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Women's Political Participation in Nevada

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WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN NEVADA

CURRENT ELECTED OFFICE

- Nevada leads the nation with the first female-majority state legislature.
- 61.9% of NV state legislators are women, as compared to an average of 30.6% of state women legislators nationwide.¹
 - This represents a steady increase over the past three years, with a significant increase in 2018 when women held a quarter of legislative seats.¹

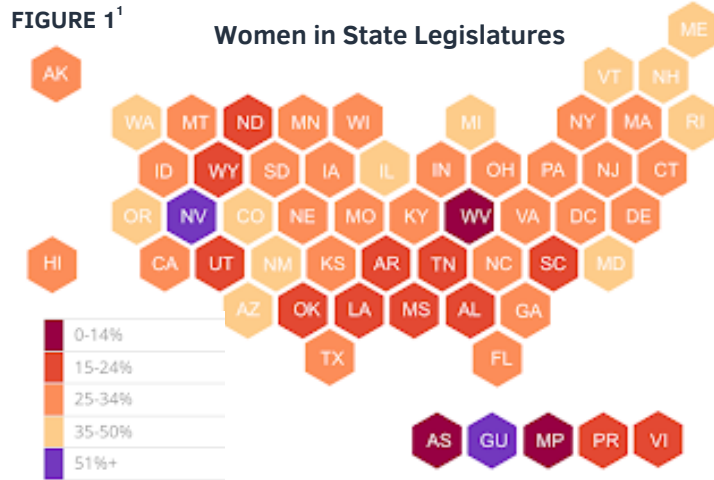
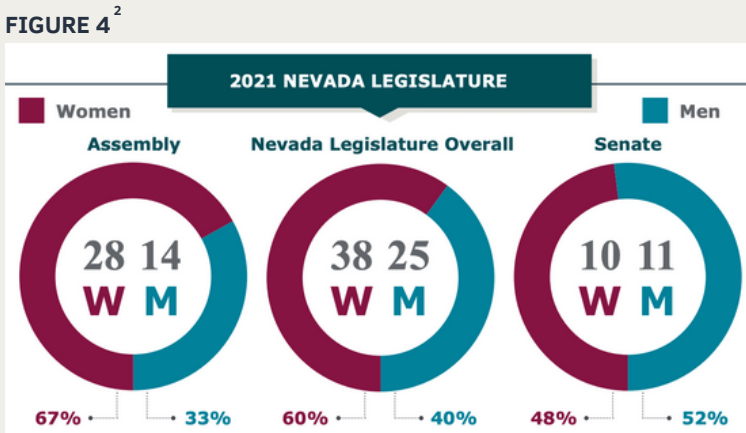
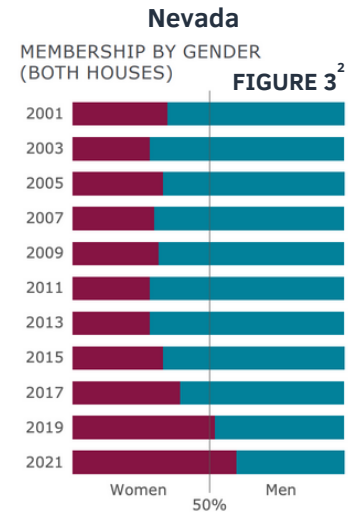


FIGURE 2²
Nevada
NUMBER OF FEMALE LEGISLATORS

YEAR	SENATE	ASSEMBLY	TOTAL
2001	5	17	22
2003	7	11	18
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

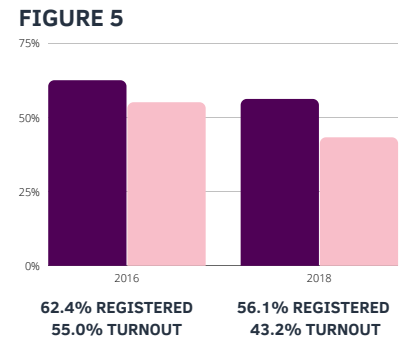


WHAT ARE RESULTS OF MORE WOMEN IN ELECTED OFFICE?

- Women in congress sponsor and co-sponsor more bills than men do, bringing 9% more federal money to their districts.³
 - Those bills are more likely to benefit women and children or address issues like *education, health, and poverty*.^{4,5}
- Women candidates and elected officials closed the traditional gender gap in psychological engagement.⁶
- Women citizens are more active in politics when represented by women senators.⁶

LOW PARTICIPATION

- Despite the high volume of women elected officials, data from 2016 to 2018 reveals an overall decline in women's registration and voter turnout.
- Additionally, Nevada's institutional resources for women are still among the lowest in the country.⁵
- Persisting gender roles in regards to the uneven distribution of family care responsibilities make it difficult for women to participate.

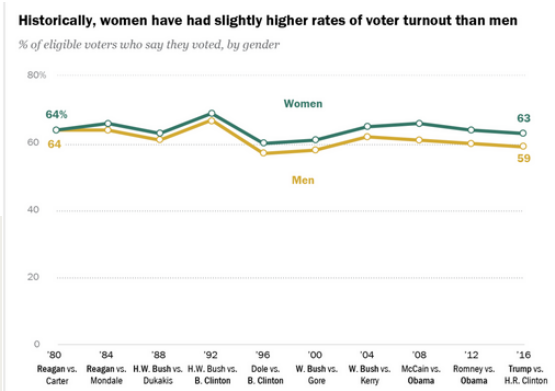


Sources:
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 6. Fridkin, K. L., & Kenney, P. J. (2014). How the Gender of U.S. Senators Influences People's Understanding and Engagement in Politics. *The Journal of Politics*, 76(4), 1017-1031. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0022381614000589>
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ISSUES WITH ACCESSIBILITY

- Lack of accessibility may be the cause of lower participation in Nevada.
- Women are motivated to vote but are facing negative effects from COVID-19 that might be preventing them from participating in politics.⁶
- Despite this, women's activist groups have addressed such legislation as the
- Equal Rights Amendment ratification (1973-1981) and Prop 7 (1990).

FIGURE 7⁶



Key bills to increase voting accessibility 2022 (needs dates)

- AB121 allows people with disabilities to vote using electronic system for uniformed military members and other voters living overseas.
- AB321 permanently expands mail-in voting, and gives Indian reservations more time to request the establishment of a polling place.⁷
- AB422 implements a top-down voter registration system, moving away from the existing setup with county clerks maintaining their own systems.
- AB432 expands automatic voter registration to other state or tribal agencies.
- AB126 moves the state to a presidential primary system, ending the use of the caucus.



"The legislature is not addressing working women issues."



"If a woman is raising a family, when does she have time to get involved politically?"

"A major problem for many women voters can be that they don't see the political processes as means to solving their problems", says Cosgrove.⁸

- Mother's dropping out of the workforce or reducing their hours due to the impacts of the pandemic may have led to unequal responsibilities for child care, managing a household, and holding down a job.
- Women with children have struggled with remote learning and might be worried about putting food on the table.
- Even in two-parent households, women are facing harsher challenges.¹⁰
 - More women than men reported exhaustion, burnout and pressure to work more.¹¹

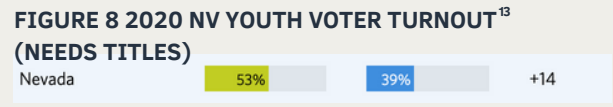
**\$64.5 billion
lost wages for
mothers⁹**

Who is particularly disadvantaged in access to voting?

- There is less internet accessibility in rural areas, therefore, making it less likely for women to participate in online forums, town halls, or other remote means of political dialogue.
- Women of color and working-class women are more likely to contribute to their families' income and provide the majority of caretaking.
 - 67.5% of Black mothers and 41.4% of Latina mothers were the primary or sole breadwinners of their families in comparison to 37% of white mothers.¹⁰

What are results of a strong mail-in voting and automatic registration?

- An increase of youth voter turnout in Nevada from 2016-2020¹³



WHERE IS THE GENDER-SPECIFIC DATA?

- It is difficult to find current statistics on women because policymakers, research institutions, and government agencies in Nevada are not collecting gender-specific data.
 - "NV Statutes do not legally require gender reporting," reports Joe Gloria from Registrar of Voters.
 - 0 gender data collection from the Nevada Secretary of State statistics on voters
 - 0 gender data collection from the Clark County NV Elections Department for voter registration totals, inactivated voter data, or canceled voter data
 - The North Carolina's 2020 *Status of Women* Report has the most updated information about NV's political participation.
 - Additionally, the last US-state report that tracks trends in women's political participation was from a 2010-2012 report.

Sources:

⁶ Pew Research Center. (2020). How U.S. men and women differ in voter turnout rate, party identification. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/08/18/men-and-women-in-the-u-s-continue-to-differ-in-voter-turnout-rate-party-identification/>

⁷ Nevada Legislature. (2022). Legislative information and documents. <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Site/Search/search.cfm>

⁸ The Review Journal. (2020). Despite women leaders female participation in Nevada ranks low. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/politics-and-government/despite-women-leaders-female-political-participation-in-nevada-ranks-low-2124523/>

⁹ Center for American Progress. (2020). How COVID-19 sent women's workforce progress backward. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/covid-19-sent-womens-workforce-progress-backward/>

¹⁰ Vice. (2020). The pandemic is devastating women and could make it harder for them to vote. <https://www.vice.com/en/article/pkdyjv/the-pandemic-is-devastating-women-and-could-make-it-harder-for-them-to-vote>

¹¹ McKinsey & Company. (2021). Women in the workplace. <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/diversity-and-inclusion/women-in-the-workplace>

¹² Center for American Progress. (2020). On the front lines at work and home: The disproportionate economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic on women of color. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/frontlines-work-home/>

¹³ Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. (2021). State-by-state 2020 Youth Voter Turnout: West and Southwest. <https://civiclearning.org/latest-research/state-state-2020-youth-voter-turnout-west-and-southwest>