

WOMEN IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 1998

In 1998, 54 women hold seats in the House of Representatives, comprising 12.4% of the 435 members. The women represent 21 states; 37 are Democrats and 17 are Republicans. The congresswomen include 16 women of color: 11 African American women, 4 Latinas, and 1 Asian American/Pacific Islander woman. In addition, there are two Democratic women delegates, a Caribbean-American, representing the Virgin Islands, and an African-American the District of Columbia.

Of the 48 women who served in the House in 1996, 6 did not seek re-election; and 1 was defeated in her primary. Of the 41 who sought re-election, 40 (27D, 13R) won and 1 Republican was defeated. Eleven new women (8D, 3R) were elected. Susan Molinari (R-NY), reelected in 1996, resigned in August 1997.

Of the 54 women who serve in the House in 1998, 43 first entered by winning regular general elections. Eight others won special elections; Bono (CA), Capps (CA), (Kennelly (CT), Lee (CA), Millender-McDonald (CA), Pelosi (CA), Ros-Lehtinen (FL), and Wilson (NM) succeeded others who died or resigned. In addition, Mink (HI) first entered the House in a regular election, serving twelve years; when she returned after a thirteen-year break, it was as the winner of a special election. Clayton (NC) and Emerson (MO) won regular elections simultaneously with special elections to fill vacancies. The DC and VI Delegates won regular general elections.

Prior to entering Congress, 37, or 70%, of the 53 women lawmakers held previous elective offices; 15 of the 37 held more than one post. The positions include: statewide elective executive (1); state legislator (27); county governing board member (6); mayor/council member (14); municipal judge (3); school board member (2).

The women who serve in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1998 include:

<u>Congresswomen</u>	<u>Routes to Office</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Mary Bono (R-CA)	Businesswoman; restaurateur. Won a special election in 1998 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband.	4/21/98 - present
Corrine Brown (D-FL)	State representative; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Lois Capps (D-CA)	School nurse; educator; health consultant for child development programs. Won a special election in 1998 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her husband.	3/17/98 - present
Julia Carson (D-IN)	State senator; state representative; human resources manager. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Helen Chenoweth (R-ID)	Congressional aide; campaign manager; consultant; lobbyist. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.	1/4/95 - present
Eva Clayton (D-NC)	Management, economic and community development consultant; Warren County Board of Commissioners member and chair. Elected concurrently to fill a vacancy and to serve a full term in the U.S. House in 1992.	11/4/92 - present
Donna Christian-Green (D-VI)	Acting Commissioner of Health; board of education member; Democratic party activist; physician. Elected as delegate from the Virgin Islands in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Barbara Cubin (R-WY)	State senator; state representative; medical office manager. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.	1/4/95 - present
Pat Danner (D-MO)	State senator; Carter sub-Cabinet appointee as Ozark Regional Planning Commission co-chair; congressional district aide. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Diana DeGette (D-CO)	State Representative; state house assistant leader; Denver Democratic party resolutions chair; civil rights and employment lawyer. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)	Congressional aide; executive director of EMILY's List; community organizer. Elected to U.S. House in 1990.	1/3/91 - present

A note to users of our fact sheets: Please credit the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Additional information from *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774 - 1989*, U.S. Government Printing Office, and *Women in the United States Congress*, Congressional Research Service.

<u>Congresswomen</u>	<u>Routes to Office</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Jennifer Dunn (R-WA)	State Republican party chair; chair of all state party chairs nationwide; computer systems engineer. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)	Advisory board, Members & Family Room, U.S. House; small business advisory commission; business lobbyist. Elected concurrently to fill vacancy caused by her husband's death and to serve a full term in the U.S. House in 1996.	11/25/96 - present
Anna Eshoo (D-CA)	San Mateo County supervisor and board president. Ran unsuccessfully for U.S. House in 1988. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Tillie Fowler (R-FL)	Jacksonville city council member and president; Florida Endowment for the Humanities chair; legislative aide. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Elizabeth Furse (D-OR)	Community organizer; peace activist; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Kay Granger (R-TX)	Mayor of Fort Worth; board of trustees of the US Conference of Mayors; educator; small business owner. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Jane Harman (D-CA)	Businesswoman; attorney; Defense Department counsel; congressional aide. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Darlene Hooley (D-OR)	Clackamas County Commissioner; state representative; councilwoman; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)	State senator; state representative; administrator in Department of Health, Education and Welfare; nurse; consultant. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Nancy Johnson (R-CT)	State senator; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1983.	1/3/83 - present
Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)	Urban planner; White House domestic policy aide. Elected to U.S. House in 1982.	1/3/83 - present
Sue Kelly (R-NY)	Businesswoman; educator; health care professional; campaign manager. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.	1/4/95 - present
Barbara Kennelly (D-CT)	Connecticut secretary of state; Hartford Court of Common Council member. First elected in a 1982 special election to fill a vacancy.	1/12/82 - present
Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI)	State representative; Democratic whip; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Barbara Lee (D-CA)	State senator; state assemblywoman; senior advisor and administrative assistant to member of Congress. Won a special election in 1998 to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation.	4/21/98 - present
Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)	Council member; municipal court associate judge; attorney; congressional committee counsel. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.	1/4/95 - present
Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)	Santa Clara County Supervisor; attorney; law teacher; executive director of low-income housing development group; congressional aide. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.	1/4/95 - present
Nita Lowey (D-NY)	Assistant New York secretary of state. Elected to U.S. House in 1988.	1/3/89 - present
Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)	New York city council member; educator; administrator. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)	Lobbyist on gun control issues; nurse. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Karen McCarthy (D-MO)	State representative; teacher; economic analyst. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.	1/4/95 - present
Cynthia McKinney (D-GA)	State representative; educator; doctoral candidate. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Carrie Meek (D-FL)	State senator; state representative. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present

<u>Congresswomen</u>	<u>Routes to Office</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA)	State assemblywoman; Carson City Council member; teacher; text-book editor. Won special election in 1996 to fill a vacancy caused by resignation.	4/16/96 - present
Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-HI)	U.S. representative for twelve years; state senator; assistant U.S. secretary of state; Honolulu city council member; territorial representative; attorney. Re-elected to U.S. House in special election in 1990.	1/3/65 - 1/3/77 and 9/27/90 - present
Constance Morella (R-MD)	State delegate; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1986.	1/3/87 - present
Sue Myrick (R-NC)	Charlotte mayor; city council member; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.	1/4/95 - present
Anne Meagher Northup (R-KY)	State representative; Jefferson County Judge; Republican executive committeeewoman; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission chair; New York City Commission on Human Rights chair; law professor. Elected as delegate from the District of Columbia in 1990.	1/3/91 - present
Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)	Chair of California Democratic party; Democratic National Committee member; party activist; public relations executive. Won special election in 1987 to fill a vacancy caused by death of Congresswoman Sala Burton.	6/9/87 - present
Deborah Pryce (R-OH)	Municipal court judge; prosecutor. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Lynn Rivers (D-MI)	State representative; Ann Arbor School Board member; attorney. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.	1/4/95 - present
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)	State senator; state representative; educator; business-woman. Won special election in 1989 to fill a vacancy.	9/6/89 - present
Marge Roukema (R-NJ)	Ridgewood Board of Education member; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1980.	1/3/81 - present
Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)	State assemblywoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)	Santa Ana businesswoman; financial consultant to local governments. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)	State senator; state representative; Ingham county commissioner; social worker. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Louise Slaughter (D-NY)	State assemblywoman; Monroe County legislator; gubernatorial staff member. Elected to U.S. House in 1986.	1/3/87 - present
Linda Ann Smith (R-WA)	State senator; state representative; tax consultant. Elected to U.S. House in 1994.	1/4/95 - present
Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)	Democratic party activist; founder and president of child care registry; investment banker. Elected to U.S. House in 1996.	1/7/97 - present
Karen Thurman (D-FL)	State senator; Dunnellon mayor and city council member; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)	New York city council member; director of the Department of Puerto Rican Community Affairs; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present
Maxine Waters (D-CA)	State assemblywoman; educator. Elected to U.S. House in 1990.	1/3/91 - present
Heather Wilson (R-NM)	New Mexico Secretary of Children, Youth and Families Department; Director, Defense Policy and Arms Control, National Security Council; Defense Planning Officer. Won special election in 1998 to fill a vacancy caused by death of Congressman Steve Schiff.	6/25/98 - present
Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)	Petaluma city council member; vice mayor; businesswoman. Elected to U.S. House in 1992.	1/5/93 - present