

WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2009*

CONGRESS, STATEWIDE, STATE LEGISLATURE

CONGRESSWOMEN – 20 (19D, 1R)

Of the 90 women serving in the 111th U.S. Congress, 20, or 22.2%, are women of color, all serving in the House; in addition, an African American woman and a Caribbean American woman serve as Delegates to the House from Washington, DC and the Virgin Islands, respectively. Women of color constitute 3.9% of the total 535 members of Congress. No women of color serve in the U.S. Senate.

African American – 12 (12D)

Representative Corrine Brown (D-FL)
Representative Yvette Clarke (D-NY)
Representative Donna Edwards (D-MD)
Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH)
Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Representative Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI)
Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI)
Representative Laura Richardson (D-CA)
Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)
Representative Diane E. Watson (D-CA)

Asian Pacific Islander – 2D

Representative Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA)

Latina – 6 (5D, 1R)

Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
Representative Linda Sanchez (D-CA)
Representative Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)

DELEGATES

African American – 1D

Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)

Caribbean American – 1D

Delegate Donna Christensen (D-VI)

STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVES – 7 (6D, 1NP**)

Of the 75 women serving in statewide elective executive offices, 7, or 9.3%, are women of color. Women of color constitute 2.2% of the total 314 statewide elective executives.

African American – 3D

Denise Nappier (D-CT), State Treasurer
Sandra Kennedy (D-AZ), Corp. Commissioner
Velda Jones-Potter (D-DE), State Treasurer

Latina – 3 (2D, 1NP)

Susan Castillo (NP** -OR), Superintendent, Public Instruction
Mary Herrera (D-NM), Secretary of State
Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Attorney General

Native American - 1D

Denise Juneau (D-MT), Superintendent of Public Instruction

STATE LEGISLATORS – 349 (330D, 17R, 2NP)

Of the 1,790 women state legislators serving nationwide, 349 or 19.5% are women of color. They include 103 senators and 246 representatives; 330 are Democrats, 17 are Republicans, and two are non-partisan. Women of color constitute 5.0% of the total 7,382 state legislators. The first woman of color to serve as speaker of a state house or assembly is Karen Bass (D), speaker of the California assembly, who is African American.

African American women hold 230 (224D, 4R, 2NP) seats in state legislatures. They include 64 senators and 166 representatives serving in 38 states.

Asian American/Pacific Islander women hold 32 (26D, 6R) seats in state legislatures. They include 9 senators and 23 representatives serving in 10 states (CA, HI, IA, MD, MN, NY, SC, TX, VT, WA).

Latinas hold 73 (67D, 6R) seats in state legislatures. They include 23 senators and 50 representatives serving in 21 states (AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, ID, IL, IN, KS, MA, MD, MN, NC, NJ, NM, NY, OH, RI, TX, UT, WA).

Native American women hold 14 (13D, 1R) seats in state legislatures. They include 7 senators and 7 representatives in 8 states (CO, ID, MT, NM, OK, PA, SD, WA).

MAYORS

In the nation's 100 largest cities, the women of color who currently serve as mayors are:

African American

Shirley Franklin	Atlanta, GA	2001- present
Sheila Dixon	Baltimore, MD	2007 - present
Yvonne J. Johnson	Greensboro, NC	2008 - present

* We use "women of color" when referring to African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Caribbean American, Latina, and Native American women as a group. We understand that both the terms "women of color" and "minority women" are problematic, but know of no preferable inclusive term.

** NP= election was nonpartisan.

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WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2008 (continued)

HISTORY OF WOMEN OF COLOR IN U.S. POLITICS

U.S. SENATE

The only woman of color to serve in the U.S. Senate to date is Carol Moseley Braun (D-IL), an African American who was elected in 1992 and served from 1993-1999.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A total of 36 women of color have served in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition to the 20 women currently serving (listed on the front of this fact sheet), they are:

African American – 13 (13D)

Shirley Chisholm (D-NY)	1969-83	Carrie Meek (D-FL)	1993-2003
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (D-CA)	1973-79	Denise Majette (D-GA)	2003-2005
Barbara Jordan (D-TX)	1973-79	Cynthia McKinney (D-GA)	1993-2003; 2005-2007
Cardiss Collins (D-IL)	1973-97	Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA)	1996-2007
Katie Hall (D-IN)	1982-85	Julia Carson (D-IN)	1996-2007
Barbara-Rose Collins (D-MI)	1991-97	Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH)	1999-2008
Eva M. Clayton (D-NC)	1992-2003		

Asian Pacific Islander – 2 (1D, 1R)

Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-HI)	1965-77, 1990-2002
Patricia Fukuda Saiki (R-HI)	1987-91

Latina – 1 (1D)

Hilda Solis (D-CA)	2001-2009
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STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE OFFICES

No woman of color has served as governor of any state, and only three as lieutenant governors. In addition to the women listed on the front of this fact sheet, women who have served in statewide elective executive offices include:

African American – 5 (2D, 3R)

Pamela Carter (D-IN)	Attorney General	1993-1999
Vikki Buckley (R-CO)	Secretary of State	1995-1999
Karen Freeman-Wilson (D-IN)	Attorney General	2000-2001
Jennette Bradley (R-OH)	Lieutenant Governor	2003-2005
Jennette Bradley (R-OH)	State Treasurer	2005-2007

Asian Pacific Islander – 4 (4D)

March Fong Eu (D-CA)	Secretary of State	1975-1993
Jean Sadako King (D-HI)	Lieutenant Governor	1979-1982
Cheryl Lau (D-NV)	Secretary of State	1991-1995
Mazie Hirono (D-HI)	Lieutenant Governor	1995-2003

Latina – 4 (4D)

Soledad Chacon (D-NM)	Secretary of State	1923-1926
Margaret Baca (D-NM)	Secretary of State	1931-1934
Patricia Madrid (D-NM)	Attorney General	1999-2007
Rebecca Vigil-Giron (D-NM)	Secretary of State	1999-2007

STATE LEGISLATURES*

The first women of color to serve in state legislatures, listed in chronological order, were:

Native American	Cora Belle Reynolds Anderson (R-MI House) elected 1924
African American	Minnie Buckingham Harper (R-WV House) appointed 1929 Crystal Dreda Bird Fauset (D-PA House) elected 1938
Latina	Fedelina Lucero Gallegos (R-NM House) and Porfirria Hidalgo Saiz (D-NM House) elected 1930
Asian Pacific Islander	Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-HI Senate) elected 1962

MAYORS

In the nation's 100 largest cities, in addition to the four women currently serving, women of color who have served as mayors are:

African American

Lottie Shackelford	Little Rock, AR	1987-1991
Carrie Saxon Perry	Hartford, CT	1987-1993
Sharon Pratt Kelly	Washington, DC	1991-1995
Sharon Sayles Belton	Minneapolis, MN	1994-2001

Latina

Heather Fargo	Sacramento, CA	2001-2009
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* State legislative information from Elizabeth M. Cox, *Women State and Territorial Legislators, 1895-1995*, McFarland & Company, Inc., 1996.