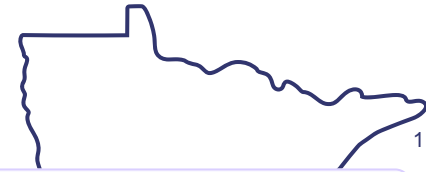


WOMEN IN THE LEGISLATURE



Gender parity refers to the relative equality according to proportions of men and women, and is usually calculated as the ratio of women to men for a given indicator.

For political representation, because women are 50% of the population, gender parity would be achieved when women make up 50% of political representation.



8th for gender parity in political representation.

Overall: 8th

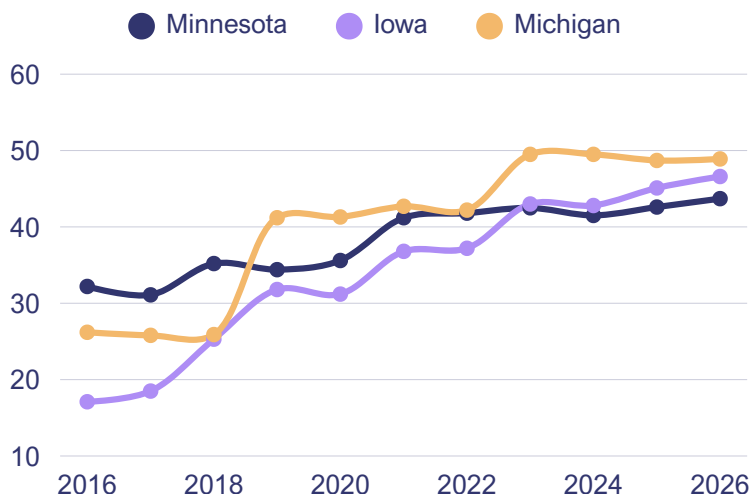
US Congress: 2nd (75%)

State Legislature: 20th (36.8%)

State Legislature Leadership: 13th (37.5%)

Minnesota ranks highly in political parity overall because women make up **75%** of our federal congressional delegation. However, it trends towards the middle of all US states overall state legislature representation, where women made up **36.8%** percent at the time of the report.

Minnesota's gender parity score has grown steadily in the past decade, but at a slower rate than our Midwestern neighbors.¹

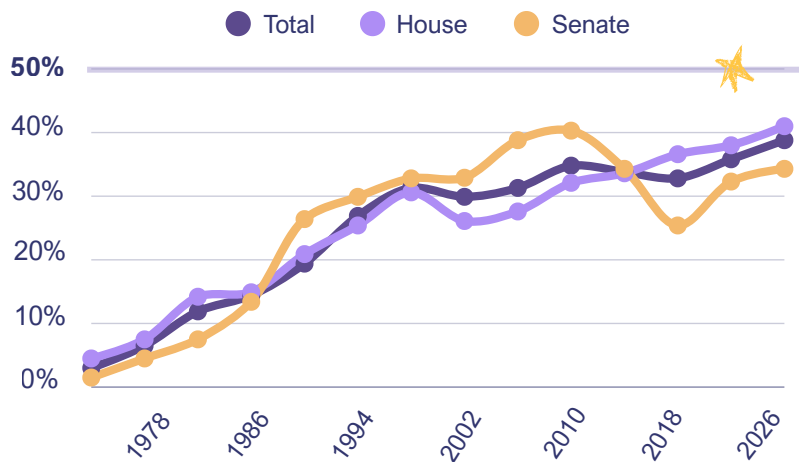


The two other Midwestern states ranking in the **top 10 for gender parity** in 2026 are **Iowa** (7th) and **Michigan** (4th). While Minnesota had higher levels of gender parity in political representation a decade ago, the **rate of increase since** has **been smaller** and steadier than other states.

WOMEN IN THE LEGISLATURE



The number of women serving in Minnesota's state legislature has been increasing for decades.²



Women's political representation has increased significantly in Minnesota in the past 50 years.

In **1974**, women made up just **3%** of state legislators.

In **2026**, women make up **38.8%** of state legislators.

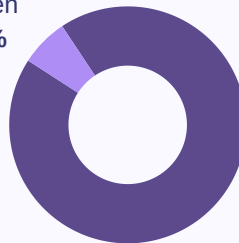
Women historically make up a smaller percent of leaders within the state legislature.²

Since Minnesota gained statehood:

- **61** individuals have held the title of Speaker of the House, **4** of them (**6.6%**) women.
- **51** individuals have held the title of President of the Senate, **4** of them (**3.9%**) women.
- **19** leaders from both parties combined have been Majority Leader, **2** of them (**10.5%**) women.
- **18** leaders from both parties combined have been Minority leader, **2** of them (**11.1%**) women.

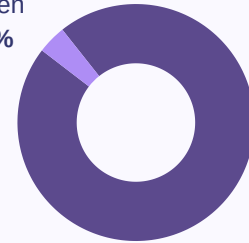
Speaker of the House

Women
6.6%



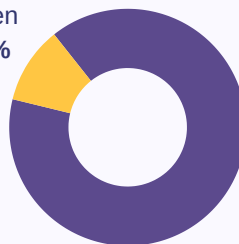
President of the Senate

Women
3.9%



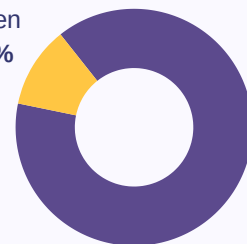
Majority Leader

Women
10.5%



Minority Leader

Women
11.1%



WOMEN IN THE LEGISLATURE

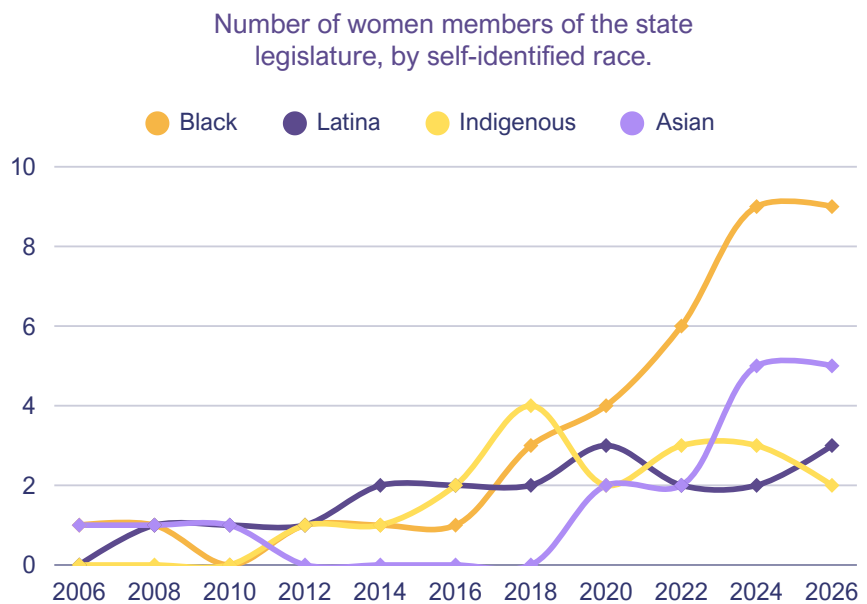


Representation for women of color in the state legislature has increased over the past two decades. ²

In **2006**, women of color made up **1.5%** of the legislature.

In **2026**, women of color make up **9.5%** of the state legislature.

Of the total **78 (38.8%)** of women in the state legislature in 2026, **11.5%** are Black women, **6.4%** are Asian women, **3.9%** are Latina women, and **2.6%** are Indigenous women.



Minnesota elected its first women representatives over 100 years ago. ²

Nearly as soon as women won the right to vote in **1920**, the first women were elected to the Minnesota State Legislature in the next election in **1922**. They were:

- Agnes Myrtle Cain, House District 28
- Johannah Josephine Kempfer, House District 50
- Paige, Mabeth Hurd, House District 30
- Sue Metzger Hough, House District 34



3, 4

1 Represent Women, [Gender Parity Index](#), 2026

2 Minnesota Legislative Reference Library, [Historical Information about the Minnesota Legislature](#)

3 Minnesota Good Age, [“The women who paved the way”](#) by Lauren Peck, November 2019

4 Minnesota Historical Society, [Sue Metzger Dickey Hough](#) by Linda A. Cameron