

HOUSE WOMEN: Forty-four - 44 - XLIV - of the fifty - 50 - L - United States have sent women to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives since the U.S. Congress first convened on March 4, 1789. A woman's place in the House first began with the first woman elected 128 years after Congress first convened. The six - 6 - VI - states still to elect a woman representative to serve in the House are: Alaska, Delaware, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, and Vermont.

In the 224-year history of the United States of America, in a country whose people's gender percentage is - fifty -50 - L - men and - fifty -50 - L - women; in a country of the people, by the people and for the people; in a country which purports to be a nation of laws, including voting laws; the people have elected a total of **10,814** Representatives to serve in the House. Of that total number, **10,614** representatives are men and **200** representatives are women.

Jeannette Rankin, elected by the men and women of Montana in 1917, the first of these first two hundred House Women, said, "I may be the first woman member of Congress but I won't be the last." Rankin was elected again in 1940 and is the only member of Congress to have voted against entry into World War I and World War II. The percentage of women during Rankin's first term as the only woman in the 65th Congress was 0.2%. During her second term in the 76th Congress with seven other women, the percentage was 1.8%. A few more "firsts" of the first two hundred follow.

Florence Prag Kahn of California in 1925, the first Jewish woman to serve, did so with one other woman in the 69th Congress for a women's percentage of 0.7%.

Katharine St. George from New York state, elected in 1946, served in the 79th Congress with ten other women, a 2.5% and until 1965 in the 88th Congress - 2.8%. In 1962, St. George was the first female (or male) lawmaker to propose legislation ensuring gender equal pay for equal work. Staunchly opposed, despite ardent support, i.e., from AAUW, it failed, was re-introduced by fellow House Woman Edith Green and passed as the 1963 Equal Pay Act.

Ruth Thompson elected from Michigan to the 82nd Congress - 2.3%, and subsequently re-elected to the two succeeding Congresses from 1951 to 1957, was the first woman to serve on the House Judiciary Committee, the preeminent committee charged to oversee the administration of justice at the Federal level and responsible for impeachments of Federal officials.

Patsy Mink of Hawaii, third generation Japanese (Sansei), was elected in 1965 to the 89th Congress - 2.5% as the first House Woman minority. Mink authored the Title IX legislation, the Women's Educational Equity Act and introduced the first comprehensive Early Childhood Education Act. These laws were declared landmark laws by Congress as they advanced gender equal rights in America beyond what was imagined at the time. Title IX was renamed in her honor.

Shirley Chisholm of New York state, elected in 1968 to the 90th Congress - 2.5% and served continuously to the 97th Congress - 4.8%, was the first African American House Woman.

Geraldine Ferraro was elected to the 95th Congress - 4.1% in 1978 by the state of New York. She became the first woman vice presidential candidate for a major American political party as the 1984 running mate to presidential candidate Walter Mondale.

Louise Slaughter also of New York state, elected in 1987 joined the 100th Congress - 5.3%. She was the first woman chair of the powerful House Rules Committee. Slaughter co-authored the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 and wrote legislation to make permanent the United States Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Office.

Nancy Pelosi of California, also elected in 1987, became the first woman House Minority Whip; first woman House Minority Leader; and first woman Speaker of the House - in the 110th and 111th Congresses. At the time Pelosi noted that her election to her role as "Speaker" broke the marble ceiling for all women. To date, she is the highest ranking woman politician in America's history.

Lleana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida was the first Hispanic woman, and the first Cuban American woman elected in 1989 to the 101st Congress - 6.7%. In 2012 she was the first of her party in the House to fully support same-sex marriage.

Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin's first openly gay/lesbian person elected to the House in 1999 joined the 106th Congress - 13.3%. Prior, as a member of the Wisconsin state legislature in 1994, Baldwin pioneered a proposal legalizing same-sex marriage and proposed domestic partnerships in Wisconsin.

Mazie Hirono elected from Hawaii in 2007 to the 110th Congress - 17.2%, is the first Buddhist House Woman.

Judy May Chu of California, elected in 2009 to the current 113th Congress - 17.9% (78 women-357 men) as the first Chinese House Woman, introduced a resolution that formally expresses the *regret* of the House for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1923 which imposed virtually total restrictions on Chinese immigration and naturalization and denied Chinese-Americans basic freedoms because of their ethnicity. In 2012, it was only the fourth time the U.S. Congress issued an apology to a group of people.

The votes of 200 House Women did matter as did votes that elected 200 women into the House from 0.2% to 17.9%. As to a 50%/50 states gender-equitable House Women/House Men representation one day? You can vote on it.

Further fabulous facts on these 200 House Women can be found at this government link:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_the_United_States_House_of_Representatives

TOTAL NUMBER OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVES	1789 TO PRESENT: 10,814
TOTAL NUMBER OF MALE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES	1789 TO PRESENT: 10,614
TOTAL NUMBER OF FEMALE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES	1789 TO PRESENT: 200

<http://history.house.gov/Institution/Total-Members/Total-Members/>