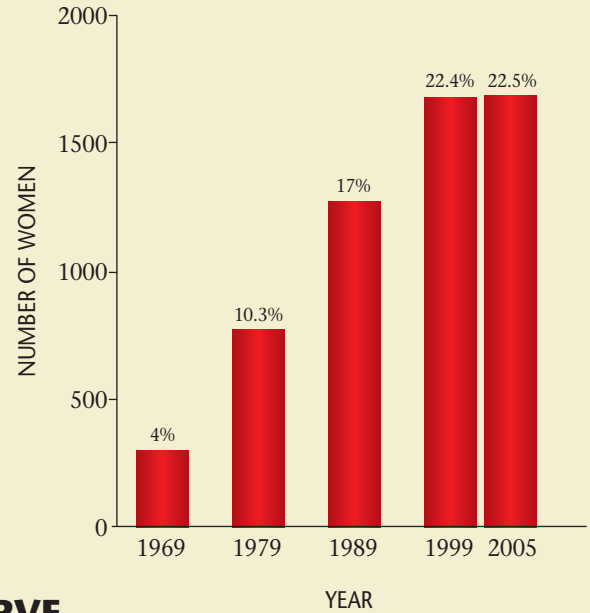


The Female Factor

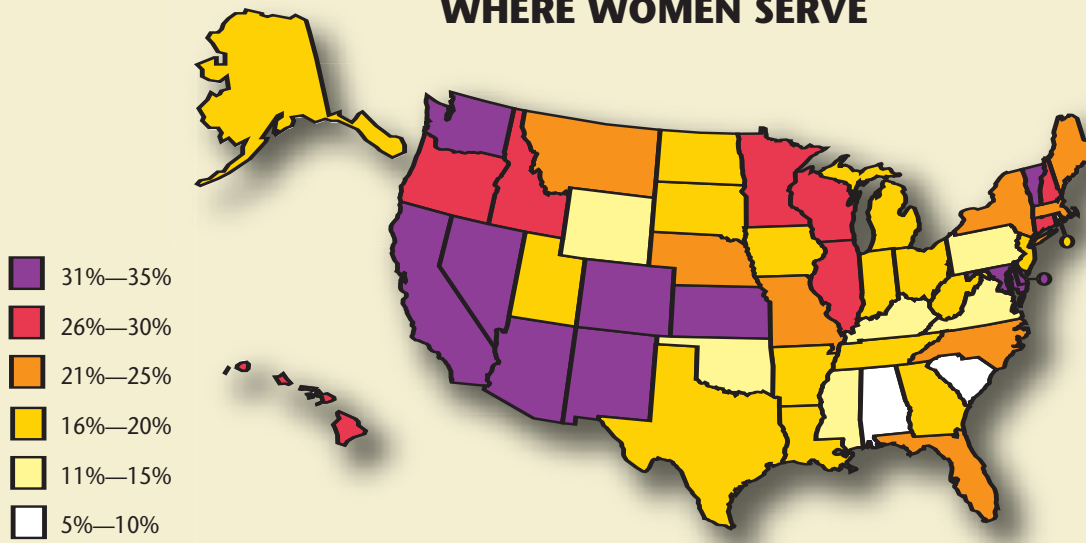
This session will see 1,660 women legislators serving across the country. Women hold 22.5 percent of legislative seats in the 50 states, a ratio that has remained constant since the 1999 session. That percentage doesn't seem particularly high considering that women make up 51 percent of the U.S. population. But just 35 years ago, they held only 4 percent of legislative seats. Women's numbers have increased steadily over the years until seeming to peak in 1999.

California, Delaware and Vermont bumped Maine, Connecticut and Oregon off the list of states with the highest percentage of women legislators. New Jersey is no longer on the list of states with the lowest percentage of women legislators. It was replaced by West Virginia.

WOMEN LAWMAKERS REACH A PLATEAU



WHERE WOMEN SERVE



TOP 10

State	Percent Women
Colorado	34.0%
Maryland	34.0
Delaware	33.9
Arizona	33.3
Nevada	33.3
Vermont	33.3
Washington	33.3
Kansas	32.1
New Mexico	31.3
California	30.8

BOTTOM 10

State	Percent Women
South Carolina	8.8%
Alabama	10.0
Kentucky	12.3
Mississippi	12.6
Pennsylvania	12.6
Virginia	14.3
Wyoming	14.4
Oklahoma	14.8
Arkansas	15.6
West Virginia	15.7

Source: The National Conference of State Legislatures, November 2004

