



QUICK TAKES • Women in Government

- **110th U.S. Congress:** ¹
 - Women hold 16 (16%) of the 100 Senate seats, showing a 14.3% increase from the 109th Senate.
 - Women hold 71 (16.3%) of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives, up from 67 in the 109th House of Representatives.
 - There are 21 women of color in Congress, representing 3.9% of the total members of Congress and 24.1% of the 87 women members of Congress. The 109th Congress had 19 women of color.
 - In 2007, Nancy Pelosi was the first woman elected as Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - **Cabinet:** ¹
 - 32 women have held cabinet or cabinet-level appointments in the history of the U.S.
 - **Governors:** ¹
 - 9 of the current governors are women, an increase of 1 from the previous term.
 - No woman of color has ever been governor of a U.S. state.
 - **Statewide legislatures:** ¹
 - 1,732 (24.3%) of the 7,382 state legislators are women, an increase from 1,674 during the previous term.
 - Women hold 422 (21.4%) of the 1,971 state senate seats and 1,308 (24.2%) of the 5,411 state house seats.
 - Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.
 - **Statewide elective executive offices:** ¹
 - As of 2007, 76 women hold statewide elective executive offices around the country, or 24.1% of the 315 available positions.
 - **Mayors:** ¹
 - 197 women (17.3%) are mayors of U.S. cities with more than 30,000 residents.
 - The U.S. ranks 71st in the world in terms of women's representation in national legislatures or parliaments out 188 direct election countries (as of December 31, 2007), down from 66 in November 2007, up from 67th in August 2005, and down from 61st in April 2005 and 57th in November 2004. Rwanda is currently no. 1, followed by Sweden, Finland, Argentina, the Netherlands, Denmark, Costa Rica, Spain, Norway, and Cuba. ²
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Sources

1. Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers. <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/>
2. Inter-Parliamentary Union, "Women in National Parliaments" (December 31, 2007). <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

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