

YOUNG WOMEN AND POLITICS

Percentages of Young Women and Men Voting 1974-2012*

	Ages 18-24		Ages 25-29		All ages	
	% Women	% Men	% Women	% Men	% Women	% Men
2012	44.5	37.9	54.6	47.0	63.7	59.8
2010	22.1	20.4	27.9	27.8	46.2	44.8
2008	52.0	45.1	59.0	50.2	65.6	61.5
2006	23.2	21.0	32.5	28.1	48.6	46.9
2004	49.7	43.8	56.5	48.1	65.4	62.1
2002	20.5	18.1	28.8	25.7	46.6	45.6
2000	38.2	34.0	49.9	43.7	60.7	58.0
1998	19.3	17.6	28.9	26.3	45.7	44.9
1996	38.1	33.0	48.6	41.0	59.6	57.1
1994	23.6	20.7	31.8	31.0	48.5	48.2
1992	49.0	44.8	57.7	52.2	66.3	64.6
1990	22.6	21.7	33.6	29.5	48.0	47.5
1988	40.6	37.1	50.0	45.0	61.4	59.9
1986	24.0	22.8	33.8	31.9	48.4	48.2
1984	44.9	40.7	56.3	51.7	63.5	61.7
1982	25.7	26.4	39.5	37.2	50.5	50.9
1980	43.2	40.7	55.2	52.9	61.9	61.5

Percentages of First-Year College Students Who Consider It Essential or Very Important that They Influence the Political Structure⁺

	% Women	% Men	% Women	% Men	% Women	% Men		
2013	18.7	24.9	2000	15.3	20.4	1986	13.8	19.3
2012	17.4	23.8	1998	15.3	20.3	1984	14.3	20.3
2010	17.8	22.9	1996	16.8	21.3	1982	13.7	20.0
2008	19.8	25.6	1994	19.1	22.8	1980	14.4	22.2
2006	20.5	25.5	1992	20.6	24.2	1978	13.3	20.2
2004	17.0	22.3	1990	20.3	24.3	1976	13.4	20.3
2002	17.0	22.8	1988	14.2	19.8	1974	10.9	16.8

(over)

* Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports. Percent of the voting-age population who reported they voted.

⁺ Source: *The American Freshman: National Norms*, Higher Education Research Institute, UCLA.

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Youngest Women to Serve⁺⁺

Governor

The youngest woman to serve as governor was 36-year-old Jane Swift (R), who was elected lieutenant governor of Massachusetts and became governor in 2001 when her predecessor stepped down to accept an ambassadorship.

The youngest woman elected governor in her own right is Sarah Palin (R-AK), who was born in 1964 and took office in 2006 at age 42.

U.S. Senate

Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), born in September, 1960, was 38 when she took office in January, 1999.

U.S. House of Representatives

The youngest woman to serve in the House is Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY), who took office at age 30; she was born July 2, 1984 and took office on January 6, 2015. The record was previously held by Representative Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY), who was 31 when she took office.

Educating Young Women for Politics

NEW Leadership™ is CAWP's national bi-partisan program to teach college women the value of civic engagement and the importance of having women in positions of political leadership. During the residential program, participants meet women leaders with a wide range of backgrounds, educational experiences and political views. Students learn about the history of women's political participation, participate in hands-on skills-building exercises, and develop their own leadership skills. NEW Leadership™ inspires students to see themselves as empowered leaders who can effectively participate in politics and public policy. To learn more about NEW Leadership™, visit www.cawp.rutgers.edu/education_training/NEWLeadership.

Teach a Girl to Lead™ (TAG) is CAWP's project to inspire girls and young women to follow in the footsteps of women leaders, past and present. TAG provides tools and resources for educators, leaders of youth-serving groups, media outlets that target young audiences, and parents, to make women's leadership visible to the next generation. To learn more about Teach a Girl to Lead™, visit tag.rutgers.edu.

⁺⁺ Source: CAWP National Information Bank.

