

Status Report

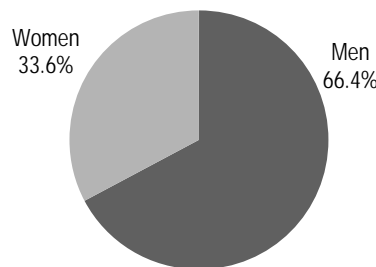
WOMEN IN MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE, 2012

This report reflects certified election results from the special elections held on January 10 and April 10, 2012.

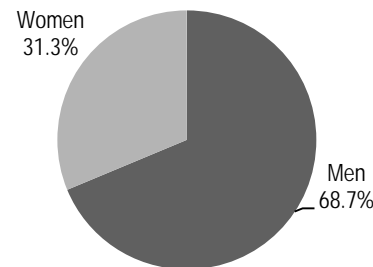
Women in the Minnesota Legislature, 2012

As a result of special elections held on January 10 and April 10, 2012, the number of women elected to serve in the legislature increased by two to 66 (32.8%) of the 201 seats in the Minnesota Legislature in 2011. This is a decrease of women compared to the 2009-10 biennium, down from 70 (34.8%). The number of elected DFL women has decreased by 14 seats from 2009. The number of elected Republican women has increased by 10 seats from 2009.

Minnesota House, 2012



Minnesota Senate, 2012



Senate

Women were elected to hold 21 (31.3%) of the 67 seats in the Minnesota Senate as a result of the special elections in 2012. This is a drop from the highest number of women elected to the Senate, 27 (40.3%), in 2006.

Women in the Minnesota Legislature, 2012

	DFL	Republican	Independence	Total
House	27	18	0	45
Senate	11	10	0	21
Legislature	38	28	0	66

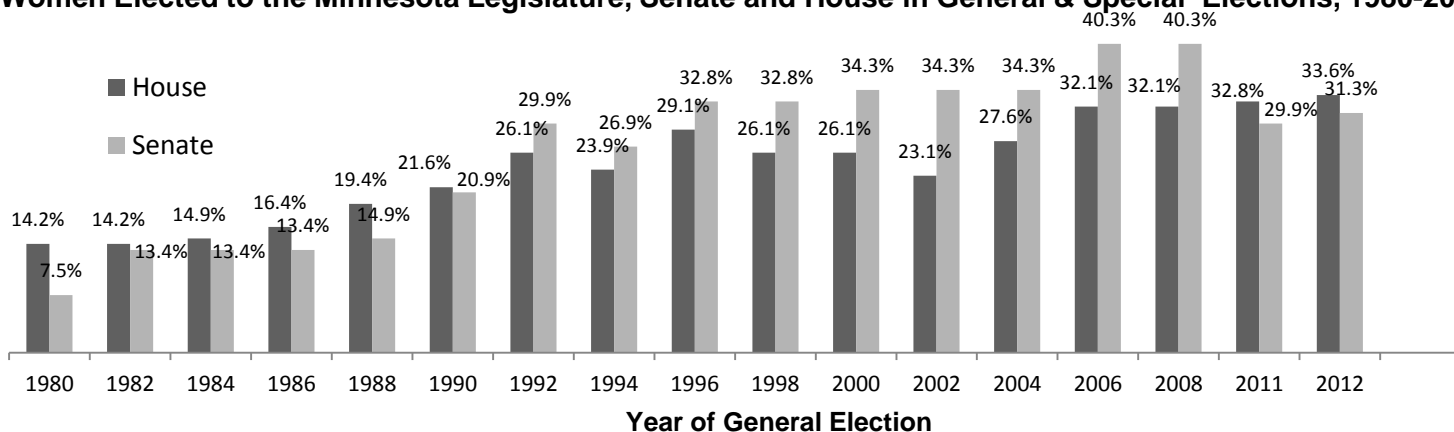
House

Women were elected to hold 45 (33.6%) of the 134 seats in the Minnesota House of Representatives as a result of the 2012 special elections. This percentage is an historic high for the House.

Newly Elected

Eleven women are serving their first term in the House starting in 2011: Representatives Susan Allen, Diane Anderson, Mary Franson, Marion Greene, Andrea Kieffer, Debra Kiel, Kathy Lohmer, Carolyn McElfatrick, Carly Melin, Pam Myhra and Rena Moran. Eight women are serving their first term in the Senate: Senators Michelle Benson, Kari Dzedzic, Chris Eaton, Barbara Goodwin,* Gretchen Hoffman, Mary Jo McGuire,* Carla Nelson* and Pam Wolf.

Women Elected to the Minnesota Legislature, Senate and House in General & Special Elections, 1980-2012



In 1922, women became eligible to vote and run for election to the Minnesota Legislature. From 1922 to 1970, the percentage of women in the Legislature was very low, ranging from 0 to 2.5 percent. By 1980, the legislature was comprised of 14.2% women in the House, and 7.5% in the Senate. The percentage increased steadily to 27.4% women overall in 1992. In the 1996 general election, the percentage rose to 30.4% women in the Legislature overall. The numbers of women elected in the 1998, 2000 and 2002 general elections were lower, at 57 (28.4%), 58 (28.9%), and 54 (26.9%), respectively. In 2004, representation again increased, rising to 29.9%. In the 2006 and 2008 general elections the number of women serving was an historical high of 70 women (34.8%). In 2010, the number of women overall decreased, however, the number of Republican women elected reached an historic high of 18.

*Senators Barbara Goodwin, Mary Jo McGuire and Carla Nelson formerly served in the Minnesota House.