legislators, 66% of the Democrats and 34% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

4.1

/10 points

Women's Representation

Eighteen cities have populations of 30,000 or above in Oregon; eight have women mayors. Of Oregon's five most populous counties, all have at least one woman chair. Ranked choice voting is used in Benton County and Corvallis.

TOTAL

53.2/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



Oregon



STATE RANKING

2nd

GENDER PARITY SCORE

53.2

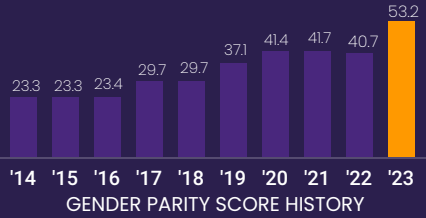
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Partisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Oregon uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Oregon has **no limits** on how much individuals, PACs, parties, or corporations can contribute to candidates.

Vacancies in Oregon's state legislature are filled by **board of county commissioners appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Benton County and Corvallis currently use RCV. Upcoming implementations are in Portland (2024) and Multnomah County (2026).

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	2	1
Multi-Winner RCV	1	0	1

There is **1 RCV ballot initiative** in Oregon **next** November (2024).

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Pennsylvania



STATE RANKING

35th

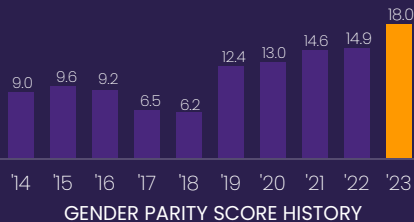
GENDER PARITY SCORE

18.0

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Pennsylvania has received a D grade since 2019 and consistently received an F before that.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

4.4

/30 points

Women in Congress

Pennsylvania sends seventeen representatives to the U.S. House; in 2023, five of these representatives are women. These women are Madeleine Dean (D, 2019-present), Mary Scanlon (D, 2018-present), Chrissy Houlahan (D, 2019-present), Susan Wild (D, 2018-present), and Summer Lee (D, 2023-present). Pennsylvania has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	5 of 17	13

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

1.7

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are five statewide elective executive offices in Pennsylvania; in 2023, two of these offices are held by women. Stacy Garrity (R, 2021-present) serves as Pennsylvania's State Treasurer, and Michell Henry (D, 2023-present) is the states' Attorney General. A woman has never served as Governor of Pennsylvania.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	2 of 4	11

STATE LEGISLATURE

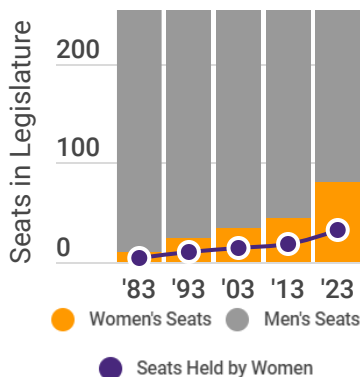
10.1

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Of the 253 seats in Pennsylvania's statewide legislatures, 80 (32%) are held by women. Of these women serving as state legislators, 55% are Democrats and 45% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.9

/10 points

Women's Representation

Just seven out of Pennsylvania's thirty-nine cities with populations of over 30,000 people have women serving as mayor. Of the state's five largest counties, one has a woman county executives: Delaware County.

TOTAL

18.0 / 100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



Pennsylvania



STATE RANKING

35th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

18.0

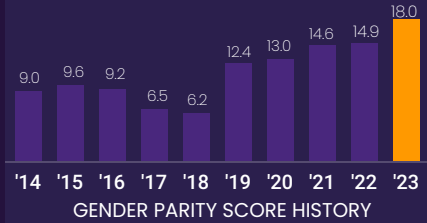
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Pennsylvania uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Pennsylvania has **no limits** for how much individuals, parties, and PACs can contribute. Corporations are **prohibited** from making campaign contributions.

Vacancies in Pennsylvania's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Pennsylvania this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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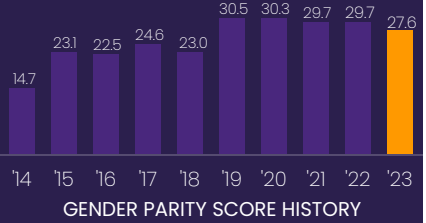




Rhode Island

REPRESENT WOMEN

—Parity for Women in Politics—



#GenderParityIndex2023

STATE RANKING

19th*

GENDER PARITY SCORE

27.6

THE FORMULA

Grade: C

Rhode Island has received a C grade since 2019. The state is tied for 19th place with Alabama

U.S. CONGRESS

0.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Rhode Island has only ever sent one woman to Congress; Claudine Schneider (R) was elected in 1980 and served as a U.S. House Representative from 1981 to 1991. The state has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	0 of 2	1

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

12.9

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are five statewide elective executives in Rhode Island. In 2023, one is a woman: Lt. Governor Sabina Matos (D, 2021-present). Gina M. Raimondo (D, 2015-2021) was Rhode Island's first and only woman governor.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	1 of 4	9

STATE LEGISLATURE

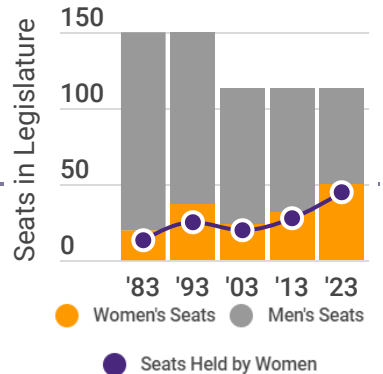
12.9

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Rhode Island ranks 8th in the country in terms of women state legislators in the country. In 2023, Rhode Island women hold 44% of seats in the statewide legislatures. The proportion of women serving in the legislature has increased by 19% since 1993. Of the women, 90% are Democrats and 10% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.8

/10 points

Women's Representation

Rhode Island has eleven cities with populations of at least 30,000 people or more. Only two have women serving as mayor. While Rhode Island has counties, it does not have local government at the county level.

TOTAL

27.6/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



Rhode Island



STATE RANKING

19th"

GENDER PARITY SCORE

27.6

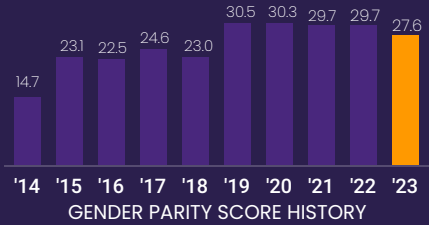
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**. Rhode Island has a **Matching Public Funds** Program.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Rhode Island uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**. State legislators have **no term limits**.

Rhode Island has the **same contribution limits** for individuals, and PACs. Parties have slightly **higher limits**. Corporations are **prohibited** from making campaign contributions.

Vacancies in Rhode Island's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Rhode Island this November.

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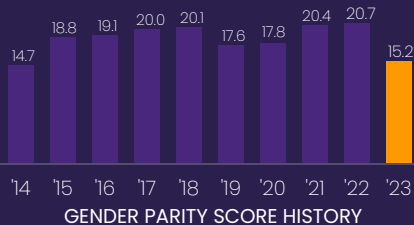




South Carolina

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

42nd

GENDER PARITY SCORE

15.2

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

South Carolina has received a D grade since 2013. The state's score has dropped over 5 points since last year.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

2.1

/30 points

Women in Congress

In 2023, one of South Carolina's seven U.S House representatives is a woman: Nancy Mace (R, 2021-present). She is the first woman sent to South Carolina's congressional delegation since Elizabeth Patterson (D, 1987-1993). The state has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	1 of 7	6

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

7.8

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are eight statewide elective executives in South Carolina; in 2023, two are held by women. These women are Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette (R, 2019-present) and Superintendent of Public Instruction Ellen Weaver (R, 2023-present). When Nikki Haley (R, 2011-2017) was elected as Governor in 2010, she became the first woman to serve as Governor of South Carolina and the first Indian-American woman in the nation to serve as

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	2 of 7	6

STATE LEGISLATURE

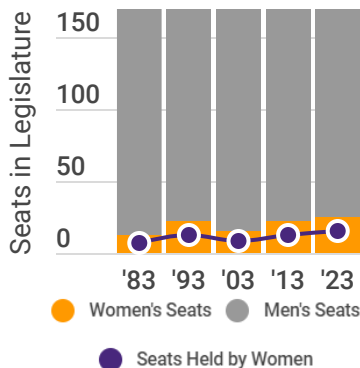
3.8

/30 points

Women State Legislators

South Carolina is one of the lowest-ranked states in women's representation in its statewide legislatures. Overall, just 15% of state representatives are women. Within the legislature, 36% of these women are Democrats and 60% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.6

/10 points

Women's Representation

There are fifteen cities in South Carolina with populations of 30,000 people or more; just two have a woman serving as mayor. Of the state's five most populous counties, none have a woman executive.

TOTAL

15.2 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



South Carolina



STATE RANKING

42nd

GENDER PARITY SCORE

15.2

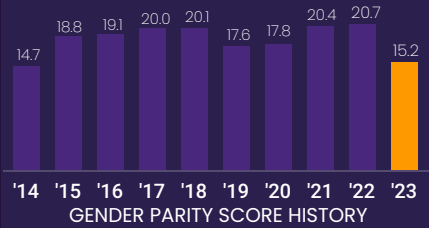
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

South Carolina uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**. State legislators have **no term limits**.

South Carolina has the **same contribution limits** for individuals, and PACs. Parties have slightly **higher limits**. Corporations are **prohibited** from making campaign contributions.

Vacancies in South Carolina's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in South Carolina this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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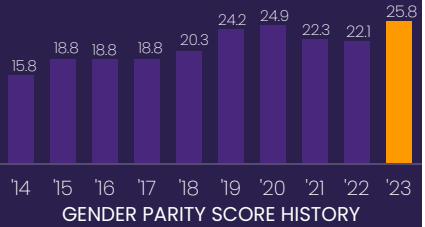




South Dakota

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

25th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

25.8

THE FORMULA

Grade: C

This is the first year South Dakota has received a C grade since 2013. South Dakota received D grades for the past 10 years.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

0.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

South Dakota sends one representative to the U.S. House each year; no woman currently holds this position. In 2023, no woman represents South Dakota in the U.S. Senate. The first woman South Dakota sent to the Senate was Gladys Pyle (R, 1938-1939) who won a special election to finish her predecessor's term. She was the first woman to be elected to the Senate without a prior appointment to the position.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	2
U.S. House	0 of 1	2

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

17.5

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are ten statewide elective executives in South Dakota; in 2023, three are held by women. Kristi Lynn Noem (R, 2019-present) became the first woman elected Governor of South Dakota in November 2018. Kristie Fiegan (R, 2011-present) is one of South Dakota's three Public Utilities Commissioners, and Monae Johnson (R, 2022-present) is South Dakota's Secretary of State.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	1	1
Other	2 of 9	27

STATE LEGISLATURE

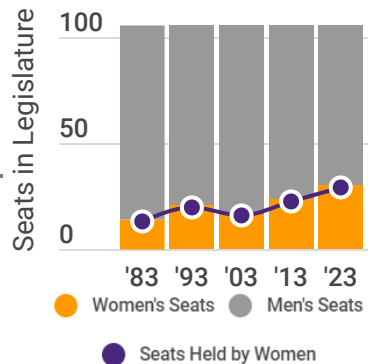
7.6

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Overall, the proportion of women in South Dakota's statewide legislatures has increased nearly ten percent since 1993 from 20% to 29% in 2023. Of these women, 20% are Democrats and 80% are Republicans. Representation in South Dakota's lower house, which uses multi-member districts, is 8% greater than representation in the upper house, which uses single-member districts.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

0.7

/10 points

Women's Representation

In South Dakota's five most populous cities, none have a woman serving as mayor. In the state's five most populous counties, two have women as their county executives: Minnehaha County, and Lincoln County.

TOTAL

25.8 / 100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



South Dakota



STATE RANKING

25th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

25.8

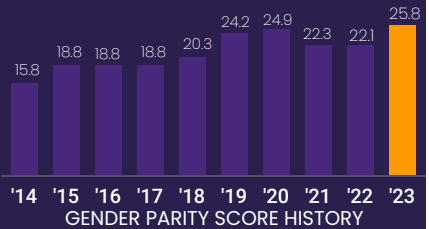
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner and Multi-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

South Dakota uses **multi-winner districts** in the state lower house and **single-winner districts** in the state upper house.

State legislators are limited to **four consecutive terms**.

South Dakota has the **same limit** on the monetary contributions from individuals and corporations. Parties and PACs have **no contribution limits**.

Vacancies in South Dakota's state legislature are filled by **governor appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in South Dakota this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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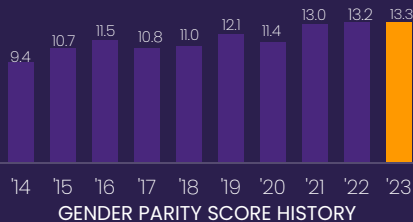




Tennessee

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

45th^{*}

GENDER PARITY SCORE

13.3

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Tennessee has received a D grade since 2015. The state received an F beforehand. Tennessee is tied with Utah for 45th place.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

6.7

/30 points

Women in Congress

Tennessee sends nine representatives to the U.S. House each year. In 2023, one is a woman: Diana Harshbarger (R, 2021-present). One woman represents Tennessee in the U.S. Senate: Marsha Blackburn (R, 2019-present). Senator Blackburn is the first woman that Tennessee sent to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	1
U.S. House	1 of 9	7

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

0.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

Presently, the only statewide elective executive office in Tennessee is the state governor; until 1996, Tennessee also elected a three-member Public Service Commission. Neither party in Tennessee has ever nominated a woman candidate in a gubernatorial election. No woman has ever served as Governor of Tennessee.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	0 of 0	2

STATE LEGISLATURE

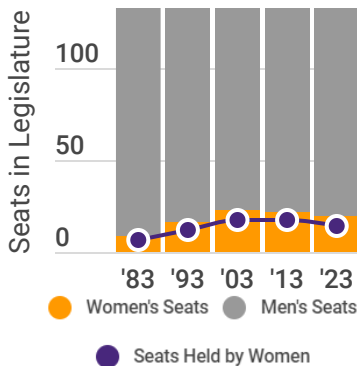
4.9

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Tennessee is ranked 48th in the country for the proportion of women in its statewide legislatures. Between the lower and upper houses, women hold only 14% of the available seats. Of those women, 37% are Democrats and 63% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.7

/10 points

Women's Representation

There are twenty-seven cities in Tennessee with populations of 30,000 people or more; just four (14%) have women serving as mayor. Of the state's five most populous counties, none have women in county executive positions.

TOTAL

13.3 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



Tennessee



STATE RANKING

45th"

GENDER PARITY SCORE

13.3

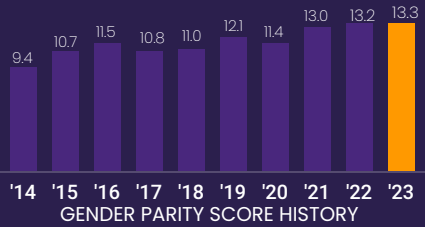
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Tennessee uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Tennessee has the **same limits** on the monetary contributions from corporations and PACs. Individuals and parties have differing contribution limits.

Vacancies in Tennessee's state legislature are filled by a **hybrid system** of special elections if there are over 12 months remaining in the term, or a vote of the legislative body if there are less than 12 months remaining.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	1
Multi-Winner RCV	2	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Tennessee this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Texas

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

44th

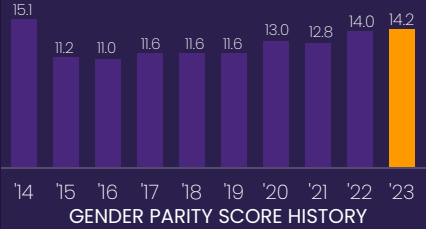
GENDER PARITY SCORE

14.2

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Texas has consistently received a D grade since 1993.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

3.2

/30 points

Women in Congress

Texas sends 36 representatives to the U.S. House; in 2023, eight are women. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R, 1993-2013) is the only woman to have served as a U.S. Senator for Texas; Senator Hutchison initially won a special election to fill a vacancy in 1993, but she was later re-elected.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	1
U.S. House	8 of 36	13

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

1.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

Texas has nine statewide elective executives; in 2023, two are women: Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick (R, 2013-present) and Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham (R, 2023-present). Texas has had two women governors and was the second state to elect a woman governor. Miriam "Ma" Ferguson (D, 1925-1927, 1933-1934) was elected in 1924 and 1932 as a surrogate for her electorally ineligible husband.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	2
Other	2 of 8	11

STATE LEGISLATURE

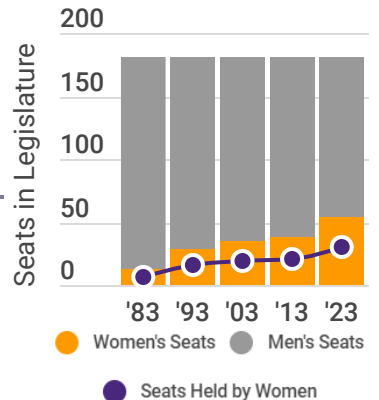
8.4

/30 points

Women State Legislators

Women hold 30% of the seats available in Texas' statewide legislatures. Of these legislators, 67% are Democrats and 33% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.6

/10 points

Women's Representation

There are one-hundred and six cities in Texas with populations of 30,000 people and over; just eleven (11%) of these cities have women serving as mayor. Of the state's five largest counties, only one is directed by a woman serving as county executive: Harris County.

TOTAL

14.2 / 100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Texas



STATE RANKING

44th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

14.2

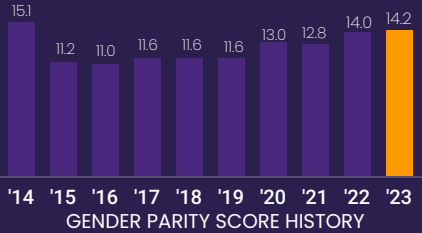
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has **no term limits**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Texas uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Texas has **no limits** on how much individuals, PACs, corporations, or parties can contribute to a candidate.

Vacancies in Texas' state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Austin voters have approved RCV but must await a state law change before implementation.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	1
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Texas this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Utah

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

45th "

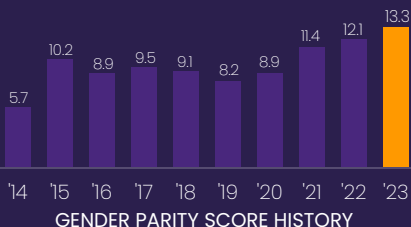
GENDER PARITY SCORE

13.3

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Utah is tied for 45th place with Tennessee. It received its first D grade in 2021. Prior to 2021 it consistently received an F grade with the exception of in 2015.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

0.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Of the four Utah delegates to the U.S. House of Representatives, but none are women in 2023. Former Congresswoman Mia Love (UT, 2015-2018) was the first Black Republican woman in the U.S. Congress. She was also the first Haitian-American woman in the U.S. Congress. Utah has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	0 of 4	4

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

3.3

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are five statewide elective executives in Utah; presently, only one is a woman. Deidre M. Henderson (R, 2021-present) serves as Lt. Governor of Utah. Olene S. Walker (R, 2003-2005) is the only woman to have served as Governor of Utah when she was appointed to finish her predecessor's term. Previously, she served as Lieutenant Governor (1993-2003); she is the first woman to have held either role in the state.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	1 of 4	3

STATE LEGISLATURE

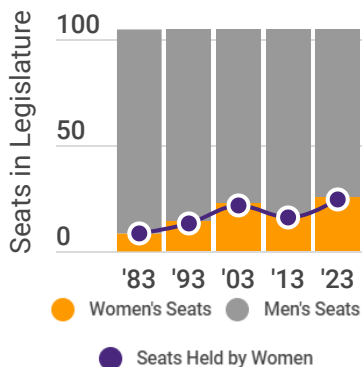
6.6

/30 points

Women State Legislators

The proportion of women in Utah's statewide legislatures has increased from 13% in 1993 to 25% today. Within the legislature, 50% of these women are Democrats and 50% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

3.3

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of Utah's thirty-six cities with populations of over 30,000 people; thirteen have women mayors. In 2021, nearly two dozen cities used ranked-choice voting for their local municipal elections, including its most populous city, Salt Lake City. Of the five most populous counties in Utah, three have womancounty executives:

TOTAL

13.3 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.



Utah



STATE RANKING

45th"

GENDER PARITY SCORE

13.3

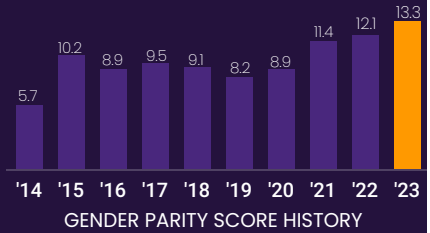
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has **no term limits**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Utah uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Utah has **no limits** on how much individuals, PACs, corporations, or parties can contribute to a candidate.

Vacancies in Utah's state legislature are filled by **governor appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Although many Utah localities have used RCV, none do currently.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	8	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	12	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Utah this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Vermont



STATE RANKING

23rd^{*}

GENDER PARITY SCORE

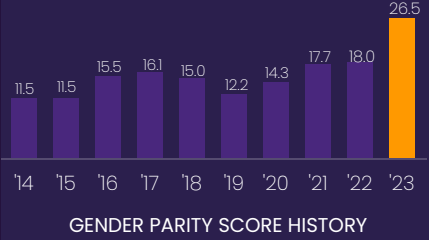
26.5

THE FORMULA

Grade: C

Vermont and Wyoming are tied for 23rd place.

This is Vermont's highest grade since 1993.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

5.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

In 2022 Vermont was the only state remaining that has never sent a woman to either the U.S. House or U.S. Senate. Now in 2023, Vermont has elected its first woman to Congress. Becca A Balint (D, 2023- present) is a representative in the U.S. House

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	1 of 1	1

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

5.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are six statewide elective executive offices in Vermont; two are held by a woman in 2023. The two are Attorney General Charity Clark (D, 2023-present) and Secretary of State Sarah Copeland-Hanzas (D, 2023-present). Vermont's only woman governor was Madeleine M. Kunin (D, 1985-1991). She was the first Jewish woman to be elected governor of any state and the only woman to have been elected to serve three terms.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	2 of 5	13

STATE LEGISLATURE

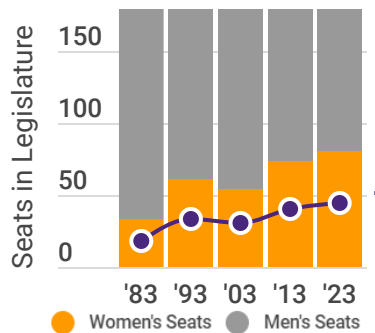
12.5

/30 points

Women State Legislators

In Vermont, women hold 45% of the overall seats in its statewide legislatures. Of these legislators, 86% are Democrats, 11% are Republicans, and 3% are Independent. Within the state senate, all twelve women elected are Democrats; this is the first time since 1992 that the state has elected zero Republican women to these seats.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

4.0

/10 points

Women's Representation

In Vermont, two of its five most-populated cities have a woman serving as mayor. While Vermont has counties, it does not have local government at the county level.

TOTAL

26.5/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



Vermont



STATE RANKING

23rd^{*}

GENDER PARITY SCORE

26.5

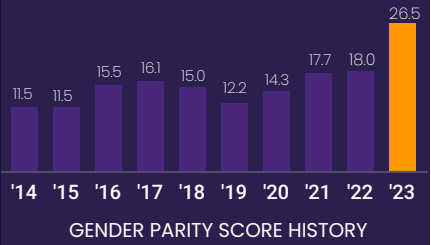
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Multi-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has **no term limits**.

Public funding exists for candidates running for governor or lieutenant governor.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Vermont uses **multi-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State executives and legislators have **no term limits**.

In Vermont, individuals, PACs, and corporations have **the same** campaign contribution limits. Parties have **no contribution limits**.

Vacancies in Vermont's state legislature are filled by **governor appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Burlington uses RCV for city council elections. In 2023 this expanded to include all other local elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	1	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Vermont this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Virginia

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

28th

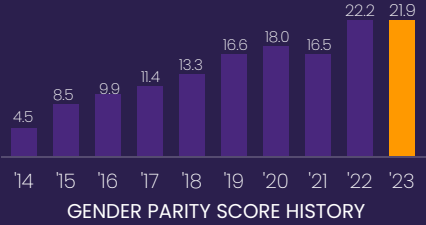
GENDER PARITY SCORE

21.9

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Virginia has received a D grade since 2017. The states highest D grade was in 2022



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

5.5

/30 points

Women in Congress

Virginia sends eleven representatives to the U.S. House; in 2023, four are women: Jennifer Kiggans (D, 2023-present), Abigail Spanberger (D, 2019-present), Jennifer McClellan (D, 2023-present), and Jennifer Wexton (D, 2019-present). Virginia has never sent a woman to the U.S. Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	0	0
U.S. House	3 of 11	9

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

5.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are three statewide elective executives in Virginia; presently, one is a woman. Lt. Governor Winsome Sears (R, 2022-present) is the first woman to serve as lieutenant governor of Virginia, and is the first woman of color elected to statewide office in Virginia. Virginia has never had a woman governor.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	1 of 2	3

STATE LEGISLATURE

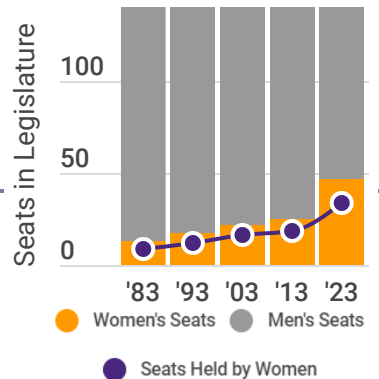
9.0

/30 points

Women State Legislators

In Virginia's state legislature, the proportion of women has more than doubled since 1993. In 1993, the share was 12%, in 2023 it is 34% of the available seats. Of these women, 68% are Democrats and 32% of Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

2.5

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of the eighteen cities in Virginia with populations of 30,000 people or greater, five are led by women mayors. Of the state's five most populous counties, two have women county executives.

TOTAL

21.9 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



Virginia



Parity for Women in Politics

STATE RANKING

28th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

21.9

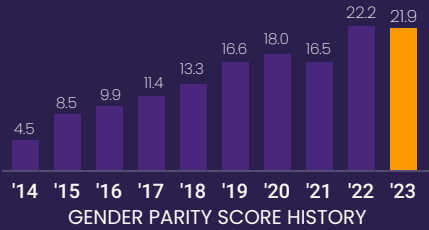
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **one consecutive term**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Virginia uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Virginia has **no limits** on how much individuals, PACs, corporations, or parties can contribute to a candidate.

Vacancies in Virginia's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Virginia has a local options bill which allows cities to choose to use RCV for elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	1
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Virginia this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Washington



STATE RANKING

6th

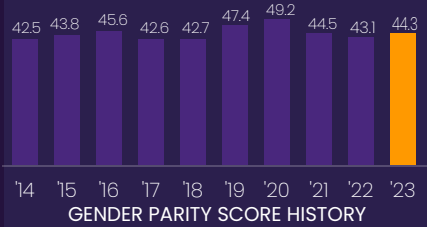
GENDER PARITY SCORE

44.3

THE FORMULA

Grade: B

Washington has received a B grade since 2013.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

24.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

In 2023, Washington has a majority-women congressional delegation. Both Senators are women and six of the state's ten representatives to the U.S. House are women. Washington's newest congresswoman is Mary Gluesenkam Perez, (D, 2023-present)

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	2	2
U.S. House	6 of 10	13

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

1.6

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are nine statewide elective executives in Washington; in 2023, two are women: State Auditor Pat McCarthy (D, 2017-present) and Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz (D, 2017-present). Washington has had two women governors in its history; its most recent woman governor was Christine O. Gregoire (D, 2005-2013).

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	2
Other	2 of 8	11

STATE LEGISLATURE

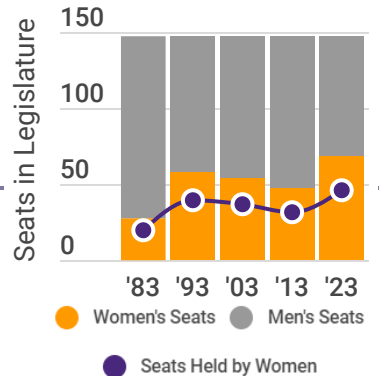
14.2

/30 points

Women State Legislators

In Washington's state legislature, 46% of its seats are held by women. Of these women, 75% are Democrats and 25% are Republicans. Representation in Washington's lower house, which uses multi-member districts, is 5% greater than representation in its upper house, which uses single-member districts.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

4.5

/10 points

Women's Representation

There are forty cities in Washington with populations over 30,000 people. Nineteen of these cities have women mayors. Two of Washington's top five most populous counties are led by women: Spokane County and Clark County.

TOTAL

44.3 / 100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



Washington



STATE RANKING

6th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

44.3

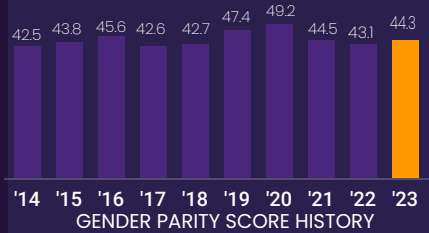
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner and Multi-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has **no term limits**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Washington uses **single-winner districts** in its upper house, **multi-winner districts** in its lower house, and **plurality elections**.

State legislators have **no term limits**.

Washington has the **same limits** on how much individuals, corporations, and PACs can contribute. Parties are limited to \$1.00 per registered voter in that given cycle.

Vacancies in Washington's state legislature are filled by **board of county commissioners appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

RCV use for primaries recently passed in Seattle.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	2	0	1
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Washington this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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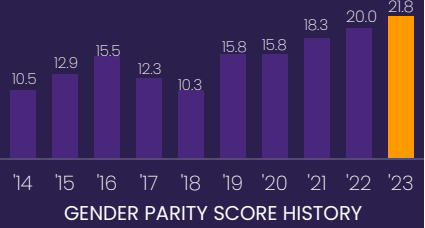




West Virginia

REPRESENT WOMEN

Parity for Women in Politics



STATE RANKING

29th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

21.8

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

This is the highest D grade West Virginia has ever received. The state has received D grades since 2003.

#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

15.0

/30 points

Women in Congress

Shelley Moore Capito (R, 2015–present) is presently the first and only woman to serve as a U.S. Senator for West Virginia. In the House of Representatives, Carol Miller (R-03, 2019–present) is the sole woman of the state’s two representatives; she is the third woman in the history of the state to hold this office.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	1
U.S. House	1 of 2	3

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

0.0

/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are six statewide elective executive offices in West Virginia; in 2023, none are held by women. In the history of the state, only three women have served in statewide executive office - all three as secretary of state. Natalie Tennant (D, 2009–2017) was the last woman elected to hold this office. West Virginia has never had a woman governor.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	0 of 5	3

STATE LEGISLATURE

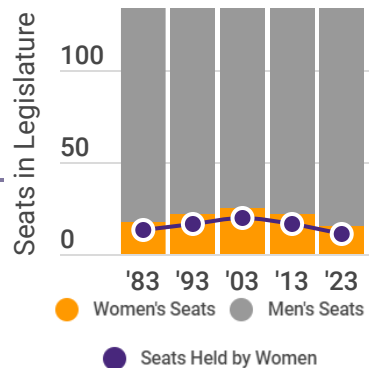
3.7

/30 points

Women State Legislators

West Virginia ranks last in the country for the representation of women in their state legislature with women holding only 11% of all seats. Of these legislators, 7% of the women are Democrats and 93% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

3.1

/10 points

Women's Representation

Of the top five most populous cities in West Virginia, two have women mayors. 13% of West Virginia’s county executives, county judges, and commissioners are women.

TOTAL

21.8 /100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



West Virginia



STATE RANKING

29th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

21.8

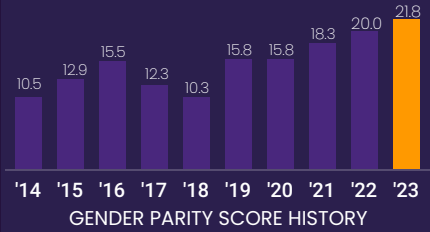
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Multi-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **two consecutive terms**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

West Virginia uses **multi-winner districts** and **plurality elections**. State legislators have **no term limits**.

West Virginia has the **same limits** on how much individuals, parties, and PACs can contribute. Corporations are **prohibited** from contributing.

Vacancies in West Virginia's state legislature are filled by **governor appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections. Wheeling used RCV in city council elections from 1935-1950.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	1	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in West Virginia this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Wisconsin



STATE RANKING

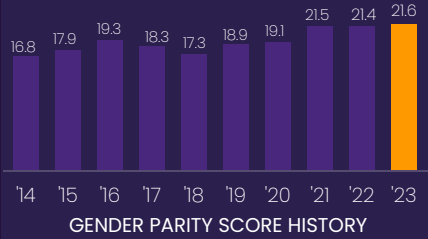
30th
GENDER PARITY SCORE

21.6

THE FORMULA

Grade: D

Wisconsin has consistently received a D grade since 1993.



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

9.4
/30 points

Women in Congress

Wisconsin sends eight representatives to the U.S. House; in 2023, only one is a woman. Representative Gwen Moore (D, 2005-present) is the second woman to have held this office in the history of WI; the first was Tammy Baldwin (D, 1999-2013). Baldwin is also the first woman to hold the office of U.S. Senator in WI. She is the first openly gay woman elected to Congress.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	1
U.S. House	1 of 8	2

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

3.2
/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are six statewide elective executives in Wisconsin; in 2023, two are women: Secretary of State Sarah Godlewski (D, 2019-present) and Superintendent of Public Instruction Jill Underly (D, 2021-present). A woman has never held the office of Governor of Wisconsin.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	0
Other	2 of 5	14

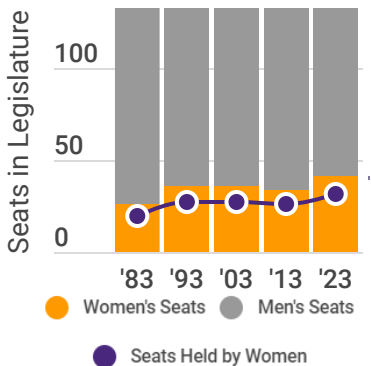
STATE LEGISLATURE

8.1
/30 points

Women State Legislators

In 2023, women hold 31% of the seats in Wisconsin's statewide legislature. Of these women, 61% are Democrats and 39% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

1.0
/10 points

Women's Representation

Of Wisconsin's twenty-seven cities with populations of 30,000 people and above, four have women mayors. Currently, no county-level executives are women in the state's five most populous counties.

TOTAL

21.6 / 100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a * after their rank.



Wisconsin



STATE RANKING

30th

GENDER PARITY SCORE

21.6

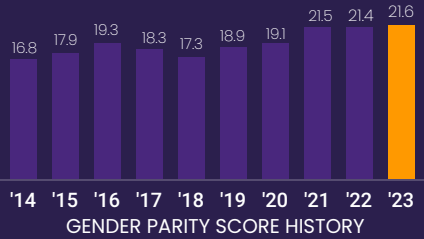
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

No



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor has **no term limits**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Wisconsin uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.
State legislators have **no term limits**.

Wisconsin has the **same limits** on how much individuals and PACs can contribute.
Parties have **no limits** and corporations are **prohibited** from contributing.

Vacancies in Wisconsin's state legislature are filled by **special elections**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Wisconsin this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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Wyoming



STATE RANKING

23rd^a

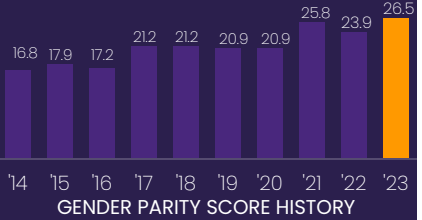
GENDER PARITY SCORE

26.5

THE FORMULA

Grade: C

Wyoming has increased to a C grade after consistently receiving D grades, with exception of 2021



#GenderParityIndex2023

U.S. CONGRESS

16.7
/30 points

Women in Congress

Women have been the sole representatives for WY in the U.S. House since 1995, with the election of Barbara Cubin (R, 1995–2009). Congresswoman Cubin was the first woman to represent WY in the U.S. Congress. The current woman representative is Harriet M. Hageman (R, 2023–present). Cynthia M. Lummis (R, 2021–present) is the state’s first woman U.S. Senator.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
U.S. Senate	1	1
U.S. House	1 of 1	3

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

2.9
/30 points

Women Statewide Executives

There are five statewide elective executives in Wyoming; in 2023, two are women. The State Auditor Kristi Racines (R, 2019–present), and the Superintendent of Public Instruction is Megan Degenfelder (R, 2023–present). Nellie Tayloe Ross (D) is the only woman to have served as Governor of Wyoming; she was elected via special election after her husband passed away while in office; Governor Nellie Tayloe Ross was the first woman sworn in as governor of any state.

STATE EXECUTIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN

	In Office	History
Governor	0	1
Other	2 of 4	24

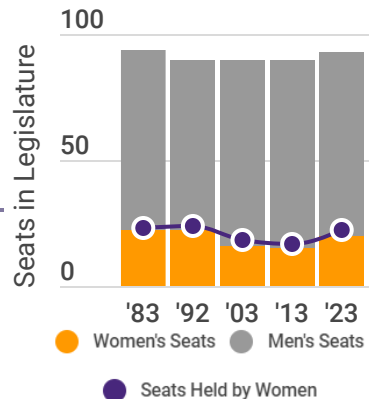
STATE LEGISLATURE

6.3
/30 points

Women State Legislators

In the 1980s and 90s, Wyoming ranked among the top ten states in the country with 24% of the seats held by women. In 2023, women hold 22% of the available seats. An increase from the 18% of seats women held in 2022. Of these women, 25% are Democrats and 75% are Republicans.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS HELD BY WOMEN



CITIES AND COUNTIES

0.7
/10 points

Women's Representation

Of the five most populous cities in Wyoming, none have woman mayors. In the five most populous counties in Wyoming, one has a woman county executive: Campbell County.

TOTAL

26.5/100 points

Sources: Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Ballotpedia, US Conference of State Legislatures, US Conference of Mayors.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

Wyoming



STATE RANKING

23rd["]

GENDER PARITY SCORE

26.5

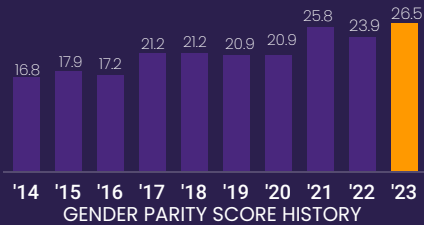
STATE SYSTEM

VOTING SYSTEM(S)

Single-Winner Districts

WOMEN'S CAUCUS?

Yes, Bipartisan



#GenderParityIndex2023

CONGRESS

Members of Congress are elected through **plurality elections** and **single-winner districts**.

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

The governor is elected through **plurality elections**.

The governor is limited to **eight years within a sixteen year time span**.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Wyoming uses **single-winner districts** and **plurality elections**.
State legislators have **no term limits**.

Wyoming has **some limits** on how much individuals and PACs can contribute.
Parties have **no limits** and corporations are **prohibited** from contributing.

Vacancies in Wyoming's state legislature are filled by **board of county commissioners appointments**.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

Localities determine which voting system they use for local-level elections.

LOCAL USES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

	Past	Current	Future
Single-Winner RCV	0	0	0
Multi-Winner RCV	0	0	0

There are **no RCV ballot initiatives** in Wyoming this November.

* States that are tied with other states are acknowledged with a " after their rank.

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