

## WOMEN IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2008

In 2008, 72 women hold seats in the House of Representatives, comprising 16.6% of the 435 members. The women represent 30 states; 52 are Democrats and 20 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, 2 Asian Pacific Islanders, and 7 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 68 women who served in the House in 2006, two did not seek re-election, four lost their elections and one served only briefly, filling out an unexpired term. The remaining 61 (42D, 19R) were re-elected. Four have since died.

Of the 72 women who serve in the House in 2008, 58 first entered by winning regular general elections. Fifteen others won special elections; Bono Mack (CA), Capps (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), Watson (CA), and Wilson (NM) 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, 53, or 73.6%, of the 72 women lawmakers held previous elective offices; 29 of the 53 held more than one post. The positions include: statewide elective (3); state senator (17); state representative (33); county governing board member (11); mayor (3); council member (13); judge (4); school board member (3).

### The women who serve in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008 include:

<u>Congresswomen</u>	<u>Routes to Office</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Michele Bachmann (R-MN)	State senator; assistant minority leader; tax litigation attorney. Elected to the U.S. House in 2006.	1/4/07 - present
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)	State representative; county board of supervisors. Elected to U.S. House in 1998.	1/6/99 - present
Melissa Bean (D-IL)	Businesswoman. Unsuccessful 2002 congressional candidate. Elected to U.S. House in 2004.	1/4/05 - present
Shelley Berkley (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 (R-IL)	State representative; planning commissioner; school board member; attorney. Elected to U.S. House in 1998.	1/6/99 - present
Marsha Blackburn (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 (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 (D-GU)	Lieutenant Governor, Guam senator, Guam's First Lady, community organizer. Elected to U.S. House in 2002.	1/7/03 - present
Nancy Boyda (D-KS)	Chemist; field inspector for the Environment Protection Agency. Elected to the U.S. House in 2006.	1/4/07 - present
Corrine Brown (D-FL)	State representative; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Ginny Brown-Waite (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 (R-WV)	State delegate; counselor; children's advocate. Elected to U.S. House in 2000.	1/3/01 - present
Lois Capps (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

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>
Kathy Castor (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
Donna Christensen (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
Yvette Clarke (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
Barbara Cubin (R-WY)	State senator; state representative; medical office manager. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.	1/4/95 - present
Susan Davis (D-CA)	State assemblywoman; president, San Diego city school board. Elected to U.S. House in 2000.	1/3/01 - present
Rosa DeLauro (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 (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
Thelma Drake (R-VA)	State representative, chairwoman of Virginia Housing Commission; realtor. Elected to U.S. House in 2004.	1/4/05 - present
Donna Edwards (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 (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 (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 (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 (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 (D-OH)	Mayor of Warrensville Heights; Congressional chief of staff; attorney; Won special election to fill a vacancy.	11/19/08 - present
Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ)	State senator; state representative. Elected to U.S. House in 2006.	1/4/07 - present
Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)	Special counsel to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; law clerk on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Elected to U.S. House in 2006.	1/4/07 - present
Kay Granger (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
Jane Harman (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 and 1/3/01 - present
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (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 (D-HI)	Lieutenant governor; state representative; state deputy attorney general. Elected to U.S. House in 2006.	1/4/07 - present
Darlene Hooley (D-OR)	Clackamas County commissioner; state representative; councilwoman; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Eddie Bernice Johnson (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 (D-OH)	Urban planner; White House domestic policy aide. Elected to U.S. House in 1982.	1/3/83 - present
Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI)	State representative; Democratic whip; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present

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Barbara Lee (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 (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 (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 (D-NY)	Assistant New York secretary of state. Elected to U.S. House in 1988.	1/3/89 - present
Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)	New York city council member; educator; administrator. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Doris Matsui (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 (D-NY)	Lobbyist on gun control issues; nurse. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Betty McCollum (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 (R-WA)	State representative and House Republican leader. Elected to U.S. House in 2004.	1/4/05 - present
Candice Miller (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 (D-WI)	State senator; assemblywoman; city and state government administrator. Elected to U.S. House in 2004.	1/4/05 - present
Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO)	State senator, state representative, school board member. Elected to U.S. House in 2002.	1/7/03 - present
Sue Myrick (R-NC)	Charlotte mayor; city council member; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.	1/4/95 - present
Grace Napolitano (D-CA)	State assemblywoman; mayor, Norwalk; city council member; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1998.	1/6/99 - present
Eleanor Holmes Norton (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 (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
Deborah Pryce (R-OH)	Municipal court judge; prosecutor. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Laura Richardson (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
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)	State senator; state representative; educator; business-woman. Won special election in 1989 to fill a vacancy.	9/6/89 - present
Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)	State assemblywoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Linda Sanchez (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 (D-CA)	Santa Ana businesswoman; financial consultant to local governments. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)	State representative; director, Illinois Public Action; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1998.	1/6/99 - present
Jean Schmidt (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

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Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)	State senator; state representative. Elected to U.S. House in 2004.	1/4/05 - present
Allyson Schwartz (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 (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 (D-NY)	State assemblywoman; Monroe County legislator; gubernatorial staff member. Elected to U.S. House in 1986.	1/3/87 - present
Hilda Solis (D-CA)	State senator; state assemblywoman; first Latina to be elected to California State Senate. White House Office of Hispanic Affairs during the Carter administration. Elected to U.S. House in 2000.	1/3/01 - present
Jackie Speier (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 (D-OH)	State representative; councilwoman. Elected to U.S. House in 2006.	1/4/07 - present
Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)	Democratic party activist; founder and president of child care registry; investment banker. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Niki Tsongas (D-MA)	College Dean of External Affairs; attorney; social worker.	10/17/07 - present
Nydia Velazquez (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
Diane E. Watson (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 (D-CA)	State assemblywoman; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1990.	1/3/91 - present
Heather Wilson (R-NM)	New Mexico Secretary of Children, Youth and Families Department; Director, Defense Policy and Arms Control, National Security Council; Defense Planning Officer. Won special election in 1998 to fill a vacancy caused by death.	6/25/98 - present
Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)	Petaluma city council member; vice mayor; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present