

CAPITOL FACTS & FIGURES

● ● ● GOVERNMENT

Women in State Government

Executive Branch

- Women hold 72 statewide elective executive offices, representing 22.9 percent of the 315 available positions, a significant increase from 1971, when only 7 percent of such positions were held by women. It is a decrease, however, from the high point of 1999-2001, when women held 27.6 percent of such offices.¹
- Women currently sit in the governor's office of six states, down from the record of nine women serving as chief executive simultaneously, which has happened on two different occasions. Women also serve in other high-level state offices: nine lieutenant governors, four attorneys general, 12 secretaries of state, 10 treasurers, four comptrollers, eight state auditors, five chief education officials and three commissioners of insurance.¹
- Twenty-seven states have never had a female governor. In three states—Hawaii, Michigan and North Carolina—the current governor is the first woman to serve in that office in state history.
- Arizona has had the most female governors with four, and is the first state to have three women in a row serve as governor.

Legislative Branch

- Women currently hold 1,806, or 24.5 percent, of the 7,382 state legislative seats, including 434 (22 percent) of the 1,971 senate seats and 1,372 (25 percent) of the 5,411 house seats. This percentage has increased by less than 4 percentage points in the past 15 years.²
- New Hampshire currently has the highest percentage of women in its legislature with 37.5 percent, with Vermont (37.2 percent) and Colorado (37 percent) close behind, while South Carolina has the lowest with 10 percent.²
- Women currently serve as either the speaker of the House or senate president in eight states—Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey and Rhode Island. In New Hampshire and Maine, women currently lead both legislative houses.²



- The New Hampshire Senate is the first legislative chamber ever to have a majority of female members. Thirteen of the 24 state senators are women.²

Judicial Branch

- Currently, 4,521 women serve as state court judges, representing 26.4 percent of the total 17,108 positions.³
- This includes 111 women who serve on a state final appellate jurisdiction court (supreme court or its equivalent), up from 14 in 1980 and 51 in 1995. This represents 31 percent of the 359 total supreme court judges.³ Women hold the majority of seats on the state supreme court or its equivalent in three states: Michigan, Tennessee and Wisconsin.³
- Seventeen women currently hold the office of chief justice of a state supreme court or its equivalent.⁴



Jennifer Horne Boyter, Associate Director for Policy and Special Libraries
jboyter@csg.org

REFERENCES

1. Center for American Women in Politics. "Statewide Elective Executive Women: 2010." May 2010. Available from http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/documents/stwide.pdf.
2. Center for American Women in Politics. "Women in State Legislatures: 2010." June 2010. http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/documents/stleg.pdf.
3. National Association of Women Judges. "2010 Representation of United States State Court Women Judges." Available from http://www.nawj.org/us_state_court_statistics_2010.asp.
4. National Conference of Chief Justices. "Membership Roster." Available from <http://ccj.nccj.dcu.us/RosterforDistribution.pdf>.



Women in State Government (July 2010)

State	Governor	Other Statewide Elected Executives ¹	Women in the Senate ²	Women in the House ²	Percentage of Total Legislators (Rank) ²	Percentage of All Judges ³	Supreme Court Justices
Alabama		6	5 of 35	13 of 105	12.9% (48)	21%	3 of 9 CJ
Alaska		0	3 of 20	10 of 40	21.7% (34)	18%	2 of 5
Arizona	Jan Brewer	2	11 of 30	17 of 60	31.1% (9)	30%	1 of 5 CJ
Arkansas		1	6 of 35	25 of 100	23% (28)	16%	2 of 7
California		1	13 of 40	20 of 80	27.5% (17)	28%	3 of 7
Colorado		2	12 of 35	25 of 65	37% (3)	29%	3 of 7 CJ
Connecticut	M. Jodi Rell	3	8 of 36	51 of 151	31.6% (8)	23%	3 of 7
Delaware		2	8 of 21	8 of 41	25.8% (21)	25%	1 of 5
Florida		1	9 of 40	28 of 120	23.1% (27)	29%	2 of 7 CJ
Georgia		1	8 of 56	38 of 180	19.5% (38)	29%	1 of 7 CJ
Hawaii	Linda Lingle	0	7 of 25	18 of 51	32.9% (5)	34%	1 of 5
Idaho		1	8 of 35	18 of 70	24.8% (23)	11%	0 of 5
Illinois		1	13 of 59	36 of 118	27.7% (16)	27%	2 of 7
Indiana		1	12 of 50	20 of 100	21.3% (35)	20%	0 of 5
Iowa		1	9 of 50	26 of 100	23.3% (26)	23%	1 of 7 CJ
Kansas		1	14 of 40	35 of 125	29.7% (12)	17%	2 of 7
Kentucky		1	7 of 38	15 of 100	15.9% (45)	32%	2 of 7
Louisiana		0	8 of 39	15 of 105	16% (44)	26%	3 of 7 CJ
Maine		0	8 of 35	46 of 151	29% (13)	20%	2 of 7 CJ
Maryland		0	10 of 47	48 of 141	30.9% (10)	31%	3 of 7
Massachusetts		1	12 of 40	40 of 160	26% (19)	32%	3 of 7 CJ
Michigan	Jennifer Granholm	1	9 of 38	28 of 110	25% (22)	28%	4 of 7 CJ
Minnesota		3	27 of 67	43 of 134	34.8% (4)	31%	2 of 7
Mississippi		0	4 of 52	21 of 122	14.4% (47)	17%	1 of 9
Missouri		2	8 of 34	36 of 163	22.3% (29)	19%	3 of 7
Montana		4	10 of 50	29 of 100	26% (19)	34%	1 of 7
Nebraska		1	10 of 49	N/A	20.4% (36)	18%	1 of 7
Nevada		3	7 of 21	13 of 42	31.7% (7)	30%	2 of 7
New Hampshire		0	13 of 24	146 of 400	37.5% (1)	18%	2 of 5
New Jersey		1	8 of 40	26 of 80	28.3% (14)	27%	3 of 7
New Mexico		3	11 of 42	23 of 70	30.4% (11)	24%	1 of 5
New York		0	10 of 62	42 of 150	24.5% (24)	30%	3 of 7
North Carolina	Beverly Perdue	5	6 of 50	39 of 120	26.5% (18)	24%	3 of 7 CJ
North Dakota		1	6 of 47	17 of 94	16.3% (43)	17%	2 of 5
Ohio		2	7 of 33	22 of 99	22% (32)	24%	3 of 7
Oklahoma		5	5 of 48	12 of 101	11.4% (49)	19%	1 of 9
Oregon		1	9 of 30	16 of 60	27.8% (15)	32%	2 of 7
Pennsylvania		0	10 of 50	29 of 203	15.4% (46)	26%	2 of 7
Rhode Island		1	8 of 38	17 of 75	22.1% (30)	34%	1 of 5
South Carolina		0	0 of 46	17 of 124	10% (50)	30%	2 of 5 CJ
South Dakota		0	7 of 35	14 of 170	20% (37)	13%	1 of 5
Tennessee		0	8 of 33	16 of 99	18.2% (40)	17%	3 of 5 CJ
Texas		2	6 of 31	37 of 150	23.8% (25)	25%	5 of 18 PJ *
Utah		0	5 of 29	18 of 75	22.1% (30)	23%	2 of 5 CJ
Vermont		1	11 of 30	56 of 150	37.2% (2)	40%	2 of 5
Virginia		0	8 of 40	19 of 100	19.3% (39)	20%	1 of 7
Washington	Christine Gregoire	0	19 of 49	29 of 98	32.7% (6)	30%	4 of 7 CJ
West Virginia		1	2 of 34	20 of 100	16.4% (42)	23%	2 of 5 CJ
Wisconsin		2	7 of 33	22 of 99	22% (32)	17%	4 of 7 CJ
Wyoming		1	2 of 30	13 of 60	16.7% (41)	15%	1 of 5
Total / Average	6	66	434 of 1971	1372 of 5411	1806/7382	25%	

Key: CJ refers to a female Chief Justice of the court of last resort in the state.

* Includes the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Judge Sharon Keller is the Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals.

1. Center for American Women in Politics. "Statewide Elective Executive Women: 2010." May 2010. Available from http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/documents/stwide.pdf.

2. Center for American Women in Politics. "Women in State Legislatures: 2010." June 2010. Available from http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/documents/stleg.pdf.

3. National Association of Women Judges. "2010 Representation of United States State Court Women Judges." Available from http://www.nawj.org/us_state_court_statistics_2010.asp