

NCSL Capitol Forum

Panel: Who Governs?

Legislator Demographics in 2015

Discussant Comments

December 10, 2015

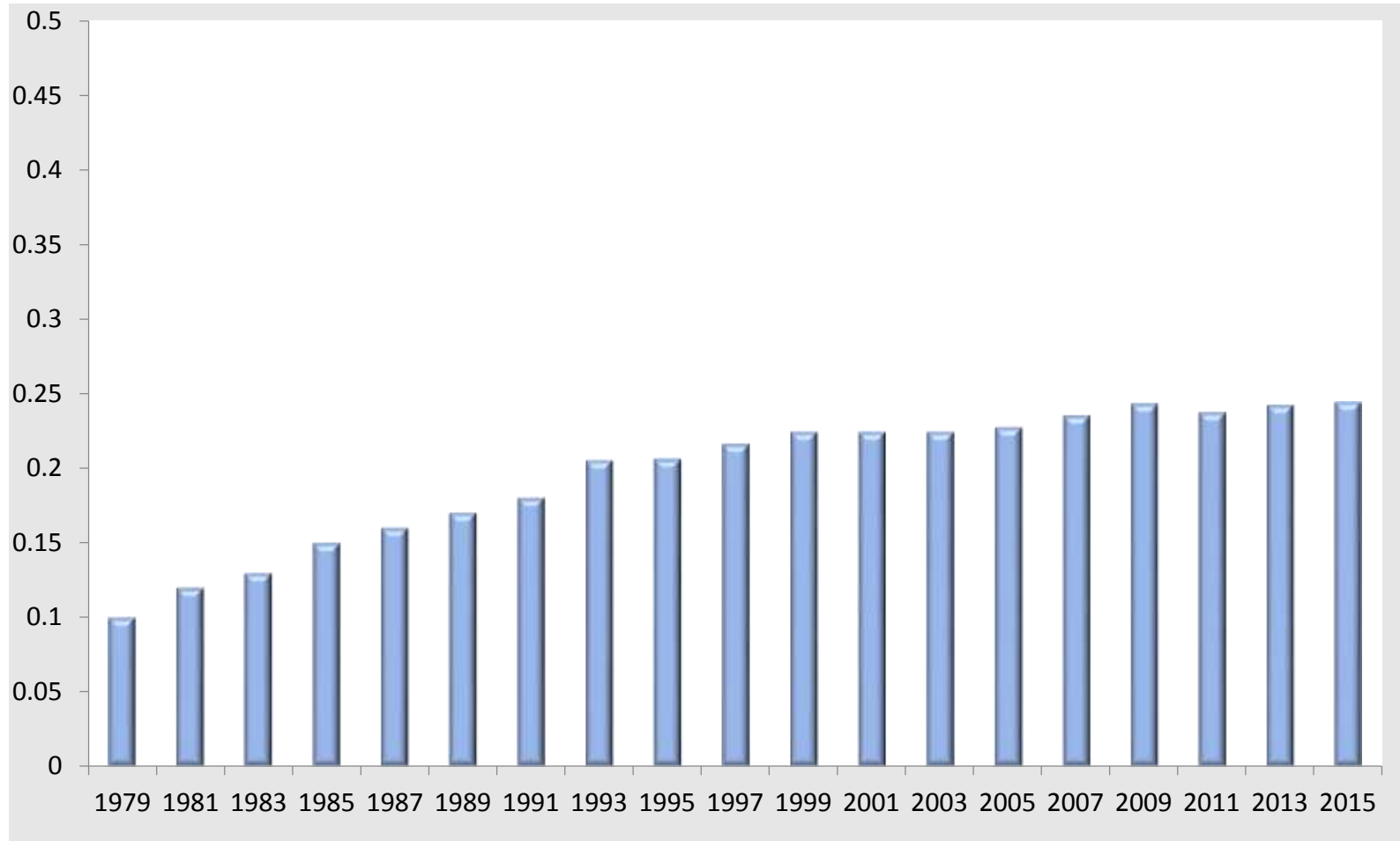
Kira Sanbonmatsu

Senior Scholar, Center for American Women and Politics

Rutgers University

sanbon@rci.rutgers.edu

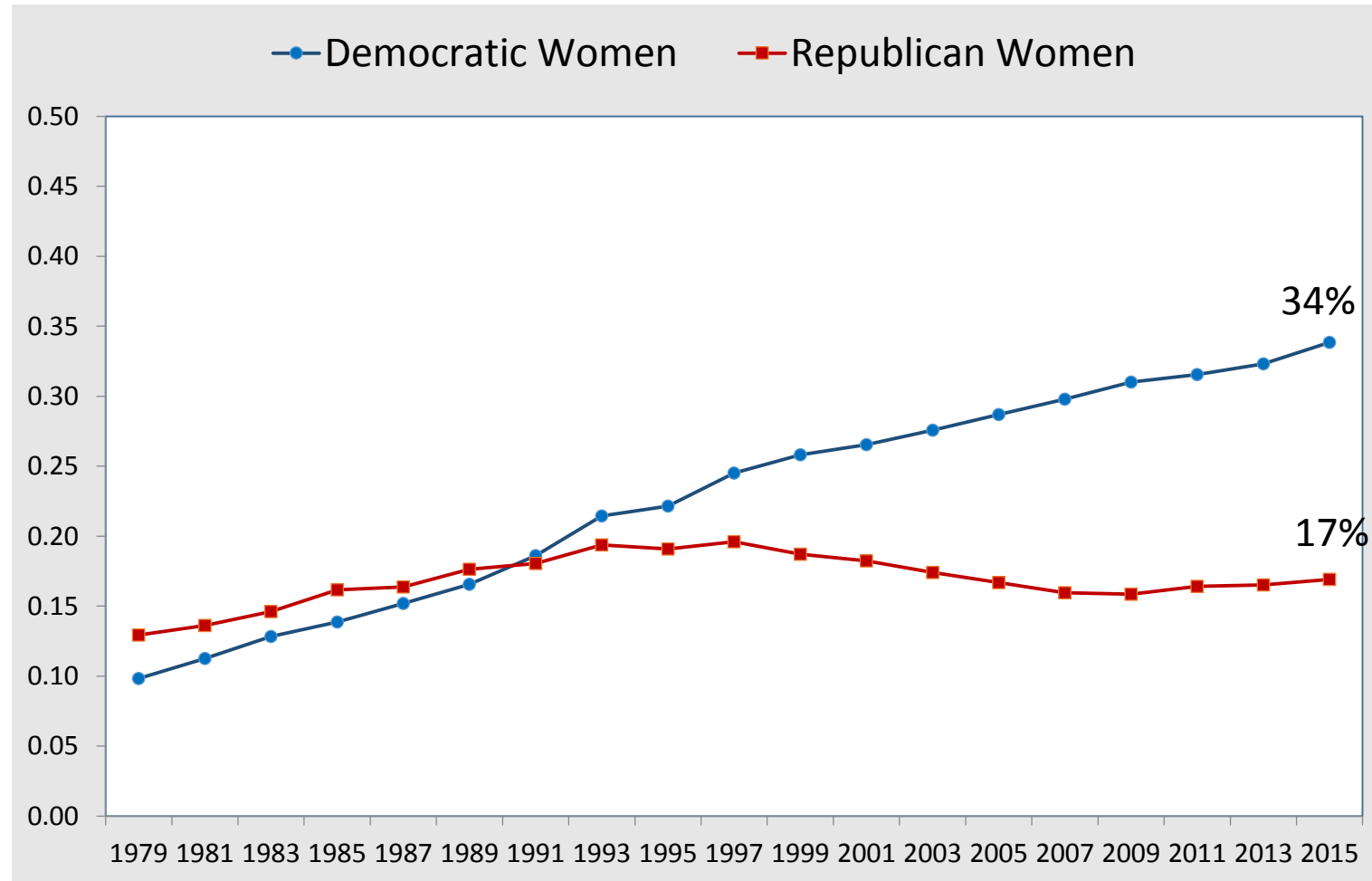
Slide 1: Women's State Legislative Officeholding



Sources: NCSL; Pew Charitable Trusts; Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP)

Slide 2

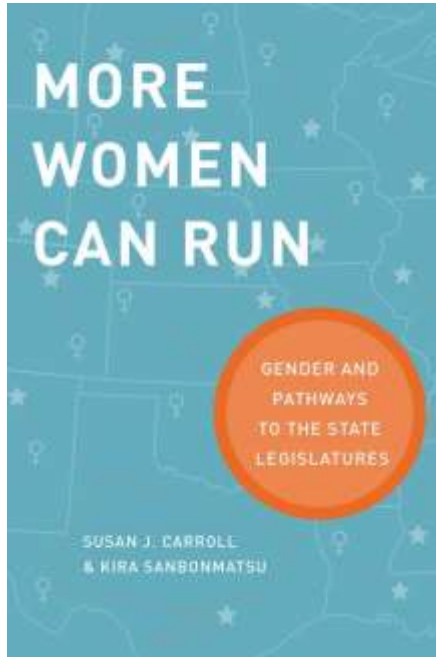
Democratic Women are a Larger Share of their Party's Legislators



Sources: NCSL; Pew Charitable Trusts; Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP)

Slide 3

2008 Center for American Women and Politics Recruitment Study



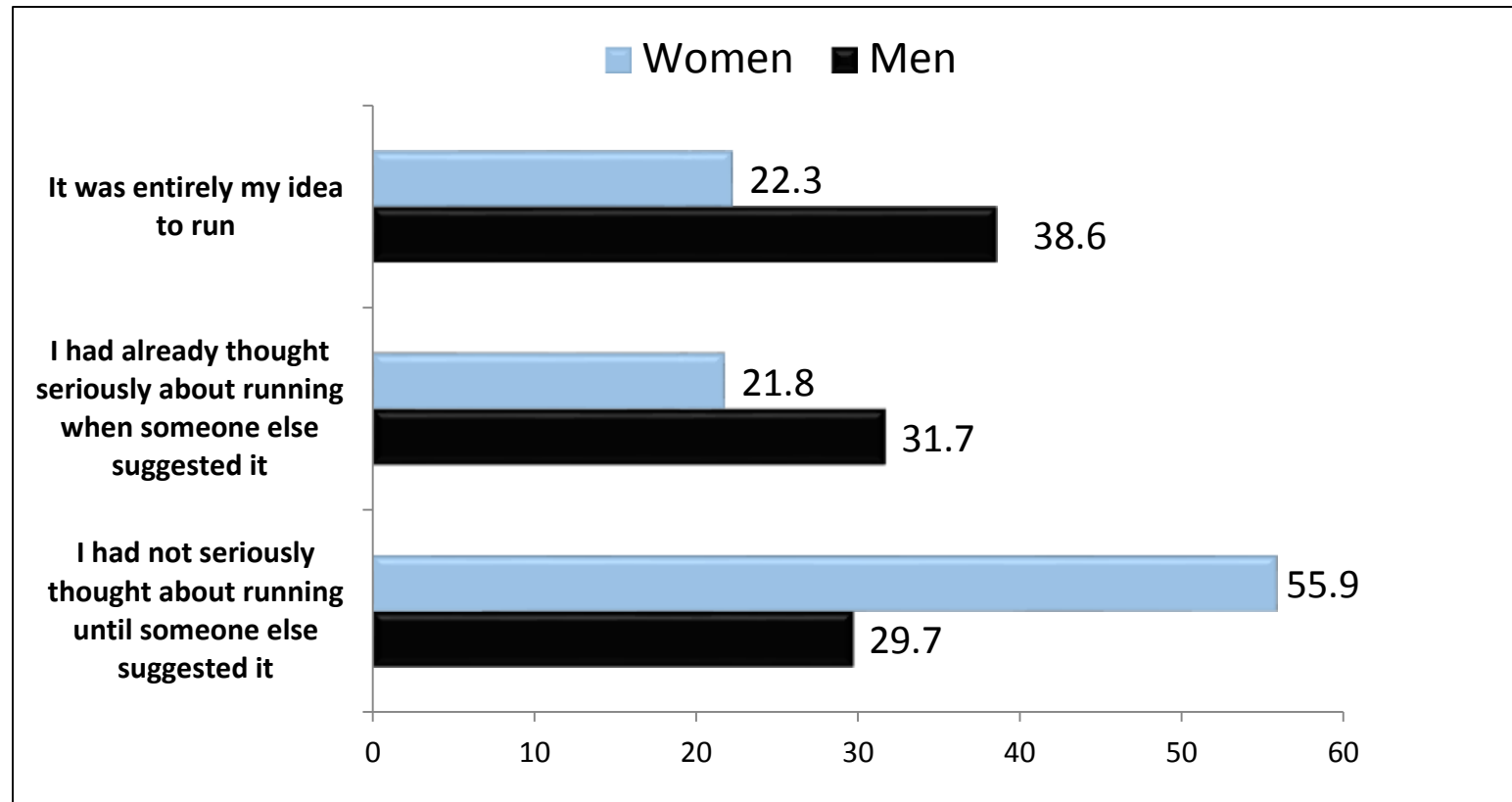
“In thinking about your initial decision to seek elective office the very first time, which of the following statements most accurately describes your decision?”

It was entirely my idea;

I had already thought about running when someone else suggested it;

I had not seriously thought about running until someone else suggested it.

Slide 4: The First Decision to Seek Office



Note: 2008 CAWP Recruitment Study. This chart includes those legislators who ran for the legislature as their first office.
Question wording: "In thinking about your initial decision to seek elective office the very first time, which of the following statements most accurately describes your decision?"
Source: Carroll, Susan J., and Kira Sanbonmatsu 2013. *More Women Can Run: Gender and Pathways to the State Legislatures*. New York: Oxford University Press. p. 49.