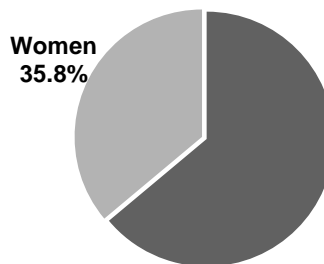Office on the Economic Status of Women

Status Report

WOMEN IN MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE, 2017

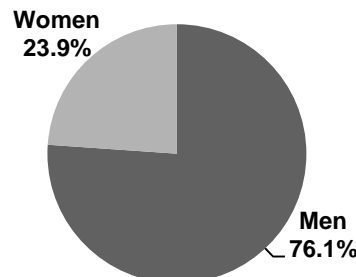*This report reflects certified election results from the November 8, 2016, general election.*

Women in the Minnesota Legislature, 2017

In the November 8, 2016, general election, women were elected to 64 (31.8%) of 201 seats in the Minnesota Legislature. (One seat in the House is vacant, and will be filled by a Special Election on February 14, 2017.) This is a decrease from 68 (33.8%) in 2015. Compared to 2015, the number of DFL women decreased by 5 seats and the number of Republican women increased by one.

Senate

Women were elected to 16 (23.9%) of the 67 seats in the Minnesota Senate. This is a decrease of seven seats (from 34.3% to 23.9%), from 2015.
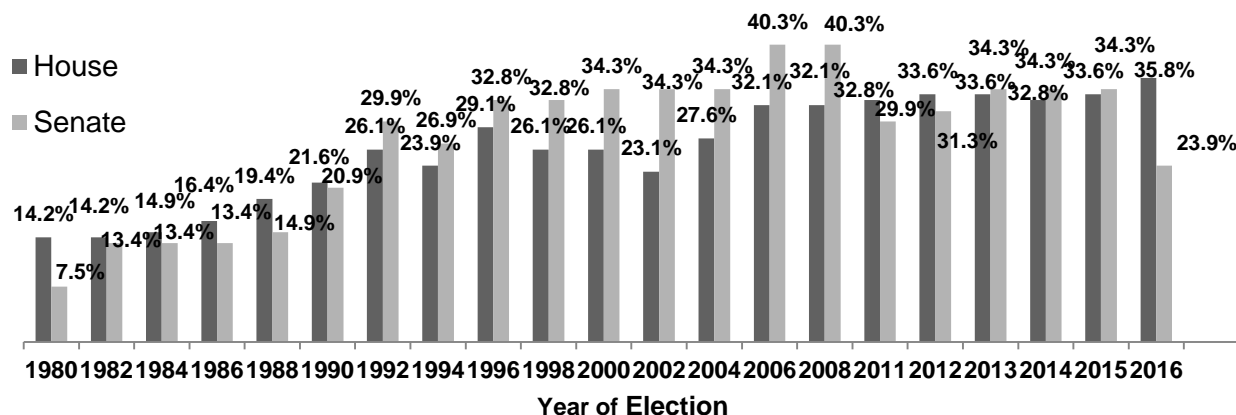
House

Women were elected to hold 48 (35.8%) of the 134 seats in the Minnesota House of Representatives in the 2016 general election. This is an increase of 3 seats from 2015.

Minnesota House, 2017

Women 35.8% Men 63.4%

Minnesota Senate, 2017

Women 23.9% Men 76.1%

Women in the Minnesota Legislature, 2017			
	DFL	Republican	Total
House	28	20	48
Senate	9	7	16
Legislature	37	27	64

Newly Elected

Eleven women will serve their first term in the House starting in 2017: Representatives Regina Barr, Jamie Becker-Finn, Barb Haley, Erin Koegel, Mary Kunesh-Podein, Sandy Layman, Liz Olson, Ilhan Omar, Laurie Pryor, Erin Maye Quade, and Julie Sandstede. One woman will serve her first term in the Senate: Senator Carolyn Laine. (Senator Laine formerly served in the Minnesota House.)

Women Elected to the Minnesota Legislature, General and Special Elections

Women were first elected to the Minnesota Legislature in 1922, two years after women won the right to vote. From 1922 to 1970, the percentage of women in the Legislature was very low, ranging from 0 to 2.5 percent. By 1980, 11.9% of Minnesota's state legislators were women. In the 1996 general election, the percentage of women rose to 30.4%. In the 2006 and 2008 general elections the number of women elected reached a historical high of 70 (34.8%). The 2016 general election resulted in 64 (31.8%) women in the Legislature, a decrease from 68 (33.8%) in 2015.

Updated 11/22/16