

# Women in the Nevada Legislature

In 2019, Nevada had the first female-majority state legislature in the nation, with women holding 52 percent of legislative seats.<sup>1</sup> Women again made up a majority of the Nevada Legislature in 2021, holding 60 percent of seats, including 48 percent in the Senate and 67 percent in the Assembly. In 2023 and 2025, women made up a record 62 percent of the Legislature overall, and held a majority of seats in both legislative Houses (62 percent in each).

## Number of Women to Serve as Nevada Legislators

SERVICE IN  
ASSEMBLY  
ONLY **134**

**TOTAL**  
NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO  
HAVE SERVED

DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY **118**

SERVICE IN  
SENATE  
ONLY **29**

**182**

REPUBLICAN  
PARTY **62**

SERVICE IN  
BOTH  
HOUSES **19**

MULTIPLE  
PARTY  
AFFILIATIONS<sup>2</sup> **2**

FIRST BECAME  
A LEGISLATOR BY  
APPOINTMENT **21**

REELECTED  
AFTER APPOINTMENT<sup>3</sup> **10**

REPLACED  
SPOUSE **5**

<sup>1</sup> Numbers reflect 2019 legislative membership as of April 2019, after several legislative vacancies and appointments in December 2018 and March 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Jean Ford was first elected to the Assembly as a Republican and later was elected to the Senate as a Democrat. Patricia Farley was first elected to the Senate as a Republican and later, while still serving in the Senate, changed her party affiliation to Nonpartisan.

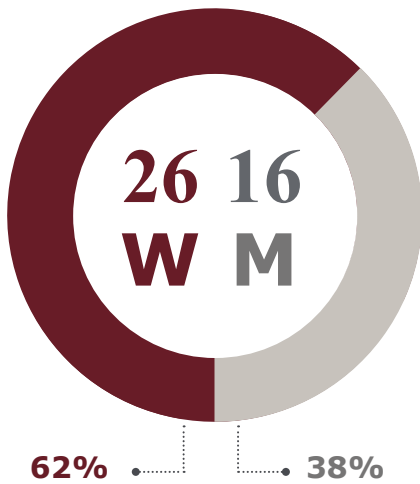
<sup>3</sup> May include break in service.

## 2025 Nevada Legislature

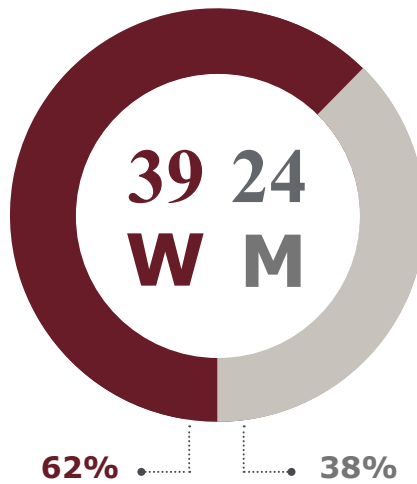
WOMEN

MEN

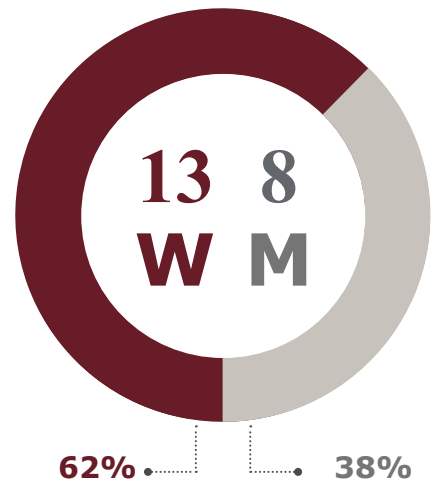
### Assembly



### Nevada Legislature Overall

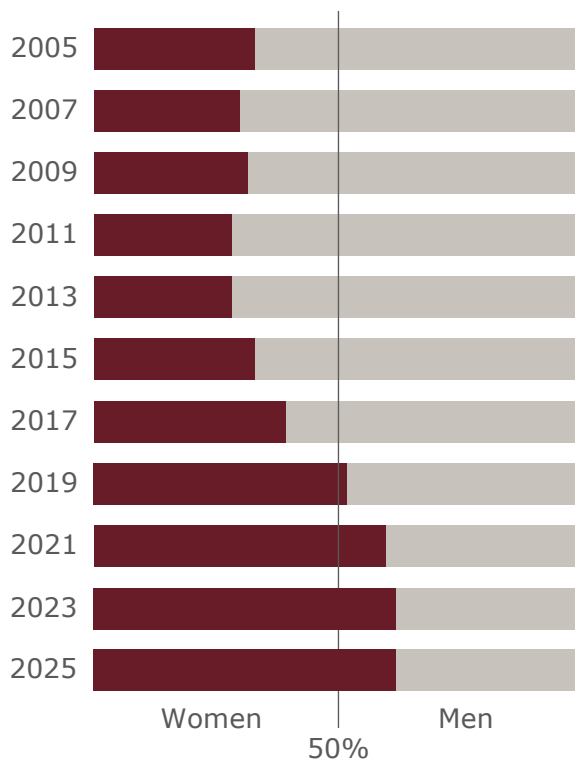


### Senate



## Number of Female Legislators, 2005–2025

### MEMBERSHIP BY GENDER (BOTH HOUSES)



In the last 20 years, the number of women in the Nevada Legislature has ranged from 18 (2011 and 2013) to 39 (2023 and 2025). From 2013 to the present, female legislative membership has more than doubled.

### NUMBER OF FEMALE LEGISLATORS

Year	Senate	Assembly	Total
2005	6	15	21
2007	6	13	19
2009	7	13	20
2011	6	12	18
2013	4	14	18
2015	5	16	21
2017	8	17	25
2019	10	23	33
2021	10	28	38
2023	13	26	39
2025	13	26	39

## Fast Facts: Women's Representation in the Nevada Legislature

### AFTER FIRST STATE ELECTION IN WHICH WOMEN VOTED (1916)

Regular sessions with no women: **1917, 1931, 1933, 1947**

Number of regular sessions with only one woman: **8**  
(1961 was the last)

First regular session with more than one woman: **1923** (4)

First regular session with women in both Houses: **1935** (3)

Regular session with the most women (both Houses): **2023, 2025** (39)  
(26 Assemblymembers, 13 Senators)

Regular session with the most women in the Assembly: **2021** (28)

Regular session with the most women in the Senate: **2023, 2025** (13)

### BY COUNTY

Counties represented  
by the most women:

**Clark** (112)

**Washoe** (38)

**Nye** (11)

## Women With the Longest Legislative Service

**24**  
YEARS

**Maggie Carlton (D-Clark)**  
12 regular and 17 special  
sessions, both Houses

**20**  
YEARS

**Ann O'Connell (R-Clark)**  
10 regular and 5 special  
sessions, Senate

**Dina Titus (D-Clark)**  
10 regular and 9 special  
sessions, Senate

**18**  
YEARS

**Barbara K. Cegavske  
(R-Clark)**  
9 regular and 12 special  
sessions, both Houses

**Helen Herr (D-Clark)**  
10 regular and 5 special  
sessions, both Houses

**16**  
YEARS

**Eileen Brookman (D-Clark)**  
8 regular and 2 special  
sessions, Assembly

**Barbara Buckley (D-Clark)**  
8 regular and 10 special

sessions, Assembly, including 2 regular and  
4 special sessions as Speaker

**Vivian Freeman (D-Washoe)**  
8 regular and 3 special sessions, Assembly

**Chris Giunchigliani (D-Clark)**  
8 regular and 6 special sessions, Assembly

**Bernice Mathews, (D-Washoe)**  
8 regular and 10 special sessions, Senate

**Sue Wagner (R-Washoe)**  
8 regular and 3 special sessions, both  
Houses, plus 2 sessions as Senate President  
and Lieutenant Governor

**Valerie Wiener (D-Clark)**  
8 regular and 10 special sessions, Senate;  
longest serving Nevada-born female Legislator

## Women In Nevada Legislative Leadership: Assembly (Regular Sessions)

### Speaker

**Barbara Buckley**  
(D-Clark), 2007, 2009

**Marilyn Kirkpatrick**  
(D-Clark), 2013

### Speaker Pro Tempore

**Louise Aloys Smith**  
(D-Pershing), 1951

**Karen W. Hayes**  
(D-Clark), 1981

**Myrna T. Williams**  
(D-Clark), 1989, 1991, 1993

**Jan Evans**  
(D-Washoe), 1995, 1997, 1999

**Sandra Tiffany**  
(R-Clark), 1995

**Chris Giunchigliani**  
(D-Clark), 2005

**Debbie Smith**  
(D-Washoe), 2011

**Irene Bustamante Adams**  
(D-Clark), 2017

**Daniele Monroe-Moreno**  
(D-Clark), 2023, 2025

### Majority Floor Leader

**Barbara Buckley**  
(D-Clark), 2001, 2003, 2005

**Teresa Benitez-Thompson**  
(D-Washoe), 2017, 2019, 2021

**Sandra Jauregui**  
(D-Clark), 2023, 2025

### Assistant Majority Floor Leader

**Jan Evans**  
(D-Washoe), 1991

**Jeannine Stroth**  
(R-Clark), 1995

**Barbara Buckley**  
(D-Clark), 1997, 1999

**Marilyn Kirkpatrick**  
(D-Clark), 2011

**Daniele Monroe-Moreno**  
(D-Clark), 2019, 2021

**Erica Mosca**  
(D-Clark), 2025

### Majority Whip

**Sheila Leslie**  
(D-Washoe), 2007, 2009

### Assistant Majority Whip

**Sandra Krenzer**  
(D-Clark), 1995

**Sheila Leslie**  
(D-Washoe), 2001, 2003, 2005

**Debbie Smith**  
(D-Washoe), 2007, 2009

**Olivia Diaz**  
(D-Clark), 2013

**Lucy Flores**  
(D-Clark), 2013

**Jill Dickman**  
(R-Washoe), 2015 (North)

**Victoria Seaman**  
(R-Clark), 2015 (South)

**Ellen B. Spiegel**  
(D-Clark), 2017

**Heidi Swank**  
(D-Clark), 2017, 2019

**Sandra Jauregui**  
(D-Clark), 2021

**Sarah Peters**  
(D-Washoe), 2023 (North)

**Selena Torres-Fossett**  
(D-Clark), 2023 (South)

**Natha C. Anderson**  
(D-Washoe), 2025

### Assistant Majority Whip for Procedure

**Genie Ohrenschall**  
(D-Clark), 2003, 2005

### Chief Deputy Majority Whip

**Peggy Pierce**  
(D-Clark), 2011, 2013

### Minority Floor Leader

**Heidi Seevers O'Gara**  
(R-Washoe), 2009

**Marilyn Kirkpatrick**  
(D-Clark), 2015

**Robin L. Titus**  
(R-Churchill, Lyon), 2021

### Assistant/Deputy Minority Floor Leader

**Barbara K. Cegavske**  
(R-Clark), 1999, 2001

**Heidi Seevers O'Gara**  
(R-Washoe), 2007

**Teresa Benitez-Thompson**  
(D-Washoe), 2015

**Maggie Carlton**  
(D-Clark), 2015

**Jill Tolles**  
(R-Washoe), 2021 (North)

**Jill Dickman**  
(R-Washoe), 2023 (North)

**Danielle Gallant**  
(R-Clark), 2023 (South)

**Melissa Hardy**  
(R-Clark), 2025 (South)

### Minority Whip

**Deanna Braunlin**  
(R-Clark), 1997

**Kathy Von Tobel**  
(R-Clark), 2001

**Sharron Angle**  
(R-Washoe), 2003

**Heidi Seevers O'Gara**  
(R-Washoe), 2005

**Valerie Weber**  
(R-Clark), 2005, 2007

**Melissa Woodbury**  
(R-Clark), 2017

**Lisa Krasner**  
(R-Washoe), 2019

### Assistant/Deputy Minority Whip

**Barbara K. Cegavske**  
(R-Clark), 1997

**Robin L. Titus**  
(R-Churchill, Lyon), 2019

**Lisa Krasner**  
(R-Washoe), 2021 (North)

## Women in Nevada Legislative Leadership: Senate (Regular Sessions)

### Majority Leader<sup>5</sup>

**Nicole J. Cannizzaro**  
(D-Clark), 2019 (part)<sup>6</sup>, 2021,  
2023, 2025

### President Pro Tempore

**Pat Spearman**  
(D-Clark), 2023

**Marilyn Dondero Loop**  
(D-Clark), 2025

### Assistant Majority Leader<sup>5</sup>

**Valerie Wiener**  
(D-Clark), 2011

**Debbie Smith**  
(D-Washoe), 2013

**Nicole J. Cannizzaro**  
(D-Clark), 2019 (part)<sup>6</sup>

**Julia Ratti**  
(D-Washoe), 2019 (part)<sup>6</sup>, 2021

**Roberta Lange**  
(D-Clark), 2023, 2025

### Chief Majority Whip

**Joyce Woodhouse**  
(D-Clark), 2019

**Pat Spearman**  
(D-Clark), 2021

**Dallas Harris**  
(D-Clark), 2023

**Melanie Scheible**  
(D-Clark), 2025

### Majority/Co-Majority Whip

**Sue Lowden**  
(R-Clark), 1993, 1995

**Valerie Wiener**  
(D-Clark), 2009

**Pat Spearman**  
(D-Clark), 2017, 2019

**Joyce Woodhouse**  
(D-Clark), 2017

**Julia Ratti**  
(D-Washoe), 2019 (part)<sup>6</sup>

**Yvanna D. Cancela**  
(D-Clark), 2019 (part)<sup>6</sup>

**Marilyn Dondero Loop**  
(D-Clark), 2021

**Melanie Scheible**  
(D-Clark), 2023

### Assistant Majority Whip

**Sandra Tiffany**  
(R-Clark), 2003, 2005

**Sheila Leslie**  
(D-Washoe), 2011

### Minority Leader<sup>5</sup>

**Dina Titus**  
(D-Clark), 1993, 1995,  
1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005,  
2007

**Heidi Seevers O'Gara**  
(R-Washoe), 2023

**Robin L. Titus**  
(R-Churchill, Douglas,  
Esmeralda, Lyon, Mineral, Nye  
[part]), 2025

### Assistant Minority Leader<sup>5</sup>

**Sue Wagner**  
(R-Washoe), 1983

**Bernice Mathews**  
(D-Washoe), 2001, 2003,  
2005, 2007

**Barbara K. Cegavske**  
(R-Clark), 2011

**Debbie Smith**  
(D-Washoe), 2015

**Carrie Ann Buck**  
(R-Clark), 2023

### Minority/Co-Minority Whip

**Bernice Mathews**  
(D-Washoe), 1999

**Valerie Wiener**  
(D-Clark), 2001, 2003,  
2005, 2007

**Barbara K. Cegavske**  
(R-Clark), 2009

**Heidi Seevers O'Gara**  
(R-Washoe), 2019, 2021

**Lisa Krasner**  
(R-Carson City, Storey,  
Washoe), 2023, 2025

### Caucus Policy Coordinator

**Heidi Seevers O'Gara**  
(R-Washoe), 2017

**Becky Harris**  
(R-Clark), 2017

### President

**Lieutenant Governor Sue Wagner (R)**, 1991, 1993

**Lieutenant Governor Lorraine Hunt (R)**, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005

**Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall (D)**, 2019, 2021

<sup>5</sup> Titles vary between sessions—for some sessions, these positions are referred to as "Floor Leaders."

<sup>6</sup> Certain Senate leadership roles changed during the 2019 Session after Senator Kelvin D. Atkinson resigned on March 5, 2019.

## Women's Legislative Firsts in Nevada

### FIRST...

#### Woman elected to the Legislature:

**Sadie Hurst (R-Washoe)**, elected to the Assembly in 1918

#### Woman to serve in the Senate:

**Frances Friedhoff (D-Lyon)**, appointed to serve the remainder of the 1935 Session

#### Woman elected to the Senate:

**Helen Herr (D-Clark)**, 1966

#### Woman elected to a subsequent term:

**Ethel McGuire (D-Nye)**, 1926–1930, Assembly

#### Female Assemblymember elected to the Senate:

**Helen Herr (D-Clark)**, 1966

#### Female Senator elected to the Assembly:

**Maggie Carlton (D-Clark)**, 2010

#### All-female leadership team:

**Dina Titus (D-Clark)**, Minority Leader;  
**Bernice Mathews (D-Washoe)**, Assistant Minority Leader;  
and  
**Valerie Wiener (D-Clark)**, Minority Whip; Senate, 2001

#### Woman to serve in leadership in both Houses:

**Sandra Tiffany (R-Clark)**, Speaker Pro Tempore, 1995, Assembly; and Assistant Majority Whip, 2003, 2005, Senate

#### Woman to serve in leadership in both majority and minority parties in each House:

**Valerie Wiener (D-Clark)**, Assistant Minority Whip, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007; Majority Whip, 2009; and Assistant Majority Leader, 2011; Senate

**Marilyn Kirkpatrick (D-Clark)**, Assistant Majority Floor Leader, 2011; Speaker, 2013; and Minority Floor Leader, 2015; Assembly

First female-majority  
ASSEMBLY

.....  
2019

First female-majority  
LEGISLATURE

(overall)

.....  
2019

First female-majority  
SENATE

.....  
2023

## Women's Legislative Firsts in Nevada (cont'd)

### ***FIRST...***

#### **Woman to chair a legislative committee:**

**Ruth Averill (R-Nye)**, chaired two Assembly committees in 1921: (1) Engrossment; and (2) State Library

#### **Committee with a female majority in each House:**

Assembly Committee on the State Library, 1923 (but not chaired by a woman); and Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, 1995 (also not chaired by a woman)

#### **Woman to serve on the appropriations committee in each House:**

**Maude Frazier (D-Clark)**, Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, 1955

**Diana Glomb (D-Washoe)**, Senate Committee on Finance, 1991

#### **Woman to chair the appropriations committee in each House:**

**Bernice Mathews (D-Washoe)**, Co-Chair, Senate Committee on Finance, 2009

**Debbie Smith (D-Washoe)**, Chair, Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, 2011

#### **Woman inducted into the Senate Hall of Fame:**

**Helen Herr, (D-Clark)**, 1993

#### **Woman added to the Assembly Wall of Distinction:**

**Jan Evans (D-Washoe)**, 2005

#### **General election race between two female candidates:**

**Rita Millar (D)** defeated **Genevieve H. Sperling (R)**, Mineral County, Assembly, 1922

#### **Woman to defeat a male incumbent:**

**Alice S. Towle (R-Churchill)**, Assembly, 1922

#### **Nevada-born female Legislator:**

**Ruth Averill (R-Nye)**, born September 19, 1897, in Virginia City; elected to Assembly, 1920