

Women in State Legislatures

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Issue

How many women hold state legislative seats?

Summary

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), 1,843 (24.9 %) of the 7,383 state legislators in the 50 states are women. At 40%, Arizona has the highest percentage of state legislators who are women; Wyoming has the lowest at 11.1%. Connecticut ranks 19th compared to other states; of its 187 legislators, 52 (27.8%) are women.

Table 1 lists the 10 states with the highest percentage of state legislators who are women and Table 2 lists the 10 states with the lowest percentage. Table 3 provides information about each state, including its rank and the percentage of legislators who are women.

Table 1: States with the Most Women State Legislators

| <i>State</i> | <i>Percent Women</i> |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Arizona | 40.0% |
| Nevada | 39.7% |
| Vermont | 39.4% |
| Colorado | 38.0% |
| Washington | 36.7% |
| Illinois | 35.0% |
| Maine | 33.9% |
| Oregon | 33.3% |
| Minnesota | 32.3% |
| Maryland | 31.9% |

Source: NCSL

Table 2: States with the Least Women State Legislators

| <i>State</i> | <i>Percent Women</i> |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Wyoming | 11.1% |
| Oklahoma | 13.4% |
| West Virginia | 13.4% |
| South Carolina | 14.1% |
| Mississippi | 14.9% |
| Alabama | 15.0% |
| Louisiana | 15.3% |
| Tennessee | 15.9% |
| Kentucky | 16.7% |
| North Dakota | 18.4% |

Source: NCSL

Table 3: Women Serving in State Legislatures

| <i>State</i> | <i>Rank</i> | <i>Number of Women in the House</i> | <i>Number of Women in the Senate</i> | <i>Total Women</i> | <i>Total Legislators</i> | <i>Percent Women</i> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Alabama | 45 | 17 | 4 | 21 | 140 | 15.00% |
| Alaska | 15 | 12 | 6 | 18 | 60 | 30.00% |
| Arizona | 1 | 22 | 14 | 36 | 90 | 40.00% |
| Arkansas | 40 | 18 | 7 | 25 | 135 | 18.50% |
| California | 32 | 17 | 9 | 26 | 120 | 21.70% |
| Colorado | 4 | 27 | 11 | 38 | 100 | 38.00% |
| Connecticut | 19 | 43 | 9 | 52 | 187 | 27.80% |
| Delaware | 33 | 9 | 4 | 13 | 62 | 21.00% |
| Florida | 25 | 27 | 13 | 40 | 160 | 25.00% |
| Georgia | 26 | 47 | 11 | 58 | 236 | 24.60% |
| Hawaii | 21 | 14 | 7 | 21 | 76 | 27.60% |
| Idaho | 13 | 23 | 9 | 32 | 105 | 30.50% |
| Illinois | 6 | 45 | 17 | 62 | 177 | 35.00% |
| Indiana | 36 | 22 | 8 | 30 | 150 | 20.00% |
| Iowa | 29 | 28 | 6 | 34 | 150 | 22.70% |
| Kansas | 18 | 32 | 15 | 47 | 165 | 28.50% |
| Kentucky | 42 | 19 | 4 | 23 | 138 | 16.70% |
| Louisiana | 44 | 17 | 5 | 22 | 144 | 15.30% |
| Maine | 7 | 53 | 10 | 63 | 186 | 33.90% |
| Maryland | 10 | 49 | 11 | 60 | 188 | 31.90% |
| Massachusetts | 23 | 39 | 12 | 51 | 200 | 25.50% |
| Michigan | 27 | 31 | 4 | 35 | 148 | 23.60% |
| Minnesota | 9 | 49 | 16 | 65 | 201 | 32.30% |
| Mississippi | 46 | 17 | 9 | 26 | 174 | 14.90% |
| Missouri | 30 | 37 | 7 | 44 | 197 | 22.30% |
| Montana | 17 | 29 | 14 | 43 | 150 | 28.70% |
| Nebraska | 22 | Unicameral | 13 | 13 | 49 | 26.50% |

Table 3 (continued)

| <i>State</i> | <i>Rank</i> | <i>House</i> | <i>Senate</i> | <i>Total Women</i> | <i>Total Legislators</i> | <i>Percent Women</i> |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Nevada | 2 | 17 | 8 | 25 | 63 | 39.70% |
| New Hampshire | 16 | 118 | 7 | 125 | 424 | 29.50% |
| New Jersey | 12 | 25 | 12 | 37 | 120 | 30.80% |
| New Mexico | 14 | 27 | 7 | 34 | 112 | 30.40% |
| New York | 20 | 45 | 14 | 59 | 213 | 27.70% |
| North Carolina | 24 | 30 | 13 | 43 | 170 | 25.30% |
| North Dakota | 41 | 17 | 9 | 26 | 141 | 18.40% |
| Ohio | 31 | 23 | 6 | 29 | 132 | 22.00% |
| Oklahoma | 48 | 14 | 6 | 20 | 149 | 13.40% |
| Oregon | 8 | 22 | 8 | 30 | 90 | 33.30% |
| Pennsylvania | 39 | 40 | 7 | 47 | 253 | 18.60% |
| Rhode Island | 11 | 23 | 12 | 35 | 113 | 31.00% |
| South Carolina | 47 | 20 | 4 | 24 | 170 | 14.10% |
| South Dakota | 37 | 16 | 5 | 21 | 105 | 20.00% |
| Tennessee | 43 | 16 | 5 | 21 | 132 | 15.90% |
| Texas | 34 | 29 | 8 | 37 | 181 | 20.40% |
| Utah | 35 | 15 | 6 | 21 | 104 | 20.20% |
| Vermont | 3 | 60 | 11 | 71 | 180 | 39.40% |
| Virginia | 38 | 17 | 10 | 27 | 140 | 19.30% |
| Washington | 5 | 36 | 18 | 54 | 147 | 36.70% |
| West Virginia | 49 | 15 | 3 | 18 | 134 | 13.40% |
| Wisconsin | 28 | 22 | 9 | 31 | 132 | 23.50% |
| Wyoming | 50 | 7 | 3 | 10 | 90 | 11.10% |

Source: NCSL

KS:tjo