

“The Paradox of Women in Pennsylvania Politics”

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> women are 51% of the Pennsylvania state population

> county commissions [Source: <http://www.chatham.edu/pcwp>]

- * 32 counties have no women county commissioners
- * in 4 counties between 11% -20% of the commissioners are women
- * in 27 counties 1 of 3 (33%) of the commissioners are women
- * in 1 county 7 of 17 (41%) of the commissioners are women (Philadelphia)
- * in 3 counties, 2 of the 3 (67%) are women (Sullivan, Blair, Chester)
- * in 1 county all 3 commissioners are women (Monroe)

> PA General Assembly [Source: <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu>]

- * 11 of 50 senators are women (22%)
 - 55% of the women are Republican; 45% are Democrat
- * 33 of 203 representatives are women (16%)
 - 58% of the women are Republican; 42% are Democrat
- * this is an historic high- PA General Assembly is composed of 17.4% women

> PA General Assembly compared to other state legislatures

[Source: <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu>]

- * PA is ranked 42 out of the 50 states for its proportion of women state legislators
- * Colorado is #1, with its state legislature comprised of 41% women
- * states ranked below PA are: West Virginia, Louisiana, Wyoming, North Dakota, Mississippi, Alabama, Oklahoma, South Carolina (at bottom with 9.4%)
- * of the 7,382 state legislative seats in the 50 states, women hold 1,738 (24%)
- * of the 1,971 state senate seats in the 50 states, women hold 425 (22%)
- * of the 5,411 state house seats women hold 1,313 (24.3%)
- * Democratic women hold 62% of the state senate seats held by women
- * Democratic women hold 60% of the state house seats held by women
- * 30 state Senates have more Democratic women than Republican women
- * 36 state Houses have more Democratic women than Republican women

> PA Statewide Executive Elective Offices [Source: <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu>]

- * no woman has ever been elected governor in PA (6 are currently serving; 31 have served in 23 states)
- * one woman, Catherine Baker Knoll (D), was elected lieutenant governor; she served from 2003- her death in 2008 (11 are currently serving)
- * first woman in statewide office was Genevieve Blatt (D); served as secretary of internal affairs 1955-1967
- * Anne Alpern served as attorney general (1959-1961); an appointed position then
- * Grace McCalmont (D); elected as state treasurer (1961-64), then served as auditor general (1965-1968), and then again as state treasurer (1969-1976)

- * Barbara Hafer (R) elected to two terms as auditor general (1989-1997), then two terms as state treasurer (1997-2005); changed to Democrat in 2003
- * Catherine Baker Knoll (D) elected to two terms as state treasurer (1989-1997)
- * Robin Wiessman (D) was appointed treasurer (2007-2008) to replace Bob Casey (who moved to the U.S. Senate)
- * Linda Kelly (R) was appointed attorney general (2011-2013) to replace Tom Corbett (who moved to the governor's mansion)

>PA Courts [Source: *The Pennsylvania Manual: 2009-10*]

- * Supreme Court: 2 of the 7 justices are women (29%)
- * Superior Court: 7 of the 15 justices are women (47%)
- * Commonwealth Court: 2 of the 9 justices are women (22%)
- * Courts of Common Pleas (other than Philly): 20% of judges are women
- * Courts of Common Pleas in Philly: 45% of judges are women
- * District Magistrates & Philly municipal court judges: 24% are women

> PA in the U.S. Congress [Source: <http://womenincongress.house.gov>]

- * seven women have represented PA in Congress; all of these women were in the House of Representatives
- * Allyson Schwartz (D) is currently PA's only woman in Congress (2005-2013)
- * Veronica Grace Boland (D) was appointed to her deceased husband's seat and served two months (1942-1943);
- * Vera Dairr Buchanan (D) was appointed to her deceased husband's seat and then was reelected in her own right (1951-1955)
- * Kathryn E. Granahan (D) was appointed to her deceased husband's seat and then was reelected in her own right (1956-1963)
- * Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky (D) elected (1993-1995)
- * Melissa Hart (R) elected (2001-2007)
- * Kathleen A. Dahlkemper (D) elected (2009-2011); lost 2010 reelection bid

> PA Congressional Representation compared to other states

- * 4 states have never elected a woman to Congress (either the House or the Senate): Delaware, Iowa, Mississippi, and Vermont
- * 6 states have never had a woman represent them in the U.S. House: Alaska, Delaware, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, and Vermont
- * 27 states, including PA, have never had a woman represent them in the U.S. Senate
- * Montana had the first women elected to the U.S. House, Jeannette Rankin (R); elected twice (1917-1919; 1941-1943) she is the only woman ever to represent Montana in the U.S. Congress

Three Important Questions regarding this paradox:

- 1) Why are there so few women in elected positions?
- 2) Why does women's under-representation in government matter?
- 3) What can YOU do about it?

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