

# Fact Sheet 2011



## Women in Public Office Across the World 2011

### U.S. Facts

As of June 30th, 2011, the U.S. ranks 70th in the World in terms of women's representation in national legislatures or parliaments out of 187 countries. The U.S. is currently tied with Bosnia, Herzegovina and San Marino.

### Florida Rank

Florida Ranks 12th (along with North Carolina) among all the states with the highest number of women in public office across the U.S.

### 2012 Project Florida

Florida welcomes the 2012 Project Florida, Florida's first state-based coalition.

### Data

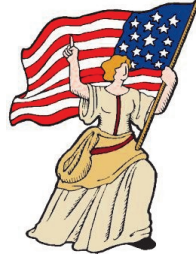
\*No house— Unicameral Legislation.

All 50 states are represented. Some states are respectively grouped with other states to show a tie.

Source for historical figures: Center for American Women and Politics.

### Political Pearls Across the U.S.

While women, globally, are advancing in government leadership, the United States remains in a standstill. Women worldwide are gaining momentum in government and the United States still questions whether or not women have the capacity and ability to lead. The current number of female leaders in the United States represents the constant struggle and continuation of the lack of parity in U.S. government and how other countries are advancing faster than our very own.



### STATES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE

Ranking	State
1	New Hampshire
2	Vermont
3	Minnesota
4	Illinois Maryland
5	Connecticut
6	Maine
7	California
8	Georgia New York
9	Washington
10	Massachusetts
11	Missouri
12	Florida North Carolina
13	Kansas
14	Pennsylvania
15	Texas
16	Colorado

In 2011, out of the 317 available positions among statewide elective executive offices across the United States, **70 women** hold positions.

**Six women** are governors of their state, a depressing decrease of 2 from 2008. **Seven women** currently serve in cabinet or cabinet-level posts. With a startlingly reality, only **40 women** have ever held a total of 45 cabinet or cabinet-level appointments in the history of the U.S.

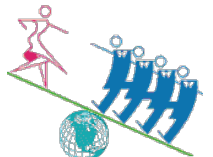
Of the U.S. cities with more than 30,000 residents, only **194 women** currently serve as U.S. Mayors. Thus, like the variation that exists among the countries around the world, the role of women in public office varies tremendously across United States

### STATES WITH THE LOWEST NUMBER OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE

Ranking	State
1	Nebraska*
2	Alaska
3	Delaware South Carolina Wyoming
4	Utah
5	Nevada North Dakota Oklahoma
6	South Dakota
7	Louisiana West Virginia
8	Alabama Tennessee Mississippi
9	Kentucky Oregon Virginia
10	Hawaii
11	Idaho
12	Arkansas Ohio Rhode Island
13	Indiana Iowa New Mexico
14	Michigan New Jersey
15	Arizona Wisconsin
16	Montana

### Political Pearls Around the Globe

Women around the world are currently working hard to enter into leadership positions to improve the quality of life for their country and its people.





# Women in Public Office Around the World 2011

The rise of several prominent female leaders only highlights the importance of recognition in establishing gender equality around the world. Nonetheless, the status of women in politics around the globe has not only sparked the interest of many but has also raised awareness that capable and prepared women are currently in leadership roles throughout the world. By leveling the leadership playing field for women, capable and prepared political women have the opportunity to bring their different perspective to the table. Thus, a political system without adequate representation of women is not only profoundly incomplete, it is unbalanced. Furthermore, it is important that the system of government reflect the community it serves because only then can there be a balanced government with balanced policies.



Country	Leader	First 'Elected' Female of Her Country	First Female To Ever Hold that Position in Her Country	Notes
Åland Islands	Premier Viveka Eriksson	√	√	Elected
Argentina	President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner	√		Elected
Antigua and Barbuda	Governor-General Dame Louise Lake-Tack		√	Sworn In
Australia	Prime Minister Julia Gillard		√	Appointed 2010, Elected 2009
Australia	Governor-General Quentin Bryce		√	Sworn In
Bangladesh	Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed	√	√	Elected 1996, Elected 2009
Brazil	President Dilma Rouseff	√	√	Elected
Costa Rica	President Laura Chinchilla	√	√	Elected
Croatia	Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor		√	Appointed
Finland	President Tarja Halonen	√	√	Elected
Germany	Chancellor Angela Merkel	√	√	Elected
Iceland	Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir		√	Appointed 2009, Elected 2009
India	President Pratibha Patil	√	√	Elected
Ireland	President Mary McAleese			Elected
Kosovo	President Atifete Jahjaga**	√	√	Elected
Kyrgyzstan	President Rosa Otunbayeva		√	Coup
Liberia	President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf	√	√	Elected
Lithuania	President Dalia Grybauskaitė	√	√	Elected
Mali	Prime Minister Cissé Mariam Kaïdama Sidibé		√	Appointed
Sint Maarten	Sarah Wescot-Williams		√	Appointed
Slovakia	Prime Minister Iveta Radičová	√	√	Elected
Switzerland	President Micheline Calmy-Rey		√	Appointed
Thailand	Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra	√	√	Elected
Trinidad and Tobago	Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar	√	√	Elected
Saint Lucia	Governor-General Dame Pearlette Louisy		√	Sworn In
San Marino	Captitano Reggente Maria Luisa Berti			Sworn In

## International Facts

Twenty-six women currently hold power simultaneously across the world.

Internationally, there are 11 women Prime Ministers and 12 female Presidents.

Rwanda, currently, ranks first nationwide, followed by Andorra, Sweden, South Africa, Cuba, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Mozambique in terms of women's representation.

\*\*Side note: President Atifete Jahjaga of Kosovo is the first non-partisan candidate and the youngest to be elected to that office.

Source: [http://www.filibustercartoons.com/charts\\_rest\\_female-leaders.php](http://www.filibustercartoons.com/charts_rest_female-leaders.php)

Women worldwide continue to make dramatic gains in politics, winning a number of leadership positions and holding some of the highest government positions ever held by a woman in their country. Growing number of women, across the world, are making inroads into politics and are finding their country's emerging acceptance of women as political leaders. The United States, on the other hand, continues to struggle to elect more women into high government positions. Thus, in order to accurately reflect society and ensure that women's diverse interest is taken into account, it is essential to have a more equitable representation of women in governments worldwide because when there is a shortage of women in political leadership, there is a wasting of knowledge, competence, and unique perspectives.

*A special thanks to FCSW Administrative Secretary, Veronica Vasquez, for her assistance in creating this report.*

**Florida Commission on the Status of Women**

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