

## Women In Politics

Since 1789, only 2 percent of members of Congress have been women. In the Senate, from 1922-2006, only 33 women have served in the Senate: 20 Democrats and 13 Republicans. In April 1917, the first woman elected to any national legislature in a Western democracy took her seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Jeannette Rankin was elected to represent the state of Montana. [<http://www.onthisdeity.com/2nd-april-1917->]

That was on a national level, though, I'm sure there were some women in elected office on a community level before then, although we'll probably never know who was actually the first, and when that was. Unfortunately, I couldn't find local community stats nationwide. That's where you would find a traditionally high percentage of women. Most court clerks, for example, seem to have been, and are, women.

As the stats below show, women in domestic politics have been steadily increasing, but are still far below where, statistically, they should be, especially considering that they outnumber males. Why? The traditional answer has always been that most women are more concerned with home and family than politics. But, *The Huffington Post*, in a 2014 article, cites a 2014 study that found that that's actually not the case:

Year	Congress	Statewide	State Legislatures
1971	3%	7%	N/A
1973	3%	8%	N/A
1975	4%	10%	8%
1977	4%	10%	9%
1979	3%	11%	10%
1981	4%	11%	12%
1983	4%	11%	13%
1985	5%	14%	15%
1987	5%	14%	16%
1989	5%	14%	16%
1991	6%	18%	18%
1993	10.1%	22.2%	20.5%
1995	10.3%	25.9%	20.6%
1997	11.0%	25.4%	21.6%
1999	12.1%	27.6%	22.4%
2001	13.6%	27.6%	22.4%
2003	13.6%	26.0%	22.4%
2005	15.0%	25.7%	22.4%
2007	16.1%	24.1%	23.5%
2009	16.8%	22.6%	24.3%
2011	16.8%	22.1%	23.7%
2012	16.8%	23.4%	23.7%
2013	18.5%	23.0%	24.2%
2014	18.7%	22.6%	24.3%
2015	19.4%	24.7%	24.6%
2016	19.4%	24.7%	24.5%

"Political gatekeepers tend to recruit from their own networks, and those are men who tend to operate in pretty male-dominated networks," Lawless said in an interview. "So there's not much evidence to suggest there's any overt bias against potential female candidates. It's just that they are not the ones that the electoral gatekeepers are surrounding themselves with. They're not the immediate names that come to mind." [<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014>]

In any event, finding a political cover advertising a woman is an 'infrequent' occurrence. And, the great majority of those are for town and county positions, rather than state and national slots.

Also, as the stats here show, you chances of finding these covers increases as you approach current times.


I have yet to see any covers for a female presidential candidate...and the first one was Victoria Claflin Woodhull, later Victoria Woodhull Martin, an American leader of the woman's suffrage movement who ran in 1872! Actually, there have been 38 Presidential candidates over the years (including Rosanne Barr!), but none were from major political parties. Hilary Clinton (the 39th) was the first.

[<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/women-elective-office-2016>]

BE SAFE (CLOSE COVER) 91 91

**ELECT MARY E. CALDWELL TO CHICAGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

By Auth. June B. Shields, Treas.



**MARY E. CALDWELL**

WM. W. KENDRICK - WASHINGTON, D. C.

CLOSE COVER 38 38 BEFORE STRIKING

**I WILL WORK FOR YOU**

**CAMPBELL**  
**CHERYL**  
 CLERK-TREASURER  
**ELECT**

**REPUBLICAN** VOTE



SUPERIOR MATCH CO., CHICAGO, U.S.A.

CLOSE COVER 38 38 BEFORE STRIKING

**DEMOCRAT**

**BULZOMI**  
 MARGARET (KUHN)  
**ELECT**

**SKILL RESPONSIBILITY INTEGRITY**



SUPERIOR MATCH CO., CHICAGO, U.S.A.

CLOSE COVER 38 38 BEFORE STRIKING

**Stand On My Record**

**TREASURER**  
 CHICAGO COUNTY  
**ASHLEY**  
**FRANCES**  
**VOTE FOR**

**Your Vote & Influence Appreciated**



SUPERIOR MATCH CO., CHICAGO, U.S.A.

FOR SAFETY 202 STRIKE ON BACK

**PUNCH 10 / FEB. 22**

**MAYOR JANE M. BYRNE**

**PUNCH 10**



**FOR ALL CHICAGO**

SUPERIOR MATCH CO., CHICAGO, IL

**VOTE DEMOCRATIC**

FOR SAFETY 202 STRIKE ON BACK

**Clerk of Court**

**BENNETT**  
 JANICE  
**ELECT**

**YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT APPRECIATED**



PROUDLY MADE IN U.S.A.

FOR SAFETY 202 STRIKE ON BACK

**EXPERIENCE**  
 19 YRS.  
 CLERK  
 CIRCUIT

**ARMES**  
 SALLY  
**ELECT**



Personal Service Co., Springfield, IL

FOR SAFETY 202 STRIKE ON BACK

**VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM**

**STATE'S ATTORNEY**

**ALLING**  
 KEEP KATHLEEN

**VOTE DEMOCRATIC**



Personal Service Co., Viana, IL, SM