

WOMEN IN THE U.S. CONGRESS 2012

Women currently hold **90**, or **16.8%**, of the 535 seats in the 112th U.S. Congress — **17**, or **17.0%**, of the 100 seats in the Senate and **73**, or **16.8%**, of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives. **Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), who was the first woman Speaker of the House, is now minority leader. In addition, three women serve as Delegates to the House from Guam, the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC. (For more information about women in leadership roles in Congress, see "Women in Congress: Leadership Roles and Committee Chairs.")

The **seventeen** (12D, 5R) women currently serving in the Senate are:

Name	Years elected (e), won special election (se), or appointed (a)	Name	Years elected (e), won special election (se), or appointed (a)
Barbara Boxer (D-CA)	e 1992, 1998, 2004, 2010	Claire McCaskill (D-MO)	e 2006
Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	e 2000, 2006	Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)	e 1986, 1992, 1998, 2004, 2010
Susan Collins (R-ME)	e 1996, 2002, 2008	Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)*	a 2002; e 2004, 2010
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	se 1992; e 1994, 2000, 2006	* Murkowski lost her primary, but ran as a write-in candidate in the general election.	
Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D-NY)	a 2009; e 2010	Patty Murray (D-WA)	e 1992, 1998, 2004, 2010
Kay Hagan (D-NC)	e 2008	Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	e 2008
Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)	se 1993; e 2000, 2006	Olympia Snowe (R-ME)	e 1994, 2000, 2006
Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)	e 2006	Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)	e 2000, 2006
Mary Landrieu (D-LA)	e 1996, 2002, 2008		
Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)	e 2010		

(For more detailed information, see CAWP's fact sheet on Women in the U.S. Senate.)

Seventy-three women from 26 states serve in the House of Representatives; **49** are Democrats and **24** are Republicans. In addition, three Democratic women serve as Delegates to the House from Guam, the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC. (For details, see CAWP's fact sheet on Women in the U.S. House of Representatives.)

Of the **90** women serving in Congress in 2012, **24**, or **27%**, are women of color — 13 African American women, 4 Asian Pacific Islanders, and seven Latinas, all in the House.*

A total of **268** (174D, 94R) women have served in the U.S. Congress to date: **31** (19D, 12R) in the Senate only, **229** (149D, 80R) in the House only, and eight — **Barbara Boxer** (D-CA), **Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), **Kirsten E. Gillibrand** (D-NY), **Blanche Lincoln** (D-AR), **Margaret Chase Smith** (R-ME), **Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD), **Olympia Snowe** (R-ME), and **Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI) — in both the House and the Senate. In addition, 4 (3D, 1R) women have served as Delegates to the House.

California has sent more women to Congress than any other state — a total of 34 to date. Four states (Delaware, Iowa, Mississippi, and Vermont) have never sent a woman to either the Senate or the House.

The first woman elected to the House of Representatives was **Jeannette Rankin** (R-MT), who served from 1917 to 1919 and again from 1941 to 1942. The first woman to serve in the Senate was **Rebecca Latimer Felton** (D-GA); appointed in 1922, she served for one day. **Nancy Landon Kassebaum** (R-KS) was the first woman elected to the Senate without having previously filled an unexpired Congressional term; **Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD) was the first Democratic woman to do so.

To date, a total of 42 (39D, 3R) women of color have served in Congress, including 28 African Americans, six Asian American/Pacific Islanders, and eight Latinas.* All but one served in the House of Representatives. Elected in 1992, **Carol Moseley-Braun** (D-IL) was the first African American woman to win a major party Senate nomination and the first woman of color ever to serve in the U.S. Senate; she lost her re-election bid in 1998. The first African American woman to serve in Congress was **Shirley Chisholm** (D-NY); elected in 1968, she served until 1983. The first Asian American/Pacific Islander woman elected to the House was **Patsy Takemoto Mink** (D-HI), who served from 1965-1977; she was re-elected in a special election in September 1990 and served until she died on September 19, 2002. **Judy Chu** (D-CA), elected in a special election in July 2009, is the first Chinese-American to serve in Congress. **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen** (R-FL), elected in a special election in August 1989 and re-elected in every general election since then, is the first Cuban American (female or male) and the first Latina woman ever elected to Congress. **Lucille Roybal-Allard** (D-CA), elected in 1992 and in every subsequent general election, is the first Mexican American woman to serve. **Nydia Velazquez** (D-NY), also elected in 1992 and in every subsequent general election, is the first Puerto Rican woman to serve.

Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), elected in 1998, became the first openly gay or lesbian person elected to an initial Congressional term.

* In addition, Donna Christian-Christensen (D), who is Caribbean American, and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D), who is African American, serve as Delegates to the House from the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC, respectively.

WOMEN IN THE U.S. CONGRESS 1917-2012

Please note: table for Congresses prior to the current one shows maximum number of women elected or appointed to serve in that Congress at one time. Some filled out unexpired terms and some were never sworn in.

CONGRESS	DATES	WOMEN IN SENATE	WOMEN IN HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN
65th	1917-1919	0 (OD, OR)	1 (OD, 1R)	1 (OD, 1R)
66th	1919-1921	0 (OD, OR)	0 (OD, OR)	0 (OD, OR)
67th	1921-1923	1 (1D, OR)	3 (OD, 3R)	4 (1D, 3R)
68th	1923-1925	0 (OD, OR)	1 (OD, 1R)	1 (OD, 1R)
69th	1925-1927	0 (OD, OR)	3 (1D, 2R)	3 (1D, 2R)
70th	1927-1929	0 (OD, OR)	5 (2D, 3R)	5 (2D, 3R)
71st	1929-1931	0 (OD, OR)	9 (5D, 4R)	9 (5D, 4R)
72nd	1931-1933	1 (1D, OR)	7 (5D, 2R)	8 (6D, 2R)
73rd	1933-1935	1 (1D, OR)	7 (4D, 3R)	8 (5D, 3R)
74th	1935-1937	2 (2D, OR)	6 (4D, 2R)	8 (6D, 2R)
75th	1937-1939	2 (1D, 1R) ¹	6 (5D, 1R)	8 (6D, 2R)
76th	1939-1941	1 (1D, OR)	8 (4D, 4R)	9 (5D, 4R)
77th	1941-1943	1 (1D, OR)	9 (4D, 5R)	10 (5D, 5R)
78th	1943-1945	1 (1D, OR)	8 (2D, 6R)	9 (3D, 6R)
79th	1945-1947	0 (OD, OR)	11 (6D, 5R)	11 (6D, 5R)
80th	1947-1949	1 (OD, 1R)	7 (3D, 4R)	8 (3D, 5R)
81st	1949-1951	1 (OD, 1R)	9 (5D, 4R)	10 (5D, 5R)
82nd	1951-1953	1 (OD, 1R)	10 (4D, 6R)	11 (4D, 7R)
83rd	1953-1955	2 (OD, 2R)	11 (5D, 6R) ²	13 (5D, 8R) ²
84th	1955-1957	1 (OD, 1R)	16 (10D, 6R) ²	17 (10D, 7R) ²
85th	1957-1959	1 (OD, 1R)	15 (9D, 6R)	16 (9D, 7R)
86th	1959-1961	2 (1D, 1R)	17 (9D, 8R)	19 (10D, 9R)
87th	1961-1963	2 (1D, 1R)	18 (11D, 7R)	20 (12D, 8R)
88th	1963-1965	2 (1D, 1R)	12 (6D, 6R)	14 (7D, 7R)
89th	1965-1967	2 (1D, 1R)	11 (7D, 4R)	13 (8D, 5R)
90th	1967-1969	1 (OD, 1R)	11 (6D, 5R)	12 (6D, 6R)
91st	1969-1971	1 (OD, 1R)	10 (6D, 4R)	11 (6D, 5R)
92nd	1971-1973	2 (1D, 1R)	13 (10D, 3R)	15 (11D, 4R)
93rd	1973-1975	0 (OD, OR)	16 (14D, 2R)	16 (14D, 2R)
94th	1975-1977	0 (OD, OR)	19 (14D, 5R)	19 (14D, 5R)
95th	1977-1979	2 (2D, OR)	18 (13D, 5R)	20 (15D, 5R)
96th	1979-1981	1 (OD, 1R)	16 (11D, 5R)	17 (11D, 6R)
97th	1981-1983	2 (OD, 2R)	21 (11D, 10R)	23 (11D, 12R)
98th	1983-1985	2 (OD, 2R)	22 (13D, 9R)	24 (13D, 11R)
99th	1985-1987	2 (OD, 2R)	23 (12D, 11R)	25 (12D, 13R)
100th	1987-1989	2 (1D, 1R)	23 (12D, 11R)	25 (13D, 12R)
101st	1989-1991	2 (1D, 1R)	29 (16D, 13R)	31 (17D, 14R)
102nd	1991-1993	4 (3D, 1R) ³	28 (19D, 9R) ⁴	32 (22D, 10R) ⁴
103rd	1993-1995	7 (5D, 2R) ⁵	47 (35D, 12R) ⁴	54 (40D, 14R) ⁴
104th	1995-1997	9 (5D, 4R) ⁶	48 (31D, 17R) ⁴	57 (36D, 21R) ⁴
105th	1997-1999	9 (6D, 3R)	54 (37D, 17R) ⁷	63 (43D, 20R) ⁷
106th	1999-2001	9 (6D, 3R)	56 (39D, 17R) ⁸	65 (45D, 20R) ⁸
107th	2001-2003	13 (9D, 4R) ⁹	59 (41D, 18R) ⁹	73 (51D, 22R) ⁹
108th	2003-2005	14 (9D, 5R)	60 (39D, 21R) ¹⁰	74 (48D, 26R) ¹⁰
109th	2005-2007	14 (9D, 5R)	68 (43D, 25R) ¹¹	82 (52D, 30R) ¹¹
110 th	2007-2009	16 (11D, 5R)	72 (52D, 20R) ¹²	88 (63D, 25R) ¹²
111 th	2009-2011	17 (13D, 4R) ¹³	73 (56D, 17R) ¹³	90 (69D, 21R) ¹³
112 th	2011-2013	17 (12D, 5R)	73 (49D, 24R) ¹⁴	90 (61D, 29R) ¹⁴

1 A total of three (2D, 1R) women served in the Senate in the 75th Congress, but no more than two served together at any one time. Part of the time two Democrats served together, and part of the time one Democrat and one Republican served together.

2 Does not include a Republican Delegate to the House from pre-statehood Hawaii.

3 On election day in 1992, three women served in the Senate; two were elected and one was appointed. On November 3rd, Dianne Feinstein won a special election to complete two years of a term; she was sworn in on November 10, 1992.

4 Does not include a Democratic Delegate to the House from Washington, DC.

5 Includes Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), who won a special election on June 5, 1993 to serve out the remaining year and one half of a term.

6 Includes Sheila Frahm (R-KS), who was appointed on June 11, 1996 to fill a vacancy caused by resignation. She was defeated in her primary race to complete the full term.

7 Does not include two Democratic Delegates from the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC. Also does not include Susan Molinari (R-NY) who resigned 8/1/97. Includes 4 women (2 Democrats and 2 Republicans) who won special elections in March, April, and June 1998.

8 Does not include two Democratic Delegates from the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC.

9 House figure does not include two Democratic Delegates from the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC; Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-HI), who died on September 19, 2002. Senate figure does not include Jean Carnahan (D-MO) who stepped down on November 23, 2002. Does include Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), who was appointed to fill a Senate vacancy on December 20, 2002.

10 Does not include three Democratic Delegates from Guam, the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC. Does include Stephanie Herseth (D-SD), who won a special election June 1, 2004 to fill a vacancy.

11 Does not include three Democratic Delegates from Guam, the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC. Does include Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA), who died on April 22, 2007.

12 Includes all current women House members; does not include three Democratic Delegates from Guam, the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC. Does not include Stephanie Tubbs Jones who passed away, but does include Marcia Fudge who won a special election to replace her.

13 Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) moved from the House to the Senate when she was appointed on January 26, 2009 to fill a vacancy. Does not include Hillary Rodham Clinton, who was sworn in but resigned 1/16/09; Hilda Solis, who was sworn in but resigned on 2/17/09; and Ellen Tauscher, who resigned 6/26/09. Does include Judy Chu, who won a special election 7/14/09. Does not include three Democratic Delegates from Guam, the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC.

14 Includes Kathy Hochul (D-NY) who won a special election. Does not include Jane Harman who resigned on 2/28/11; includes Janice Hahn (D-CA) who won a special election to replace her. Does not include Gabrielle Giffords who resigned on 1/24/12. Does include Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) who won a special election. Does not include three Democratic Delegates from Guam, the Virgin Islands and Washington, DC.