

WOMEN STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRS¹ 2009

In 2009, 1,791, or 24.3%, of the 7,382 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold **436 (306D, 120R, 10 nonpartisans)**, or 22.1%, of the 1,971 state senate seats and **1,355 (959D, 392R, 4 Progressives)**, or 25.0%, of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats.

In 2009, of the 1,901 state legislators chairing standing committees nationwide, **444**, or 23.4%, are women. Women hold 184, or 21.2%, of the 868 committee chair positions in state senates and 260, or 25.2%, of the 1,033 committee chair positions in state houses. Women chair committees in 43 state senates and in 48 state houses.

The **party breakdown** for women chairing standing committees is:

	Total Legislature			State Senate			State House		
	Total Women	Total Comm. Chairs	Percent Women	Total Women	Total Comm. Chairs	Percent Women	Total Women	Total Comm. Chairs	Percent Women
Total	444	1901	23.4	184	868	21.2	260	1033	25.2
D	353	1214	29.1	139	492	28.3	214	722	29.6
R	89	673	13.2	43	362	11.9	46	311	14.8
NP ²	2	14	14.3	2	14	14.3	--	--	--

The 10 states with the **highest percentages** of women committee chairs (combining senate and house) are:

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
New Hampshire	64.3	Washington	41.0
Colorado	50.0	Illinois	39.5
Vermont	48.0	Oregon	38.5
Maryland	42.9	California	37.7
Nevada	42.9	Montana	37.0

MD, WA, CO, VT, NH, and NV also rank among the ten states with the highest percentages of women serving in their state legislatures.

The 10 states with the **lowest percentages** of women committee chairs are:

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
South Carolina	0.0	West Virginia	11.1
Utah	3.8	Mississippi	12.0
Wyoming	4.2	Oklahoma	12.1
Missouri	4.8	Nebraska	14.3
Georgia	7.8	Ohio	14.3

SC, WV, MS, and OK also rank among the ten states with the lowest percentages of women serving in their state legislatures.

¹ Chairs and co-chairs of all senate, house, and joint standing committees are included in these figures, as are chairs and co-chairs of joint statutory committees and joint commissions as listed in *State Legislative Leadership, Committees & Staff 2009*, Council of State Governments, Lexington, Kentucky, 2009. Chairs and co-chairs of central staff services committees are not included. Members of senates chairing joint committees are counted as senate committee chairs, and members of houses chairing joint committees are counted as house committee chairs. The total number of committee chairs includes six vacancies.

² In Nebraska, where the legislature is unicameral, legislators are elected on a nonpartisan basis.

State Legislative Committee Chairs

State	Rank ¹	Total Leaders		--- Senate ---			--- House ---		
		Who are Women		Majority Party	Women Leaders/ All Leaders		Majority Party	Women Leaders/ All Leaders	
		#	%		#	%		#	%
AL	41	8/49	16.3	D	4/22	18.2	D	4/27	14.8
AK	42	5/25	20.0	D	3/11	27.3	R	2/14	14.3
AZ	13	7/27	25.9	R	3/12	25.0	R	4/15	26.7
AR	44	3/19	15.8	D	2/9	22.2	D	1/10	10.0
CA	2	20/53	37.7	D	11/23	47.8	D	9/30	30.0
CO	1	10/20	50.0	D	5/10	50.0	D	5/10	50.0
CT	9	15/54	27.8	D	7/27	25.9	D	8/27	29.6
DE	16	9/49	18.4	D	4/25	16.0	D	5/24	20.8
FL	35	7/38	18.4	R	4/26	15.4	R	3/12	25.0
GA	42	5/64	7.8	R	1/30	3.3	R	4/34	11.8
HI	11	9/32	28.1	D	5/14	35.7	D	4/18	22.2
ID	14	4/24	16.7	R	1/10	10.0	R	3/14	21.4
IL	6	32/81	39.5	D	7/25	28.0	D	25/56	44.6
IN	34	7/45	15.6	R	6/23	26.1	D	1/22	4.5
IA	35	11/39	28.2	D	3/19	15.8	D	8/20	40.0
KS	14	10/47	21.3	R	4/17	23.5	R	6/30	20.0
KY	28	6/33	18.2	R	3/14	21.4	D	3/19	15.8
LA	34	8/32	25.0	D	5/17	29.4	D	3/15	20.0
ME	6	3/11	27.3	D	0/5	0.0	D	3/6	50.0
MD	4	6/14	42.9	D	3/6	50.0	D	3/8	37.5
MA	32	15/54	27.8	D	8/27	29.6	D	7/27	25.9
MI	27	11/48	22.9	R	4/24	16.7	D	7/24	29.2
MN	23	13/39	33.3	D	9/26	34.6	D	4/13	30.8
MS	46	10/83	12.0	R	4/36	11.1	D	6/47	12.8
MO	39	3/62	4.8	R	1/18	5.6	R	2/44	4.5
MT	17	10/27	37.0	R	1/17	5.9	D	9/10	90.0
NE	29	2/14	14.3	NP	2/14	14.3	UNICAMERAL		
NV	12	9/21	42.9	R	4/9	44.4	D	5/12	41.7
NH	29	27/42	64.3	D	8/14	57.1	D	19/28	67.9
NJ	20	8/36	22.2	D	3/14	21.4	D	5/22	22.7
NM	18	7/23	30.4	D	3/14	21.4	D	4/9	44.4
NY	33	17/69	24.6	D	8/32	25.0	D	9/37	24.3
NC	10	13/70	18.6	D	4/36	11.1	D	9/34	26.5
ND	22	4/22	18.2	R	1/10	10.0	R	3/12	25.0
OH	38	6/42	14.3	R	0/15	0.0	D	6/27	22.2
OK	26	4/33	12.1	R	0/15	0.0	R	4/18	22.2
OR	8	10/26	38.5	D	5/10	50.0	D	5/16	31.3
PA	45	7/48	14.6	R	3/21	14.3	D	4/27	14.8
RI	19	6/22	27.3	D	4/11	36.4	D	2/11	18.2
SC	48	0/26	0.0	R	0/15	0.0	R	0/11	0.0
SD	40	6/29	20.7	R	1/16	6.3	R	5/13	38.5
TN	29	5/28	17.9	R	3/13	23.1	R	2/15	13.3
TX	23	12/53	22.6	R	4/19	21.1	R	8/34	23.5
UT	25	1/26	3.8	R	0/11	0.0	R	1/15	6.7
VT	5	12/25	48.0	D	5/11	45.5	D	7/14	50.0
VA	47	8/24	33.3	R	7/11	63.6	R	1/13	7.7
WA	3	16/39	41.0	D	7/15	46.7	D	9/24	37.5
WV	48	4/36	11.1	D	0/18	0.0	D	4/18	22.2
WI	21	12/55	21.8	D	4/19	21.1	D	8/36	22.2
WY	48	1/23	4.3	R	0/12	0.0	R	1/11	9.1
TOTALS		444/1901	23.4		184/868	21.2		260/1033	25.2

¹ Rank is for standing committee chairs only and is based on combined senate and house figures. States with the exact same percentages are given the same rank.