

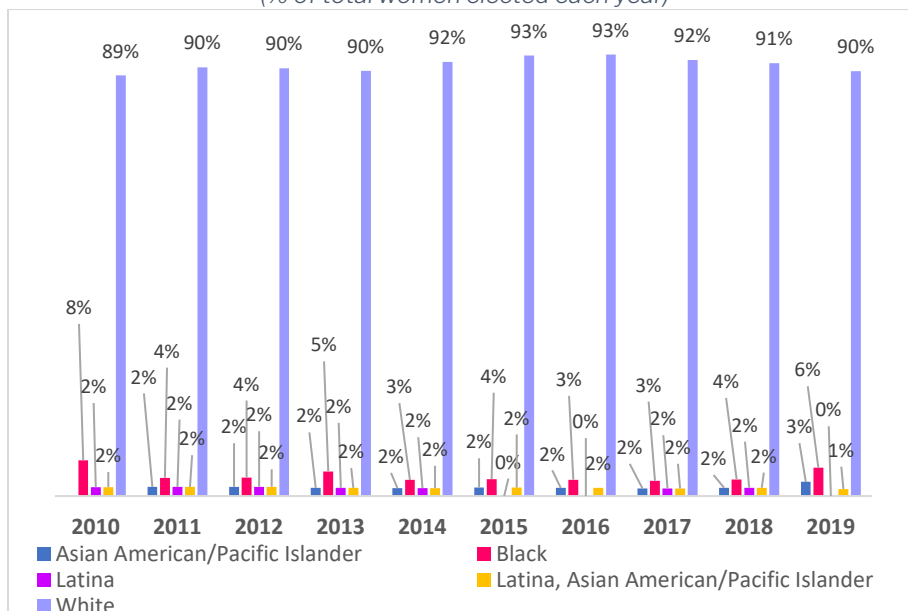
Status of Women’s Political Participation in Massachusetts

The State of Massachusetts has had female representatives in the House since 1923. The indicators herein present insight into the current situation of women’s political representation in Massachusetts.

- **Women Elected Officials by Race/Ethnicity**

- According to The Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth, although 52% of adult citizens identify as women, Massachusetts still has a gap in electoral representation. In 2019, women held less than 29% of the seats in the state legislature, a percentage ranging between 24% and 29% from 1995 to 2019.¹
- Between 2010 and 2019, Massachusetts female elected officials were predominately White. **Figure 1** shows the yearly percentage of elected officials in office by race and ethnicity. Elected officials include women in Congress, State Legislative, and Statewide executive positions.

Figure 1: Massachusetts Women Elected Officials by Race and Ethnicity 2010-2019 (% of total women elected each year)



Source: IWPR calculations using CAWP data.

¹ The Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth, 2019. "[MassForward: Advancing Democratic Innovation and Electoral Reform in Massachusetts](#)", p.13.

- White female elected officials ranged between 89% and 93% between 2010 and 2019. In 2010, 8% of female elected officials were Black, and 2% were Latinas. In 2019, 3% of female elected officials were Asian, 6% were Black, 1% were Latinas, and 1% were Latinas, Asian American/Pacific Islander.²
- **Voter Registration**
 - At the Federal level, registered female voters tend to outnumber their male counterparts. In November 2020, 74.1% of the total female citizen population were registered voters compared to 71.4% of the total male citizen population who were registered as voters.³
 - At the Massachusetts state level, in 2020, 73.1% of the total female citizen population were registered as voters, while 71.6% of the total male citizen population were registered.
 - In Massachusetts, in the 2020 election, 60.4% of the total Hispanic citizen population were registered voters, compared to 57.1% of the total citizen population identifying as Asian alone, and 42.2% of the total Black citizen population. The percentage of White total citizen population registered to vote was 76.7%.⁴
- **Voter Turnout**
 - In 2020 in Massachusetts, 67.4% of female citizens voted, compared to 65.1% of male citizens. At the Federal level, 63% of the female citizen population voted, compared to 59.5% of males.
 - According to Census voting and registration numbers in the election of November 2020 in Massachusetts, 142,000 Black people voted, making up 4.4% of 3.3 million voters. Hispanic voters were 7% (227,000) of total voters, and Asian were 3.4% (109,000) of voters.⁵

CONCLUSION

Massachusetts' gains in women's representation in government have been modest. Women's political participation through active voting remains an important driver of the State's electoral process. However, the underrepresentation of people of color as government officials and active voters in Massachusetts is latent.

² Center for American Women and Politics. "[Women Elected Officials by Race/Ethnicity](#)". This report's calculations are based on the Women Elected Officials database. Full data can be downloaded at: [CAWP-Women elected official by Race and Ethnicity](#)

³ U. S. Census Bureau, 2021. "[Table 4b. Reported Voting and Registration, By Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: November 2020](#)", American Community Survey, 2020.

⁴ *Ibid.* Data is not available for the intersection of race and gender.

⁵ *Ibid.*



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REFERENCES

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