

## WOMEN IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2009

In 2009, 73 women hold seats in the House of Representatives, comprising 16.8% of the 435 members. The women represent 31 states; 56 are Democrats and 17 are Republicans. Democratic women delegates also represent the District of Columbia, Guam and the Virgin Islands. The congresswomen include 21 women of color: 12 African American women, 3 Asian Pacific Islanders, and 6 Latinas. The delegates include a Caribbean American and an African American. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), the first woman Speaker of the House, holds the highest position in the House and is second in the line of presidential succession.

Of the 72 women who served in the House in 2008, four did not seek re-election and three lost their elections. The remaining 65 (50D, 15R) were re-elected.

Of the 73 women who serve in the House in 2009, 57 first entered by winning regular general elections. Fifteen others won special elections; Bono Mack (CA), Capps (CA), Chu (CA), Edwards (MD), Fudge (OH), Herseth Sandlin (SD), Lee (CA), Matsui (CA), Pelosi (CA), Richardson (CA), Ros-Lehtinen (FL), Schmidt (OH), Speier (CA), Tsongas (MA), and Watson (CA) succeeded others who died or resigned. Emerson (MO) won a regular election simultaneously with a special election to fill a vacancy. The DC, GU and VI Delegates won regular general elections.

Prior to entering Congress, 55, or 75.3%, of the 73 women lawmakers held previous elective offices; 27 of the 54 held more than one post. The positions include: statewide elective (5); state senator (19); state representative (32); county elective (9); municipal elective (15); judge (1); school board member (6).

### The women who serve in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2009 include:

| <u>Congresswomen</u>           | <u>Routes to Office</u>   | <u>Dates of Service</u> |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Michele Bachmann<br>(R-MN)     | State senator; assistant minority leader; tax litigation attorney. Elected to the U.S. House in 2006.   | 1/4/07 - present        |
| Tammy Baldwin<br>(D-WI)        | State representative; county board of supervisors. Elected to U.S. House in 1998.   | 1/6/99 - present        |
| Melissa Bean<br>(D-IL)         | Businesswoman. Unsuccessful 2002 congressional candidate. Elected to U.S. House in 2004.  | 1/4/05 - present        |
| Shelley Berkley<br>(D-NV)      | Nevada state assembly; vice chair, university board of regents; attorney. Elected to U.S. House in 1998.  | 1/6/99 - present        |
| Judy Biggert<br>(R-IL)         | State representative; planning commissioner; school board member; attorney. Elected to U.S. House in 1998.  | 1/6/99 - present        |
| Marsha Blackburn<br>(R-TN)     | State senator, state representative, executive director of Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission, businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 2002.        | 1/7/03 - present        |
| Mary Bono Mack<br>(R-CA)       | Businesswoman; restaurateur. Won a special election in 1998 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband.   | 4/21/98 - present       |
| Madeleine Bordallo<br>(D-GU)   | Lieutenant Governor, Guam senator, Guam's First Lady, community organizer. Elected to U.S. House in 2002.   | 1/7/03 - present        |
| Corrine Brown<br>(D-FL)        | State representative; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.  | 1/5/93 - present        |
| Ginny Brown-Waite<br>(R-FL)    | State senator and senate president pro tempore, county commissioner, legislative staff member (NY). Elected to U.S. House in 2002.                                  | 1/7/03 - present        |
| Shelley Moore Capito<br>(R-WV) | State delegate; counselor; children's advocate. Elected to U.S. House in 2000.  | 1/3/01 - present        |
| Lois Capps<br>(D-CA)           | School nurse; educator; health consultant for child development programs. Won a special election in 1998 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband.      | 3/17/98 - present       |
| Kathy Castor<br>(D-FL)         | Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners; assistant general counsel to the Florida Department of Community Affairs in Tallahassee. Elected to U.S. House in 2006. | 1/4/07 - present        |

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 *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774 - 1989*, U.S. Government Printing Office, and *Women in the United States Congress*, Congressional Research Service.

| <b><u>Congresswomen</u></b>         | <b><u>Routes to Office</u></b>  | <b><u>Dates of Service</u></b>             |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Donna Christensen<br>(D-VI)         | Acting commissioner of health; Board of Education member; Democratic party activist; physician. Elected as delegate from the Virgin Islands in 1996.  | 1/7/97 - present                           |
| Judy Chu<br>(D-CA)                  | California state board of equalization member; state assembly; Monterey Park mayor and councilwoman; board of education member; educator. Won a special election July 14, 2009 to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Congresswoman Hilda Solis to become Secretary of Labor. | 7/16/09 - present                          |
| Yvette Clarke<br>(D-NY)             | Councilwoman; director of business development for Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation; director of Bronx portion of the New York City Empowerment Zone. Elected to U.S. House in 2006.  | 1/4/07 - present                           |
| Kathy Dahlkemper<br>(D-PA)          | Businesswoman; director, Lake Erie Arboretum of Frontier Park; counselor, Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Elected to U.S. House in 2008.  | 1/6/09 - present                           |
| Susan Davis<br>(D-CA)               | State assemblywoman; president, San Diego city school board. Elected to U.S. House in 2000.   | 1/3/01 - present                           |
| Rosa DeLauro<br>(D-CT)              | Congressional aide; executive director of EMILY's List; community organizer. Elected to U.S. House in 1990.   | 1/3/91 - present                           |
| Diana DeGette<br>(D-CO)             | State representative; state house assistant leader; Denver Democratic party resolutions chair; civil rights and employment lawyer. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.   | 1/7/97 - present                           |
| Donna Edwards<br>(D-MD)             | Attorney; executive director, The Arca Foundation; businesswoman; clerk to District of Columbia Superior Court Judge. Won special election to fill a vacancy.   | 6/19/08 - present                          |
| Jo Ann Emerson<br>(R-MO)            | Advisory board, Members & Family Room, U.S. House; small business advisory commission; business lobbyist. Elected concurrently to fill vacancy caused by her husband's death and to serve a full term in the U.S. House in 1996.  | 11/25/96 - present                         |
| Anna Eshoo<br>(D-CA)                | San Mateo County supervisor and board president. Ran unsuccessfully for U.S. House in 1988. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.  | 1/5/93 - present                           |
| Mary Fallin<br>(R-OK)               | Lieutenant governor; state representative; board of directors for United Way of Oklahoma. Elected to U.S. House in 2006.  | 1/4/07 - present                           |
| Virginia Foxx<br>(R-NC)             | State senator; county board of education; college instructor and administrator. Elected to U.S. House in 2004.  | 1/4/05 - present                           |
| Marcia Fudge<br>(D-OH)              | Mayor of Warrensville Heights; Congressional chief of staff; attorney; Won special election to fill a vacancy.  | 11/19/08 - present                         |
| Gabrielle Giffords<br>(D-AZ)        | State senator; state representative. Elected to U.S. House in 2006.   | 1/4/07 - present                           |
| Kay Granger<br>(R-TX)               | Mayor of Fort Worth; board of trustees of the US Conference of Mayors; educator; small business owner. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.   | 1/7/97 - present                           |
| Debbie Halvorson<br>(D-IL)          | State senator; Senate majority leader; clerk of Crete Township; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 2008.   | 1/6/09 - present                           |
| Jane Harman<br>(D-CA)               | Gubernatorial candidate; U.S. representative 1992-98; special counsel to the Department of Defense during Carter administration; lawyer. Re-elected to the U.S. House in 2000.  | 1/3/93 - 1/6/99<br>and<br>1/3/01 - present |
| Stephanie Herseth Sandlin<br>(D-SD) | Executive director, South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation; attorney; educator. Won a special election June 1, 2004, to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation.  | 6/2/04 - present                           |
| Mazie Hirono<br>(D-HI)              | Lieutenant governor; state representative; state deputy attorney general. Elected to U.S. House in 2006.  | 1/4/07 - present                           |
| Lynn M. Jenkins<br>(R-KS)           | State treasurer; state senator; state representative; accountant; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 2008.   | 1/6/09 - present                           |
| Eddie Bernice Johnson<br>(D-TX)     | State senator; state representative; administrator in Department of Health, Education and Welfare; nurse; consultant. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.  | 1/5/93 - present                           |
| Marcy Kaptur<br>(D-OH)              | Urban planner; White House domestic policy aide. Elected to U.S. House in 1982.   | 1/3/83 - present                           |
| Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick<br>(D-MI) | State representative; Democratic whip; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.   | 1/7/97 - present                           |

| <b><u>Congresswomen</u></b>     | <b><u>Routes to Office</u></b>  | <b><u>Dates of Service</u></b> |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Mary Jo Kilroy<br>(D-OH)        | Franklin County commissioner; Columbus Board of Education member; community health care advocate; attorney. Elected to U.S. House in 2008.  | 1/6/09 - present               |
| Ann Kirkpatrick<br>(D-AZ)       | State representative; city attorney of Sedona; attorney. Elected to U.S. House in 2008.   | 1/6/09 - present               |
| Suzanne Kosmas<br>(D-FL)        | State representative; business owner. Elected to U.S. House in 2008.  | 1/6/09 - present               |
| Barbara Lee<br>(D-CA)           | State senator; state assemblywoman; senior advisor and administrative assistant to member of Congress. Won a special election in 1998 to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation.  | 4/21/98 - present              |
| Sheila Jackson Lee<br>(D-TX)    | Council member; municipal court associate judge; attorney; congressional committee counsel. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.  | 1/4/95 - present               |
| Zoe Lofgren<br>(D-CA)           | Santa Clara County Supervisor; attorney; law teacher; executive director of low-income housing development group; congressional aide. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.  | 1/4/95 - present               |
| Nita Lowey<br>(D-NY)            | Assistant New York secretary of state. Elected to U.S. House in 1988.   | 1/3/89 - present               |
| Cynthia M. Lummis<br>(R-WY)     | State treasurer; state senator; state representative; interim director, Office of State Lands and Investments; general counsel, Office of the Governor; clerk, Wyoming Supreme Court; attorney. Elected to U.S. House in 2008.                    | 1/6/09 - present               |
| Carolyn Maloney<br>(D-NY)       | New York city council member; educator; administrator. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.   | 1/5/93 - present               |
| Betsy Markey<br>(D-CO)          | Congressional aide, House Subcommittee on Post Office and Civil Service; State Department director of computer security policy; Internet business owner. Elected to U.S. House in 2008.   | 1/6/09 - present               |
| Doris Matsui<br>(D-CA)          | Public policy advocate; deputy assistant to the President and deputy director of public liaison in the Clinton administration. Won special election in 2005 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband.                                 | 3/10/05 - present              |
| Carolyn McCarthy<br>(D-NY)      | Lobbyist on gun control issues; nurse. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.   | 1/7/97 - present               |
| Betty McCollum<br>(D-MN)        | State representative; North St. Paul City Councilwoman; educator; businesswoman. Elected to the U.S. House in 2000.   | 1/3/01 - present               |
| Cathy McMorris Rogers<br>(R-WA) | State representative and House Republican leader. Elected to U.S. House in 2004.  | 1/4/05 - present               |
| Candice Miller<br>(R-MI)        | Michigan Secretary of State, Macomb County Treasurer, Harrison Township Supervisor, Harrison Township Trustee. Elected to U.S. House in 2002.   | 1/7/03 - present               |
| Gwen Moore<br>(D-WI)            | State senator; assemblywoman; city and state government administrator. Elected to U.S. House in 2004.   | 1/4/05 - present               |
| Sue Myrick<br>(R-NC)            | Charlotte mayor; city council member; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.   | 1/4/95 - present               |
| Grace Napolitano<br>(D-CA)      | State assemblywoman; mayor, Norwalk; city council member; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1998.   | 1/6/99 - present               |
| Eleanor Holmes Norton<br>(D-DC) | Equal Employment Opportunity Commission chair; New York City Commission on Human Rights chair; law professor. Elected as delegate from the District of Columbia in 1990.  | 1/3/91 - present               |
| Nancy Pelosi<br>(D-CA)          | Chair of California Democratic party; Democratic National Committee member; party activist; public relations executive. Won special election in 1987 to fill a vacancy caused by death of Congresswoman Sala Burton.                              | 6/9/87 - present               |
| Chellie M. Pingree<br>(D-ME)    | State senator; Senate majority leader; North Haven Planning Board member; North Haven tax assessor; School Board chair; president, Common Cause; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 2008.  | 1/6/09 - present               |
| Laura Richardson<br>(D-CA)      | State assemblywoman; councilwoman; served as Southern California director for Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante; businesswoman. Won special election in 2007 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald. | 9/4/07 - present               |

| <b><u>Congresswomen</u></b>        | <b><u>Routes to Office</u></b>   | <b><u>Dates of Service</u></b> |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Ileana Ros-Lehtinen<br>(R-FL)      | State senator; state representative; educator; businesswoman. Won special election in 1989 to fill a vacancy.  | 9/6/89 - present               |
| Lucille Roybal-Allard<br>(D-CA)    | State assemblywoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.  | 1/5/93 - present               |
| Linda Sanchez<br>(D-CA)            | Executive secretary-treasurer for Orange County Central Labor Council, labor compliance officer, attorney. Elected to U.S. House in 2002.                                | 1/7/03 - present               |
| Loretta Sanchez<br>(D-CA)          | Santa Ana businesswoman; financial consultant to local governments. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.   | 1/7/97 - present               |
| Jan Schakowsky<br>(D-IL)           | State representative; director, Illinois Public Action; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1998.   | 1/6/99 - present               |
| Jean Schmidt<br>(R-OH)             | State representative; trustee for Miami Township, Clermont County; Clermont County Republican chair. Won special election in 2005 to fill a vacancy.                     | 2005-present                   |
| Dina Titus<br>(D-NV)               | State senator; Senate minority floor leader; Legislative Commission member; university professor. Elected to U.S. House in 2008.   | 1/6/09 - present               |
| Allyson Schwartz<br>(D-PA)         | State senator; government agency and non-profit organization manager. Elected to U.S. House in 2004.   | 1/4/05 - present               |
| Carol Shea-Porter<br>(D-NH)        | Regional coordinator for presidential primary campaign; co-founder of social service agency. Elected to U.S. House in 2006.  | 1/4/07 - present               |
| Louise Slaughter<br>(D-NY)         | State assemblywoman; Monroe County legislator; gubernatorial staff member. Elected to U.S. House in 1986.  | 1/3/87 - present               |
| Jackie Speier<br>(D-CA)            | State senator; state assemblywoman; San Mateo county supervisor; legal counsel to congressman; attorney. Won special election in 2008 to fill a vacancy caused by death. | 4/10/08 - present              |
| Betty Sutton<br>(D-OH)             | State representative; councilwoman. Elected to U.S. House in 2006.   | 1/4/07 - present               |
| Niki Tsongas<br>(D-MA)             | College Dean of External Affairs; attorney; social worker. Won special election to fill a vacancy.   | 10/17/07 - present             |
| Nydia Velazquez<br>(D-NY)          | New York city council member; director of the Department of Puerto Rican Community Affairs; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.                                     | 1/5/93 - present               |
| Debbie Wasserman Schultz<br>(D-FL) | State senator; state representative. Elected to U.S. House in 2004.  | 1/4/05 - present               |
| Diane E. Watson<br>(D-CA)          | State senator; ambassador to Micronesia; educator; children's advocate. Won special election in 2001 to fill vacancy caused by death.                                    | 6/7/01 - present               |
| Maxine Waters<br>(D-CA)            | State assemblywoman; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1990.  | 1/3/91 - present               |
| Lynn Woolsey<br>(D-CA)             | Petaluma city council member; vice mayor; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.  | 1/5/93 - present               |