

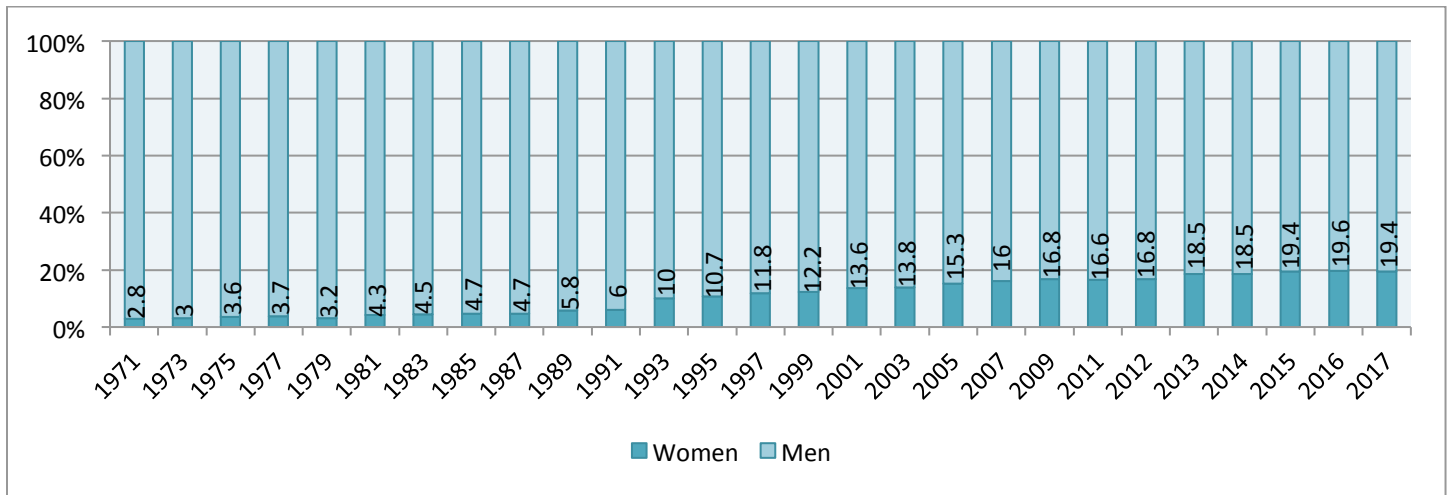
January 3, 2017

# Women in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

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In 2017, 104 (78D, 26R) women hold seats in the U.S. Congress, comprising 19.4% of the 535 members; 21 (16D, 5R) women (21%) serve in the U.S. Senate and 83 (62D, 21R) women (19.1%) serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. This is the same total number of women that served in most of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, but there was a net loss of one woman in the House and a net gain of one woman in the Senate. After the November 2016 special election of Representative Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI), 105 women served in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, one more woman than serves in 2017. In addition, five non-voting women delegates (3D, 2R) represent American Samoa, Guam, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands this year; one is a newcomer to the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

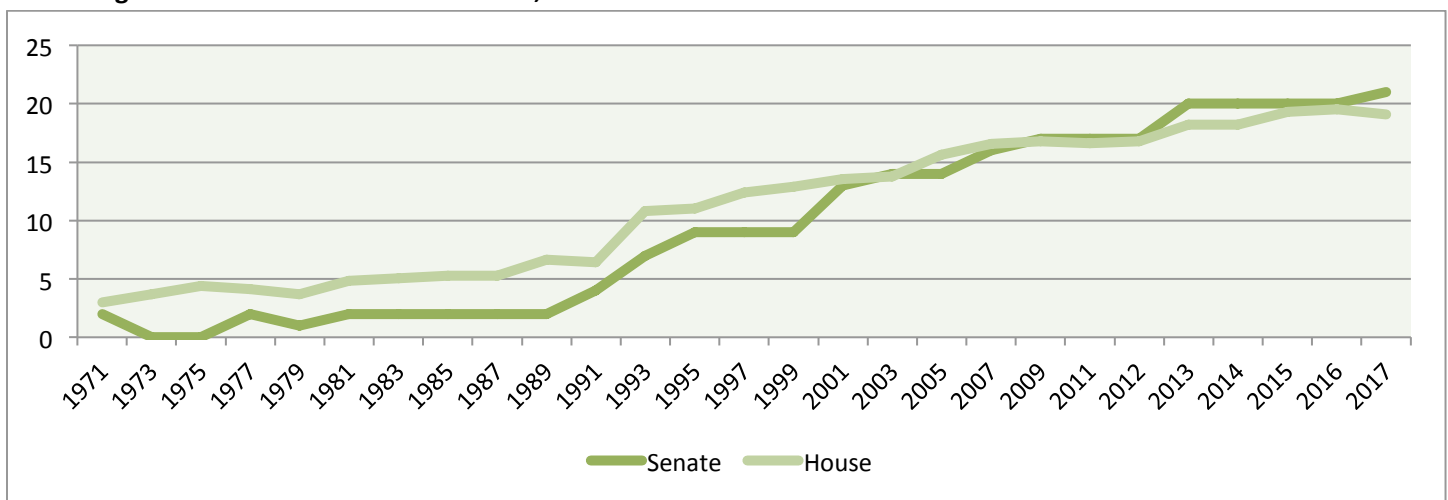
## Percentage of Women in Congress, 1971-2017



Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University

Note: Data reflects the percentage of women at the end of each Congress, which includes women sworn in immediately after the November election.

## Percentage of Women in House and Senate, 1971-2017

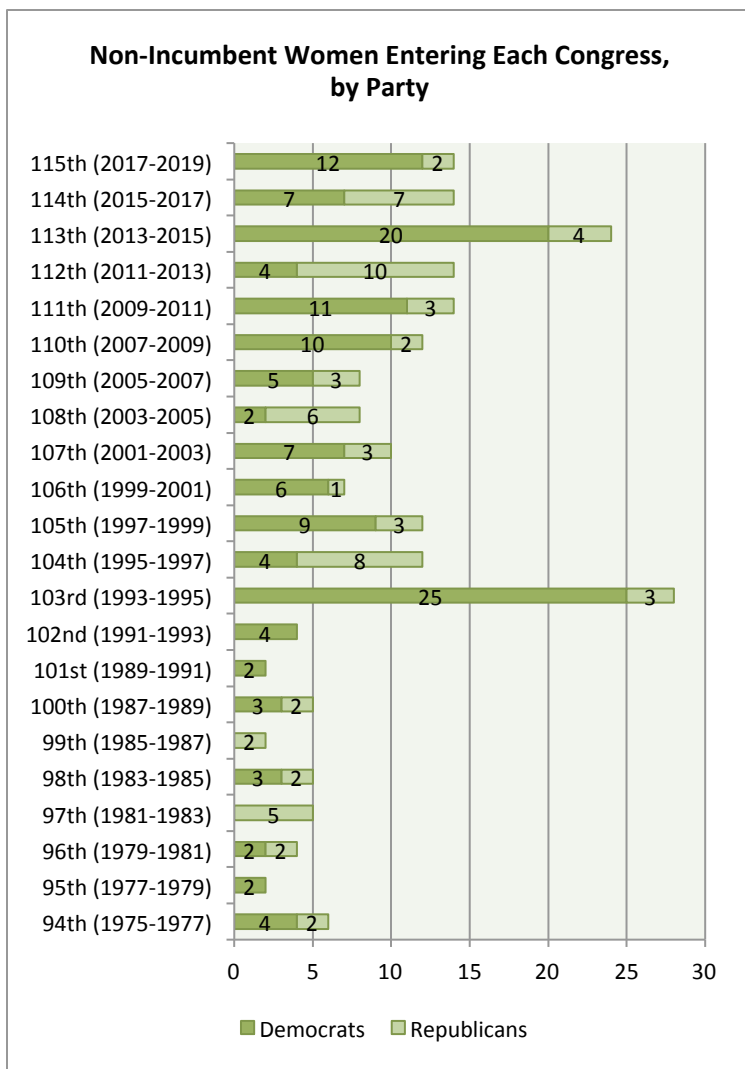


Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University

Note: Data reflects the percentage of women at the end of each Congress, which includes women sworn in immediately after the November election.

## New Women Members of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

There are fourteen women in 62-member freshman class of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Ten non-incumbent women (8D, 2R), including former Representatives Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI) and Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH), were elected to the House, and four non-incumbent women (4D), including House member Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), were elected to the Senate in November 2016. This is the second highest number of new women elected in any one Congress, matching the numbers in the 111<sup>th</sup>, 112<sup>th</sup>, and 114<sup>th</sup> Congresses. Twenty-eight new women served in the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress, which led to the designation of 1992 – the year of their election – as the “Year of the Woman.”



Perhaps most notably, nine of the fourteen non-incumbent women members of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress are women of color. Six new women of color serve in the House: Nannette Barragán (D-CA), Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Val Demings (D-FL), Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI), and Stephanie Murphy (D-FL). Three women of color joined Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI), the only woman of color to serve in the Senate in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, in the Senate: Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Kamala Harris (D-CA), and Catherine Cortez-Masto (D-NV). Republican Liz Cheney (R-WY) now serves in the seat once held by her father, former Vice President Dick Cheney.

Women are 18% of House freshman and 57% of newcomers to the Senate in 2017. More specifically, women are 30% of House freshman Democrats, 7% of House freshman Republicans, and four of five new Democratic senators. Both of the two new Republican senators are men.

### Non-Incumbent Women Entering the 115th House

Representative Nannette Barragán (D-CA44)

Representative Liz Cheney (R-WY AL)

Representative Val Demings (D-FL10)

Representative Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI1)

Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA7)

Representative Stephanie Murphy (D-FL7)

Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE AL)

Representative Jacky Rosen (D-NV3)

Representative Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH1)

Representative Claudia Tenney (R-NY22)

Resident Commissioner Jenniffer González (R-Puerto Rico)

### Non-Incumbent Women Entering the 115th Senate

Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto (D-NV)

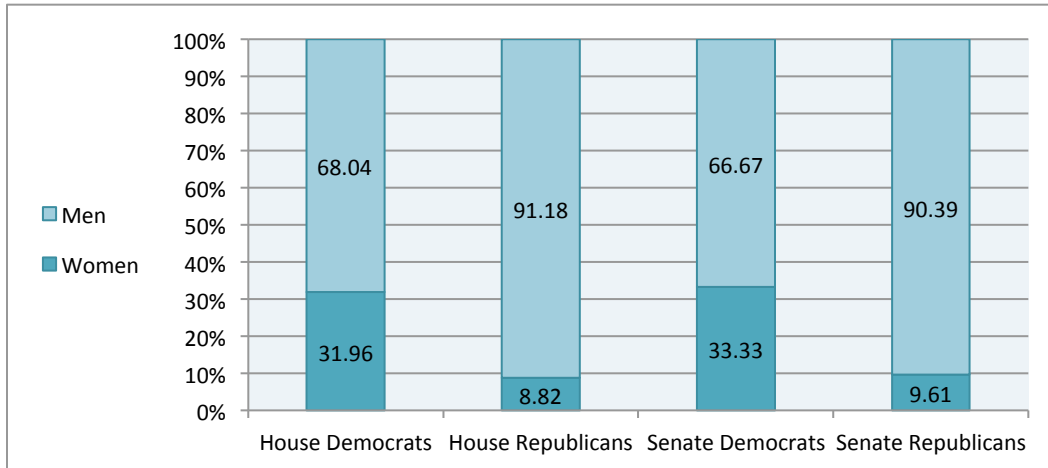
Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA)

Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH)

## Partisan Differences in Women’s Congressional Representation

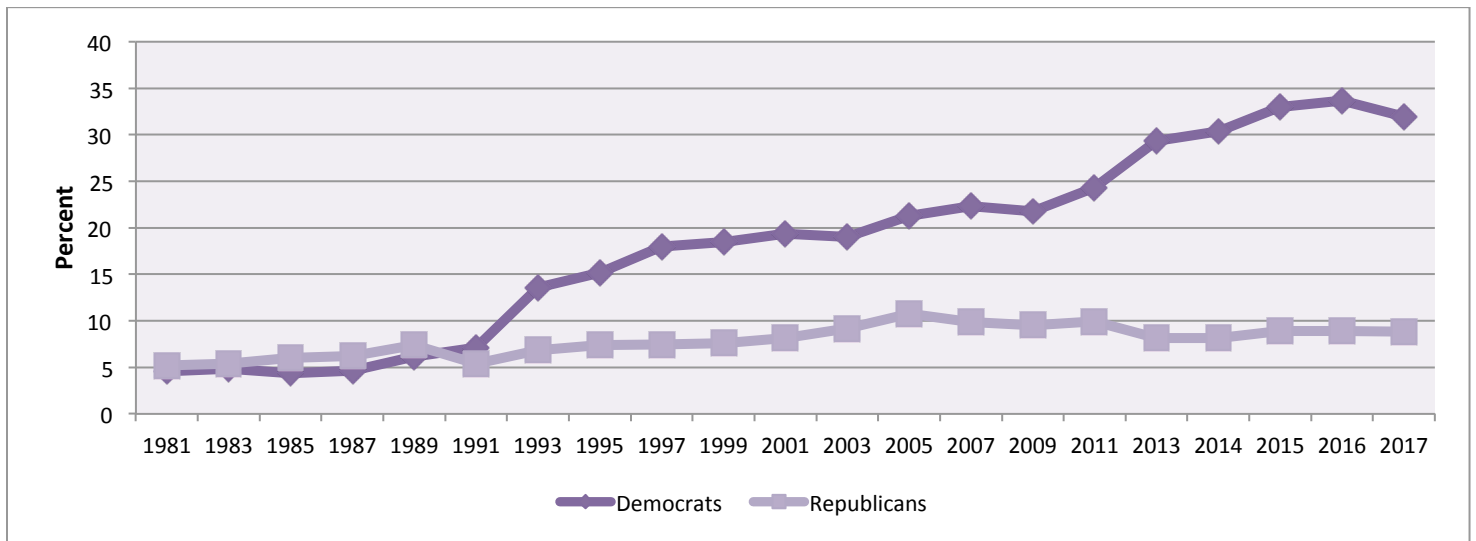
### Proportion of Women in Each Party Caucus by Chamber, 2017



Women are just under one-third (32.2%) of all Democrats in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, while Republican women are just nine percent of all Republicans holding congressional seats in 2017.<sup>1</sup> This is not significantly different from the within-party representation of women in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University

### Proportion of Women in Each Party in Congress, 1981-2017



Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University

## Women of Color in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

Thirty-eight women of color (35D, 3R) serve in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, as do four women of color (2D, 2R) who serve as delegates. Seven Asian/Pacific Islander women are House Democrats and two Asian-Pacific Islander women are Democratic members of the Senate. Kamala Harris, who identifies as both South Asian and Black, is a Democratic Senator. She joins Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) as the first South Asian women to serve in Congress. In addition to Harris, seventeen Black Democratic women and one Black Republican woman serve in the House. The lone Latina in the Senate, Democrat Catherine Cortez-Masto, is the first ever elected to the U.S. Senate. Nine more Latinas serve in the House, including seven Democrats and two Republicans.

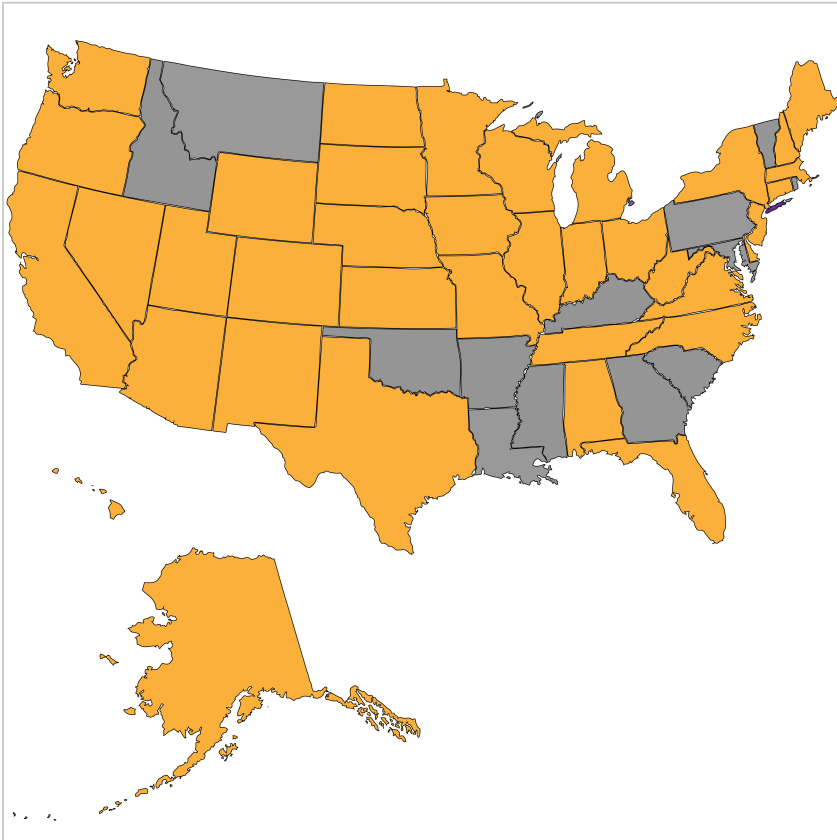
<sup>1</sup> This includes two Independent senators who caucus with the Democrats.

## Women's Congressional Representation by State

New Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D) is the first woman, and woman of color, to serve in Delaware's congressional delegation. Delaware was one of three states that had sent only men to Congress as of 2016. In 2017, Mississippi and Vermont remain the only states that have never sent a woman to the U.S. Capitol.

Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto is also the first woman, and first woman of color, whom Nevada has elected to the U.S. Senate. While California has elected multiple women to the U.S. Senate, Kamala Harris is the first woman of color the state has sent to the Senate. Likewise, Representative Pramila Jayapal is the first woman of color whom Washington has sent to Congress.

### States with Women in Congress, 2017



Thirteen states have no women representing them in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: AR, GA, ID, KY, LA, MD, MS, MT, OK, PA, RI, SC, VT.

The Senate has three all-women delegations representing California, New Hampshire, and Washington, the same states that had two female Senators in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. Five states have only women serving in the House: Delaware (1 Representative), Hawaii (2 Representatives), New Hampshire (2 Representatives), South Dakota (1 Representative), and Wyoming (1 Representative). New Hampshire is the only state with an all-woman congressional delegation in 2017, and all of the members are Democrats.

Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University

## For More Information

Find more information about the women in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress and keep track of the latest numbers of women in elective office at all levels at <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu>. There you can also find historical data on women candidates and officeholders.

Follow CAWP on Facebook ([facebook.com/womenandpolitics](https://www.facebook.com/womenandpolitics)) and Twitter ([@CAWP\\_RU](https://twitter.com/CAWP_RU)) for the latest news and data on women's political representation.