

Women in Electoral Politics

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WOMEN IN FEDERAL POLITICS

Female Presidential Candidates with over 50,000 Votes

1968* – Charlene Mitchell (Communist Party)

1,075 Votes [First woman on record to surpass 1,000 votes]

1972 – Linda Jenness (Socialist Workers)

52,799 Votes

1984 – Sonia Johnson (Citizens)

72,200 Votes

1988 – Lenora Fulani (New Alliance)

217,219 Votes (0.2% of the Vote; 4th place)

1992 – Lenora Fulani (New Alliance)

73,714 Votes

2008 – Cynthia McKinney (Green)

161,313 Votes

Female Vice Presidential Candidates on Tickets with over 1,000,000 Votes

1924* – Marie Brehm (Herman P Faris/Prohibition)
56,268 Votes [First female VP on ticket with over 1,000 votes]

1984 – Geraldine Ferraro (Walter Mondale/Democratic)
37,577,185 Votes

2000 – Winona LaDuke (Ralph Nader/Green)
2,882,738

2008 – Sarah Palin (John McCain/Republican)
59,948,323

NOTES: There has been little consistency with female performance on the top of the ticket. Just 4 years after the first woman recorded votes, a woman surpassed the 50,000 threshold. But another woman wouldn't pass it again for a dozen years. In 1988 Lenora Fulani came in fourth, the best finish any woman has had in the general election.

Presidential Debate Moderators

	First Debate Moderator	Second Debate Moderator	Third Debate Moderator	Fourth Debate Moderator
1960	Howard K. Smith	Frank McGee	Bill Shadel	Quincy Howe
1976	Edwin Newman	Pauline Frederick	Barbara Walters	
1980	Bill Moyers	Howard K Smith		
1984	Barbara Walters	Edwin Newman		
1988	Jim Lehrer	Bernard Shaw		
1992	Jim Lehrer	Carole Simpson	Jim Lehrer	
1996	Jim Lehrer	Jim Lehrer		
2000	Jim Lehrer	Jim Lehrer	Jim Lehrer	
2004	Jim Lehrer	Charlie Gibson	Bob Schieffer	
2008	Jim Lehrer	Tom Brokaw	Bob Schieffer	
2012	Jim Lehrer	Candy Crowley	Bob Schieffer	

From 1976 to 1984 the debates were sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Under the League of Women Voters' stewardship, women made up 43% of moderators.

In 1987 the two parties established the Commission on Presidential Debates. Under the Commission on Presidential Debates, women have been selected to moderate 11% of debates.

Jim Lehrer alone has moderated more than twice as many debates as women have.

*Both moderators of Vice Presidential debates sponsored by the League of Women Voters were male. Of the Six Vice Presidential debate moderators selected by the Commission on Presidential debates, half were female.

Female Cabinet Members

	President	Female Cabinet Members
1969-73	Nixon	0
1973-77	Nixon/Ford	1
1977-81	Carter	3
1981-85	Reagan I	2
1985-89	Reagan II	2
1989-93	Bush (41)	3
1993-97	Clinton I	3
1997-2001	Clinton II	4
2001-05	Bush (43) I	3
2005-09	Bush (43) II	5
2009-13	Obama I	4
2013-	Obama II	3

US Congress Members

	Women in the House of Reps.	Women in the Senate
1970	10 (2%)	1 (1%)
1975	19 (4%)	0 (0%)
1980	15 (3%)	2 (2%)
1985	23 (5%)	2 (2%)
1990	29 (7%)	2 (2%)
1995	48 (11%)	9 (9%)
2000	58 (13%)	9 (9%)
2005	70 (16%)	14 (14%)
2010	74 (17%)	17 (17%)
2012	76 (17%)	17 (17%)
2013	77 (18%)	20 (20%)

Via *Womenincongress.house.gov*

Female Incumbency

At least one woman has sought reelection to the senate in every election cycle since 1990. In the last 22 years both male and female senators have a reelection rate of roughly 87%.

Reelection Rate of U.S. Senators by Gender, 1990-2012

Cycle	# Men	Won	Lost	% Won	# Women	Won	Lost	% Won
1990	31	30	1	96.8	1	1	0	100.0
1992	27	22	5	81.5	1	1	0	100.0
1994	24	22	2	91.7	2	2	0	100.0
1996	20	19	1	95.0	1	0	1	0.0
1998	25	23	2	92.0	4	3	1	75.0
2000	26	20	6	76.9	3	3	0	100.0
2002	25	22	3	88.0	3	2	1	66.7
2004	21	20	1	95.2	5	5	0	100.0
2006	23	17	6	73.9	6	6	0	100.0
2008	27	23	4	85.2	3	2	1	66.7
2010	19	16	3	84.2	6	5	1	83.3
2012	17	15	2	88.2	6	6	0	100.0
Total	285	249	36	87.4	41	35	6	87.8

Note: Includes U.S. Senators running for election that were first appointed into office. Table compiled by Smart Politics.

This trend holds true for House Elections too.

From 1956 to 2006 female members of congress won 95.8% of their reelections compared to male members winning 94.5% of their reelection campaigns. On average female incumbents won 67.3% of the vote in their races while male incumbents similarly won 64.5% of the vote.

Via Palmer, Simon "Breaking the Political Glass Ceiling: Women and Congressional Elections"

Committee Heads by Gender and Party in the 112th Congress*

House of Representatives

	Female Republican Heads (23 Congresswomen)	Female Democratic Ranking Members (54 Congresswomen)
Committees (20)	1	4
Subcommittees (~100)	10	25

Senate

	Female Republican Ranking Members (5 Senators)	Female Democratic Heads (12 Senators)
Committees (16)	4	4
Subcommittees (73)	5	19

*Data for the chairs and ranking committee and subcommittee members for the upcoming 113th Congress is not fully complete yet.

First Female Head of Secret Service

In March 2013 Barack Obama appointed Julia Pierson as the new Director of the Secret Service. Pierson is the current chief of staff of the Secret Service. She is a three-decade veteran of the force. This appointment is official, since the Senate does not have to confirm the director of the Secret Service. She is replacing Mark Sullivan who served as director for 7 years before retiring in February 2013.

Historically women working in the Secret Service exclusively held clerical positions. There were no female Secret Service agents until 1971, when 4 women simultaneously received appointments. 7 years later in 1978 Special Agent Mary Ann Gordon became the first female agent to get a permanent assignment to the White House detail. That same year a female agent also was assigned to Vice President Walter Mondale. The next major milestone for women in the Secret Service came in 2004 when Barbara Riggs was named deputy director, the first woman to hold that position. Riggs first became an agent in 1975 and was one of the first 10 women to achieve that role.

Federal Judicial Appointees by Gender and President

In the 1970s, because there were so few female lawyers, it was tough, but not impossible to find female judges. By the 1980s, around a third of Law School graduates were female and by the 1990s, almost half were. The slow march toward equality in the courtroom is evident in the Presidential appointments of Federal Judges. As more and more qualified female lawyers become Judges; Democrats have clearly led the way when it comes to increasing diversity in the courts. As of 2013, of the 874 federal judgeships, 39% are held by women.

	Total Appointees	Female Appointees	Percentage Female
Richard Nixon	231	1	0.4%
Gerald Ford	62	1	1.6%
Jimmy Carter	259	40	15.4%
Ronald Reagan	376	31	8.2%
George H.W. Bush	192	36	18.8%
Bill Clinton	373	111	29.8%
George W. Bush	325	72	22.2%
Barack Obama	162	72	44.4%

Before Jimmy Carter, only 8 women had been appointed Federal Judges, with no President appointing more than 3 women. Carter overhauled the Judicial nominating process, taking the nominating power away from individual Senators. This meant that judicial appointments were less political and less about rewarding friends and supporters of the Senators. Once the Executive branch took more of a role in the nomination of Judges, it was possible to nominate more diverse judges who might not be as politically connected as the Senate appointments.

A noticeable trend is that every President since Nixon has appointed a greater percentage of female judges than their most recent party compatriot at the White House.

Via – Federal Judicial Center Database

Presidential Gender Gap

1976 was the last election in which a candidate won both gender by the same margin. Since then the Democratic Party has developed a strong base of support from women while Republicans have seen more support from men. The biggest gender gap in a presidential election came in 2000, when Al Gore won the female vote by 11 points while George W Bush won the male vote by 11 points, creating a 22 point total gap between the two genders.

	Winner	Female Vote	Male Vote	Gender Gap
1976	Jimmy Carter	+2	+2	0
1980	Ronald Reagan	+2	+19	17
1984	Ronald Reagan	+12	+25	13
1988	George HW Bush	+1	+16	15
1992	Bill Clinton	+8	+3	5
1996	Bill Clinton	+16	-1	17
2000	George W Bush	-11	+11	22
2004	George W Bush	-3	+11	14
2008	Barack Obama	+13	+1	12
2012	Barack Obama	+11	-7	18

Female Votes by Marital Status

Married women tend to support Republicans while single women tend to vote for Democrats

	Share of Voting Population	Percentage Vote for Democrat	Percentage Vote for Republican
2012-Married Women	31%	46%	53%
2012-Unmarried Women	23%	67%	31%
2010-Married Women*	+	43%	54%
2010-Unmarried Women*	19%	61%	36%
2008-Married Women	32%	47%	50%
2008-Unmarried Women	21%	70%	29%
2006-Married Women	33%	48%	50%
2006-Unmarried Women	18%	66%	32%

*In 2010 the Edison Research Poll, that year's National Election Pool Poll, did not publish votes by gender and marital status. The numbers used here are from a

Lake Research Poll, conducted October 31st through November 2nd 2010. In their accessible press release, the married female share of the vote was not listed.

WOMEN IN LOCAL POLITICS

Women at the State Level

	Female Governors	Female Attorneys General
1970	0 (0%)	0
1975	1 (2%)	0
1980	2 (4%)	0
1985	2 (4%)	2
1990	3 (6%)	2
1995	4 (8%)	10
2000	3 (6%)	9
2005	9 (18%)	6
2010	6 (12%)	5
2012	6 (12%)	8

Women Serving in State Legislatures

Year	Percentage State Legislators that are Female	Total Female Legislators	Democratic Female Legislators	Republican Female Legislators
2005	22.5	1,663	+	+
2006	22.6	1,667	1,045	606
2007	23.4	1,729	1,181	533
2008	23.7	1,751	1,199	537
2009	24.2	1,788	1,255	519
2010	24.5	1,808	1,263	529
2011	23.6	1,744	1,054	671
2012	23.7	1,746	1,051	676
2013	24.1	1,781	1,134	632

Via National Conference of State Legislators, who started collecting their data in 2005. Any earlier data is scant and unorganized.

US Mayors

In the last hundred years, the 50 largest American cities of 2012; have had 52 different women serve as mayor. Of those 50 cities, 19 have never seen a female mayor; including three (New York, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia) of the nation's five largest cities.

Both Portland, Oregon and Sacramento, California had female mayors serve in the 1940s. While those women were counted in the aforementioned tallies, they are not on this list.

Year	Female Mayors
1970	0
1975	4
1980	9
1985	4
1990	10
1995	11
2000	9
2005	9
2010	4
2012	7

WOMEN IN POLITICAL PARTIES

Women in Power by Party

Women served as elected officials throughout the 20th century and into the 21st. In 1992, many in the Democratic Party declared that it would be the "Year of the Woman." In the last 20 years women have continued to make strides in this field, with Democratic women outpacing Republicans at the national level, and Republican women doing incredibly well at the state level.

Women in Congress:

	Since 1992	Since 1789
Republicans	40	87
Democrats	83	157

Women in the Senate:

	Since 1992	Since 1789
Republicans	8	15
Democrats	19	29

Women as Governors:

	Since 1992	Since 1789
Republicans	13	14
Democrats	9	20

National Party Female Chairpersons

Neither party has a strong record of Chairperson Diversity.

Since 1970 there have been 20 Chairpersons of the Democratic National Committee. Of those 20, only 3 have been women. First was Jean Westwood in 1972, then was Debra DeLee from 1994-1995 and last was Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, who is the current Chairperson and has held that role since 2011.

Since 1970 there have been 19 Chairpersons of the Republican National Committee. Of them only one was female. The lone female Chairperson of the RNC was Mary Louise Smith from 1974-1977.

	Chairwomen	Percentage of Chairpersons that have been female (Since 1970)	Years of Female leadership (Since 1970)	Percentage of Years led by a female Chairperson (Since 1970)
DNC	3	15.0%	5	11.9%
RNC	1	5.3%	3	7.1%

