

WOMEN IN THE U.S. CONGRESS 2010

Women currently hold **90**, or **16.8%**, of the 535 seats in the 111th 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)**, the first woman to serve as Speaker of the House, holds the highest position in the House and is second in the presidential line of succession. 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** (13D, 4R) 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	Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)	e 1998, 2004
Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	e 2000, 2006	Claire McCaskill (D-MO)	e 2006
Susan Collins (R-ME)	e 1996, 2002, 2008	Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)	e 1986, 1992, 1998, 2004
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	se 1992; e 1994, 2000, 2006	Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	a 2002; e 2004
Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D-NY)	a 2009	Patty Murray (D-WA)	e 1992, 1998, 2004
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		

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

Seventy-three women from 31 states serve in the House of Representatives; **56** are Democrats and **17** 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 2010, **21**, or **23.3%**, are women of color — 12 African American women, 3 Asian Pacific Islanders, and six Latinas, all in the House.*

A total of **252** (167D, 85R) women have served in the U.S. Congress to date: **31** (19D, 12R) in the Senate only, **213** (142D, 71R) 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 32 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 37 (35D, 2R) women of color have served in Congress, including 25 African Americans, five Asian American/Pacific Islanders, and seven 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.

A note to users of our fact sheets: Please credit the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Additional information from *Women in the United States Congress*, Congressional Research Service.

