

CHATHAM UNIVERSITY
**PENNSYLVANIA CENTER
 FOR WOMEN & POLITICS**

Fast Facts Pennsylvania

Characteristics of Female Representative in Pennsylvania:

- In the Pennsylvania General Assembly, there are a total of 74 women.
- Of that 74, 60 are members of the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives; they make up 29.5% of the House.
- The State Senate has 50 members, 14 are women, putting the percentage of women in the State Senate at 28%.
- **Women legislators make up 29.2% of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.**

Pennsylvania Women in State Executive Positions *Statewide Elective Executives (Total Positions: 5)*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Year</i>
Stacy L. Garrity	State Treasurer	2021-Present
Kathleen Kane (D)	Attorney General	2013-2016
Linda L. Kelly (R)	Attorney General	2011-2012
Robin Wiessmann	State Treasurer	2007-2008
Catherine Baker Knoll (D)	Lieutenant Governor	2003-2008
Barbara H Hafer (D)	State Treasurer	1997-2004
Barara H Hafer (R)	Auditor General	1989-1996
Catherine Baker Knoll (D)	State Treasurer	1989-1996
Grace McCalmont (D)	State Treasurer	1961-1964: 1969-1977
Grace McCalmont (D)	Auditor General	1965-1968
Genevieve Blatt (D)	Secretary of Internal Affairs	1955-1966

- * Kelly was appointed as Attorney General, not elected.
- † Hafer was elected as a Republican, and changed to a Democrat in 5/2004.

Women in Governor's Executive Staff

Name	Position	Year
Elena Cross	Chief of Staff	2021-present
Kaitlyn Floyd	Special Assistant to the Governor	2021-present
Lyndsay Kensinger	Director of Communications	2021-present
Kate Landis	Chief Digital Officer	2020-present
Elizabeth Rementer	Press Secretary	2021-present
Jennifer Wilburne	Chief of Staff to the First Lady	2020-present
Jalila Parker	Deputy Chief of Staff	2021-present
Tara Piechowicz	Deputy Chief of Staff	2021-present
Katy Spehar	Deputy Chief of Staff	2021-present
Alison Beam	Deputy Chief of Staff	2019-2021
Veronica Degraffenreid	Deputy Chief of Staff	2022-present
Betsy Phillips	Director of Scheduling	2015-present
Allison Jones	Secretary of Policy and Planning	2021-present
Andrea Mead	Chief of Staff to the First Lady	2015-2019
Yesenia Bane	Deputy Chief of Staff	2015-2019
Sharon Minnich	Secretary of Administration	2015-2019
Denise J. Smyler	General Counsel	2015-2019
Lyndsay Kensinger	Press Secretary	2020-2021

Women Cabinet Officials

Name	Position	Year
Jennifer Berrier	Secretary of Labor and Industry	2020-present
Yassmin Gramian	Secretary of Transportation	2020-present
Leigh M. Chapman	Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth	2022-present
Jennifer Smith	Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs	2018-present
Meg Snead	Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services	2021-present
Cindy Dunn	Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources	2015-present
Dr. Denise A. Johnson	Acting Secretary of Health and Physician General	2021-present

Leslie Richards	Secretary of Transportation	2015-2018
Robin Wiessmann	Secretary of Banking and Securities	2015-2020
Teresa Osborne	Secretary of Aging	2015-2019
Teresa D. Miller	Insurance Commissioner	2015-2018
Kathy Boockvar	Secretary of the Commonwealth	2019-2021
Teresa D. Miller	Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services	2017-2021

Pennsylvania Women Elected to U.S. Congress
U.S. Congress (Total Seats: 2 U.S. Senators, 18 U.S. Representatives)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Year</i>
Chrissy Houlahan (D)	U.S. Representative	2019-2021
Madeleine Dean (D)	U.S. Representative	2019-2021
Mary Scanlon (D)	U.S. Representative	2019-2021
Susan Wild (D)	U.S. Representative	2019-2021
Allyson Schwartz (D)	U.S. Representative	2005-2015
Kathy Dahlkemper (D)	U.S. Representative	2009-2011
Melissa Hart (R)	U.S. Representative	2001-2007
Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky (D)	U.S. Representative	1993-1995
Kathryn Elizabeth Granahan (D)	U.S. Representative	1956-1963
Vera Daerr Buchanan (D)	U.S. Representative	1951-1952; 1953-1955
Veronica Grace Boland (D)	U.S. Representative	1942-1942

- ¹ Scanlon won a special election to fill a partial term vacancy caused by a resignation on 11/6/18. She was elected to also serve a full term.
- ² Wild won a special election to fill a partial term vacancy caused by a resignation on 11/6/18. She was elected to also serve a full term.
- ³ Granahan concurrently won a special election to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband and a regular election.
- ² Buchanan won a special election to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband; she was subsequently re-elected.
- ³ Boland won a special election to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband.

Historical Look at Women in the Pennsylvania State Legislature

YEAR	HOUSE					SENATE			
	D	R	OTHER	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	% WOMEN IN HOUSE	D	R	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	% WOMEN IN SENATE
2022	32	28	0	60 / 203	29.6	8	6	14 / 50	28.0
2021	32	29	0	61 / 203	30.0	8	6	14 / 50	28.0
2019	30	22	0	55 / 203	27.0	7	6	13 / 50	26.0
2017	22	21	0	43 / 203	21.2	3	5	8 / 50	16.0
2015	18	23	0	41 / 203	20.2	4	6	10 / 50	20.0
2013	16	21	0	37 / 203	18.2	6	3	9 / 50	18.0
2011	15	19	0	34 / 203	16.7	6	6	12 / 50	24.0
2009	11	18	0	29 / 203	14.3	5	6	11 / 50	22.0
2007	11	16	0	27 / 203	13.3	5	5	10 / 50	20.0
2005	10	16	0	26 / 203	12.8	5	4	9 / 50	18.0
2003	10	18	0	28 / 203	13.8	5	3	8 / 50	16.0
2001	13	17	0	30 / 203	14.8	5	3	8 / 50	16.0
1999	12	13	0	25 / 203	12.3	4	3	7 / 50	14.0
1997	12	13	0	25 / 203	12.3	3	3	6 / 50	12.0
1995	12	14	0	26 / 203	12.8	3	1	4 / 50	8.0
1993	14	10	0	24 / 203	11.8	3	1	4 / 50	8.0
1991	10	11	0	21 / 203	10.3	3	1	4 / 50	8.0
1989	7	8	0	15 / 203	7.4	2	0	2 / 50	4.0
1987	6	9	0	15 / 203	7.4	2	0	2 / 50	4.0
1985	3	8	0	11 / 203	5.4	2	0	2 / 50	4.0
1983	2	7	0	9 / 203	4.4	1	0	1 / 50	2.0
1981	1	9	0	10 / 203	4.9	1	0	1 / 50	2.0
1979	3	8	0	11 / 203	5.4	1	0	1 / 50	2.0
1977	7	3	0	10 / 203	4.9	1	0	1 / 50	2.0
1975	4	4	0	8 / 203	3.9	1	0	1 / 50	2.0
1973	3	3	0	6 / 203	3.0	1	0	1 / 50	2.0
1971	4	2	0	6 / 203	3.0	1	0	1 / 50	2.0

YEAR	HOUSE					SENATE			
	D	R	OTHER	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	% WOMEN IN HOUSE	D	R	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	% WOMEN IN SENATE
1969	3	3	0	6 / 203	3.0	1	0	1 / 50	2.0
1967	5	4	0	9 / 203	4.4	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1965	7	6	0	13 / 203	6.4	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1963	7	6	0	13 / 203	6.4	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1961	6	5	0	11 / 203	5.4	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1959	7	6	0	13 / 203	6.4	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1957	6	6	0	12 / 203	5.9	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1955	7	4	0	11 / 203	5.4	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1953	4	1	0	5 / 203	2.5	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1951	4	1	0	5 / 203	2.5	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1949	3	1	0	4 / 203	2.0	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1947	1	2	0	3 / 203	1.5	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1945	3	1	0	4 / 203	2.0	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1943	0	0	0	0 / 203	0.0	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1941	0	0	0	0 / 203	0.0	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1939	2	0	0	2 / 203	1.0	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1937	2	0	0	2 / 203	1.0	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1935	1	0	1	2 / 203	1.0	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1933	1	1	1	3 / 203	1.5	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1931	0	4	1	5 / 203	2.5	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1929	0	5	0	5 / 203	2.5	0	0	0 / 50	0.0
1927	0	5	0	5 / 203	2.5	0	1	1 / 50	2.0
1925	0	6	0	6 / 203	3.0	0	1	1 / 50	2.0
1923	0	8	0	8 / 203	3.9	0	0	0 / 50	0.0

Women in Pennsylvania Senate Leadership Positions

Name	Position	Year
Kim L. Ward (R)	State Senator, Majority Leader	2015-present
Judith L. Schwank (D)	Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Minority Chair. Appropriations	2017-present
Lisa M. Boscola (D)	Minority Policy Committee Chair. Urban Affairs & Housing	2011-present
Jane C. Orié (R)	Majority Caucus Whip	2001-2011

Women in Pennsylvania House of Representatives Leadership Positions

Name	Position	Year
Joanna E. McClinton (D)	Minority Caucus Chair	2018-present
Karen Boback (R)	Commission on Women, Children's Trust Fund	2007-present
Jessica Benham (D)	Aging & Older Adult Services	2021-present
Donna Oberlander (R)	Majority Policy Committee Chair	2018-present
Marcy Toepel (R)	Majority Caucus chair	2017-2020
Rosita C. Youngblood (D)	Minority Caucus Secretary	2015-2020
Donna R. Oberlander (R)	Majority Caucus Secretary	2015-2018
Sandra J. Major (R)	Majority Caucus Chairman	2011-2016
Jennifer L. Mann (D)	Minority Caucus Secretary	2011-2016
Jennifer L. Mann (D)	Majority Caucus Secretary	2019-2020
Sandra Major (R)	Minority Caucus Chairman	2007-2010
Elinor Z. Taylor (R)	Majority Caucus Chairman	2003-2006
Elinor Z. Taylor (R)	Majority Caucus Secretary	1995-2004
Mae W. Kernaghan (R)	Minority Caucus Chairman	1969-1970
Mae. W. Kernaghan (R)	Majority Caucus Chairman	1967-1968
Marian E. Markley (R)	Majority Caucus Secretary	1963-1966
Marion L. Munley (D)	Minority Caucus Secretary	1963-1964
Marian E. Markley (R)	Minority Caucus Secretary	1959-1962
Mary A. Varallo (D)	Majority Whip	1959-1960
Mary A. Varallo (D)	Minority Caucus Chairman	1957-1958

Women Officers of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Year</i>
Mary-Jo Mullen	Comptroller	2013-2020
Jennifer A. Benko	Comptroller	2020-present

Women Officers of the Pennsylvania Senate

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Year</i>
Donetta D'Innocezo	Chief Clerk	2013-present
Megan Martin	Secretary and Parliamentarian	2012-present

Women of Color

- Charlotte Vandine Forten (1786-1886) and her family lobbied for the abolition of slavery by hosting anti-slavery gatherings, writing for publications, and encouraging elites to join the cause.
- **March 28, 1867:** Caroline LeCount was illegally denied entrance to ride a Philadelphia public streetcar. She obtained a copy of the legislation, and presented it to the magistrate. The streetcar conductor who denied her entrance was arrested and fined \$100, and LeCount secured Black's right to ride streetcars.
- **1912:** Daisy E. Lampkin hosted women's rights tea in her home before joining the Negro Women's Equal Franchise Federation where she campaigned for women's right to vote. Later, she chaired the Allegheny County Negro Women's Republican League, served as vice-chair of the Negro Voters League of Pennsylvania, and vice chair of the Colored Voters Division of the Republican National Committee.
- **1914-1917:** Ruth L. Bennett opened the Home for Negro Girls, for girls and women who recently arrived from the South during the Great Migration.
- **1930:** Lampkin became the first field secretary for the NAACP, and is credited with increasing membership more than any other executive in the organization.
- **1938:** Crystal Bird Faust was the first African American female legislator to be elected in the United States, in addition to working as a race relations specialist, social worker, and civil rights activist.
- **March 1965:** C. Delores Tucker (1927-2005), joined Martin Luther King Jr. in his march from Selma to Montgomery in Alabama. She helped found the National Political Congress of Black Women.
- **1971:** Tucker became the first African American to serve as Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She was also the first African American woman in the nation to be Secretary of State.
- **2018:** Joanna McClinton became the first woman and African American to be elected as the House Democratic Caucus Chair.

Political Groups

- **1920:** The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania was established, a successor organization to the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association. The LWV provides education to "increase the effectiveness of women voters and to further better government
- **1923,** Pennsylvania State Council of Republican Women was founded
- **1927,** Federation of Democratic Women was formed
- **1972,** Governor Milton J. Shapp created the Pennsylvania Commission for Women
- **1981,** Pennsylvania Elected Women's Association was formed
- **1982,** Pennsylvania Women's Campaign Fund was founded

Political Firsts

- **1922:** The first women were elected to the State House. All Republicans, they were: Sarah Gerturde MacKinney, Alice M. Bentley, Rosa S. DeYoung, Sarah McCunde Gallagher, Helen Grimes, Lillie H. Pitts, Martha G. Speiser, and Martha G. Thomas
- **1923-1928:** Representative Alice M. Bentley served as Speaker Pro Tempore, the first woman to do so.
- **1930:** Lilith Martin Wilson became the first woman Socialist to be elected to the State House
- **1932:** The first woman Democrat was elected to the State House: Anna M. Brancato.
- **1938:** Crystal Bird Faust was the first African American female legislator to be elected in the United States, in addition to working as a race relations specialist, social worker, and civil rights activist.
- **1995:** Sandra Schultz Newman was the first woman elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.
- **2012:** Kathleen Kane was elected as Attorney General, the first woman elected to this position.
- **2021:** Kim Ward was appointed to be the majority leader, the first woman elected to the senate leadership position.
- **2021:** Joanna McClinton became the first woman elected as House Democratic Leader.

Political History

- Early Republic
 - **1984:** An Act from Congress granted honorary United States citizenship to Hannah Callowhill Penn (1671-1726), wife of William Penn.
 - **1985:** Hannah Callowhill Penn and William Penn received honorary citizenship of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Anti Slavery
 - **1833:** Lucretia Mott, a Quaker preacher and teacher, helped form the American Anti-Slavery Society in Philadelphia. Later, she was president of the Female Anti-Slavery Society.
 - **1848:** Jane Grey Swisshelm launched The Saturday Visiter, an abolitionist and womens' rights paper. Her essays influenced the state legislature to grant married women the right to own property.
- Suffrage
 - **1868:** Pennsylvania Women's Suffrage Association was founded in Philadelphia, a hotbed of feminist agitation.

- **July 4, 1876:** Susan B. Anthony read her famous "Declaration of Rights for Women" at the Washington statue in front of Independence Hall.⁸
- **1913:** The General Assembly approved a women's suffrage amendment to the state Constitution.
- **1915:** Male voters rejected the amendment by 55,000 votes.
- **June 4, 1919:** the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was approved by Congress.¹⁰
- **June 14, 1919:** Pennsylvania became the seventh state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.¹¹

Links:

- <https://www.governor.pa.gov/about/cabinet-and-executive-officials/>
- <https://cawp.rutgers.edu/facts/state-state-information/pennsylvania>
- https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/Senate_bio.cfm?id=1234
- <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/BiosHistory/ViewAll.cfm?body=H>
- ¹ Pennsylvania State Legislature, "Pennsylvania History" http://www.legis.state.pa.us/wu01/vc/visitor_info/pa_history/whole_pa_history.htm
- ² Pennsylvania State Legislature
- ³ Pennsylvania State Legislature
- ⁴ Pennsylvania State Legislature
- ⁵ Pennsylvania State Legislature
- ⁶ Pennsylvania State Legislature
- ⁷ Pennsylvania State Legislature
- ⁸ Pennsylvania State Legislature
- ⁹ Pennsylvania State Legislature
- ¹⁰ Pennsylvania State Legislature
- ¹¹ Pennsylvania State Legislature
- ¹² Schmedlen, Jeanne Hearn. "History of Women in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives 1923-2008" Office of Speaker of the House Dennis M. O'Brien.
- ¹³ Schmedlen, Jeanne Hearn
- ¹⁴ Schmedlen, Jeanne Hearn
- ¹⁵ Schmedlen, Jeanne Hearn
- ¹⁶ Schmedlen, Jeanne Hearn
- ¹⁷ Patrick, Leslie "African American and Civil Rights in Pennsylvania" in Black History in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Commonwealth
- ¹⁸ Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University, <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/index.php>
- ¹⁹ Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University, <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/index.php>
- ²⁰ Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University, <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/index.php>
- ²¹ Senate Historical Biographies Archive, Pennsylvania State Senate, <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/BiosHistory/index.cfm?body=S>
- ²¹ House Historical Biographies Archive, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/BiosHistory/index.cfm?body=h>