



The Status of Women in North Carolina:

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

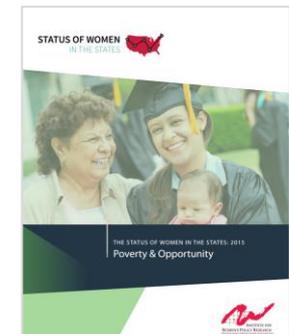
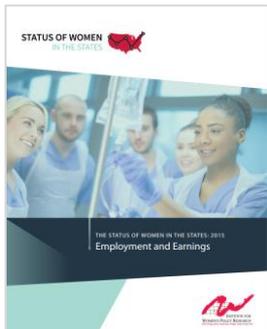




ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH (IWPR)

The Institute for Women's Policy Research conducts and communicates research to inspire public dialogue, shape policy, and improve the lives and opportunities of women of diverse backgrounds, circumstances, and experiences.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE STATES TOPIC AREAS



“Women make up 51 percent of the population in North Carolina. Because women represent such a large segment of our community, they should have a significant presence in our State Legislature, and believe me, women most certainly have what it takes to be legislators.”

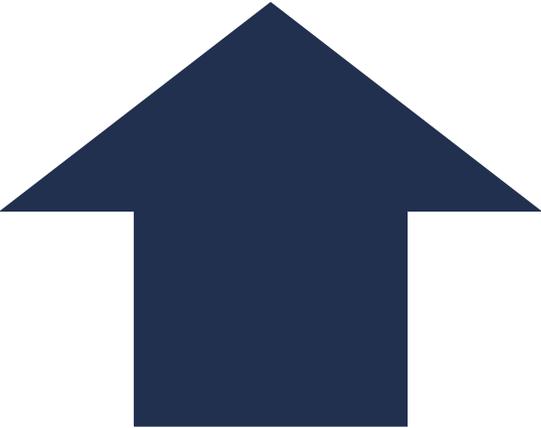
**VALERIE FOUSHEE,
NORTH CAROLINA
SENATOR, DISTRICT 23**

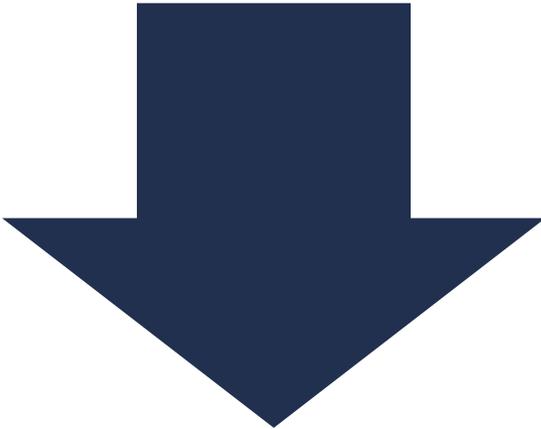


NORTH CAROLINA'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION REPORT CARD

		National Rank
Women's Voter Registration	67.8%	24
Women's Voter Turnout	56.2%	24
Women in Elected office Score	-0.87	43
Institutional Resources for Women Score	1.5	5
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION COMPOSITE	D	35

TRENDS IN NORTH CAROLINA'S WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- 
- ❖ Women's voter turnout
 - ❖ Share of women in NC state House of Representatives
 - ❖ Share of women appointed to boards and committees*

- 
- ❖ Women's voter registration
 - ❖ Share of NC women in the US Congress
 - ❖ Share of women in NC state Senate
 - ❖ Women's representation in statewide elected office

* Not part of the Political Participation composite index.

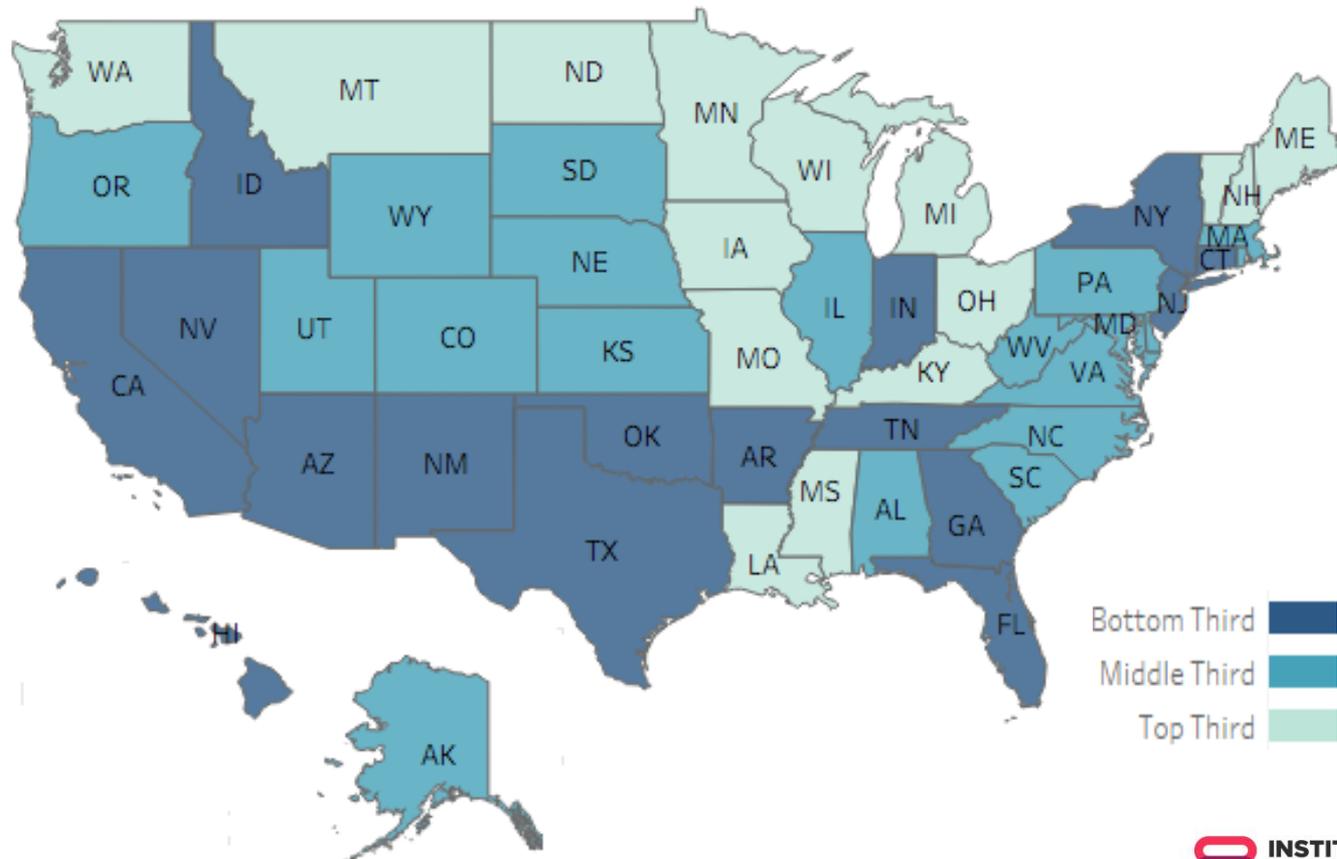
WOMEN'S VOTER REGISTRATION

Counties w/ Highest Women's Voter Registration

Hertford	55.8%
Robeson	55.5%
Edgecombe	55.3%
Scotland	55.3%
Washington	54.7%

Counties w/ Women's Lowest Registration

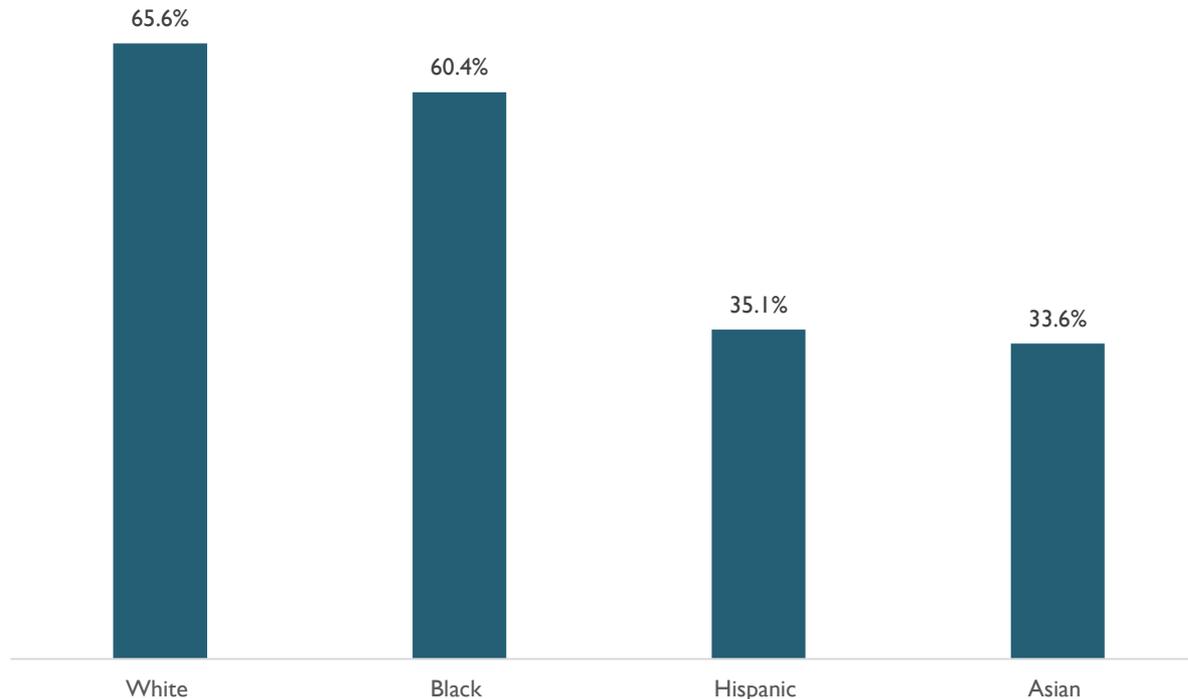
Graham	51.0%
Currituck	50.7%
Camden	50.7%
Madison	50.0%
Anson	47.0%



Note: Average percent of all women aged 18 and older who reported registering in the 2016 and 2018 elections.
 Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census 2017 and 2019. Compiled by the Institute for Women Policy Research .

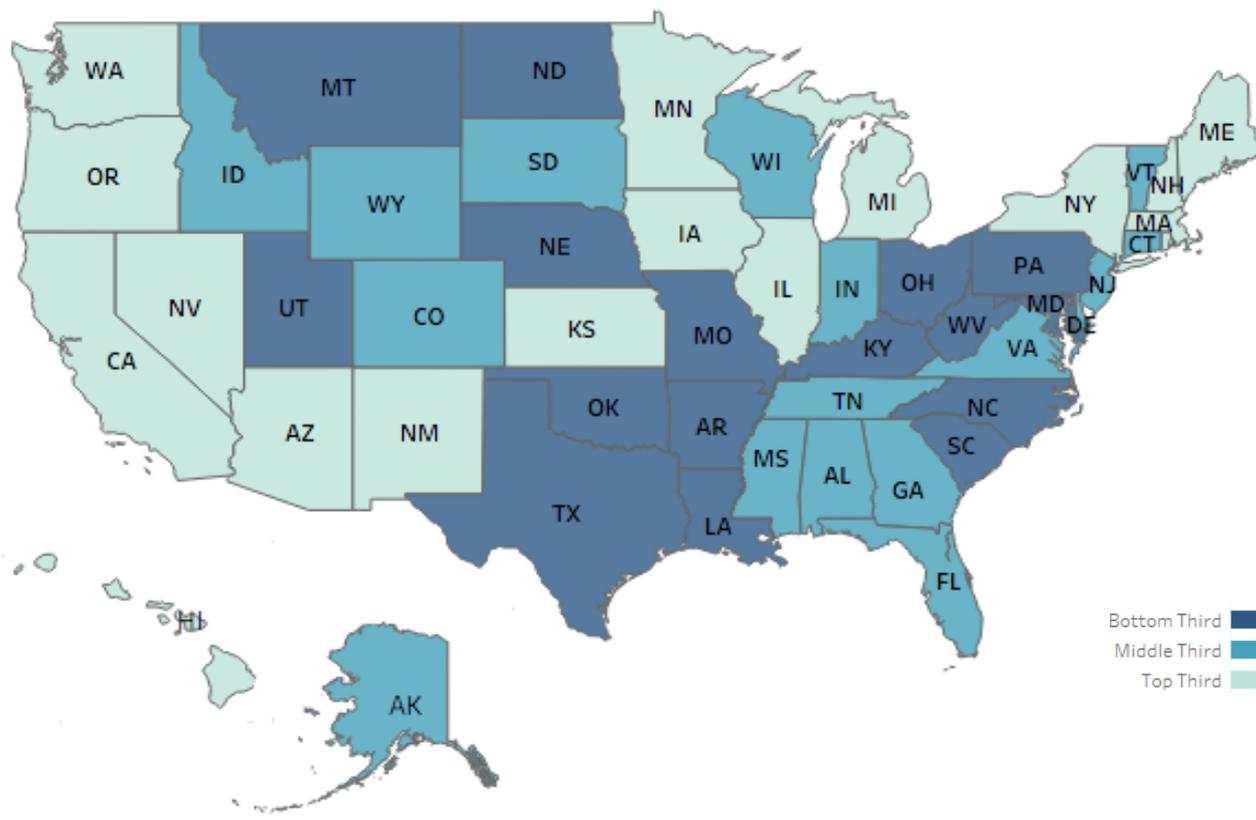
WHITE & BLACK WOMEN VOTE AT THE HIGHEST RATES NATIONALLY

Women's Voter Turnout in the United States by Race and Ethnicity, 2016



Notes: Average percent of all women aged 18 and older who reported registering in the 2016 and 2018 elections. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census 2017 and 2019. Compiled by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

THE WOMEN IN ELECTED OFFICE INDEX

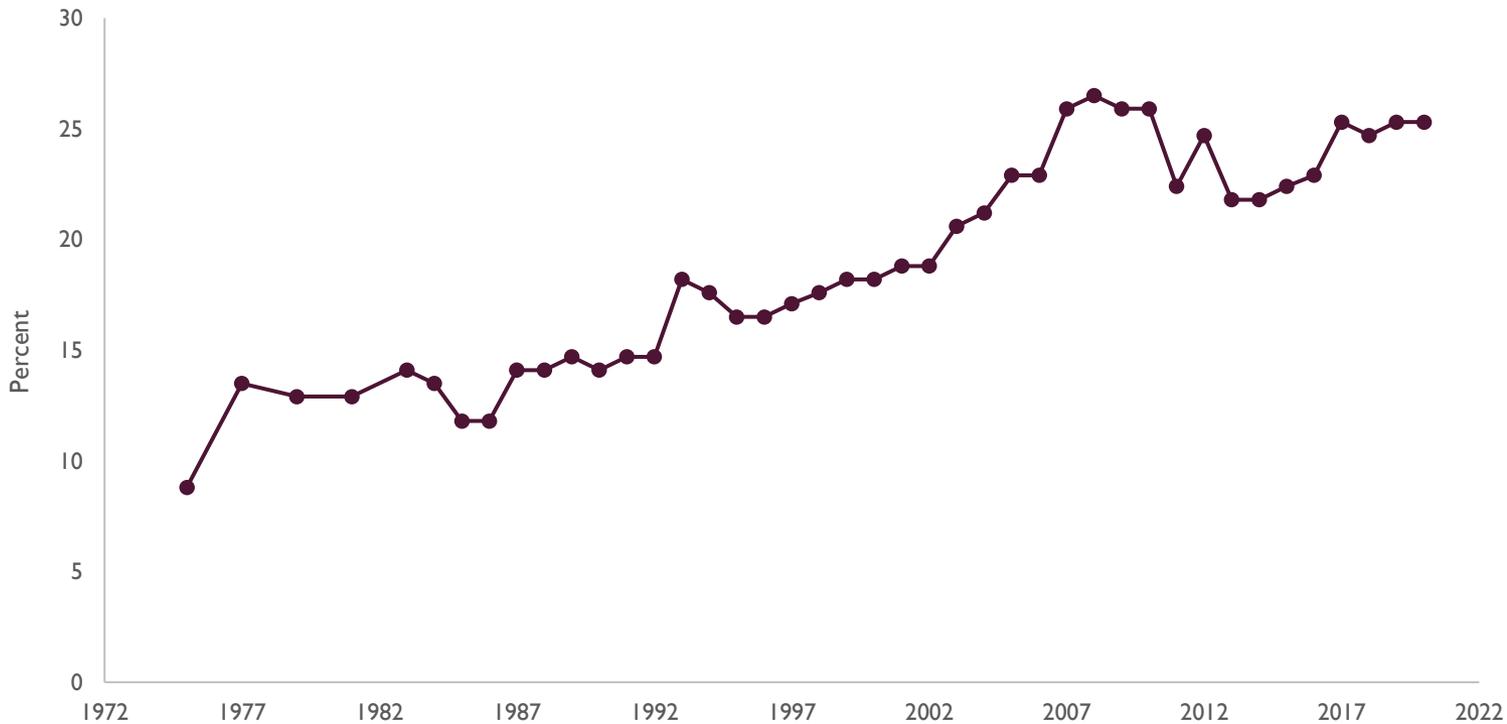


Note: Index of share state and national officials who are women, 2020.

Source: Center for American Women Politics. Compiled by the Institute for Women Policy Research

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE HAS FLUCTUATED IN RECENT YEARS

Share of Women in North Carolina State Legislatures, 1975-2020



Source: Center for American Women Politics . Compiled by the Institute for Women Policy Research

NORTH CAROLINA WOMEN WILL NOT REACH PARITY IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE UNTIL

2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029

2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039

2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049

2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059

2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2067 2068 2069 2070

2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080

2081 2082 2083

2084

NORTH CAROLINA WOMEN IN ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICES



Women hold one-third of seats in statewide elected executive offices.

Women serve as mayors in seven North Carolina cities (Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, Asheville, Chapel Hill, Salisbury, and Wake Forest).

In 2018 women made up 40% of North Carolina's district court judges, 18% of superior court judges, and 43% of supreme court justices.

Between 2017 and 2020, 49% of the governor's appointments to boards and commissions were women (1,170 out of 2,395).



“The chief’s position doesn’t necessarily have to be filled by a male. Women can hold the position and be role models as tribal leaders.”

Dr. Brucie Ogletree Richardson
Chief, Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

WOMEN OF COLOR IN ELECTED OFFICE

U.S. Congress

- Women of color make up 10% of US House of Representatives (one Black woman from North Carolina).
- 4 women of color serve in the US Senate (none from NC).

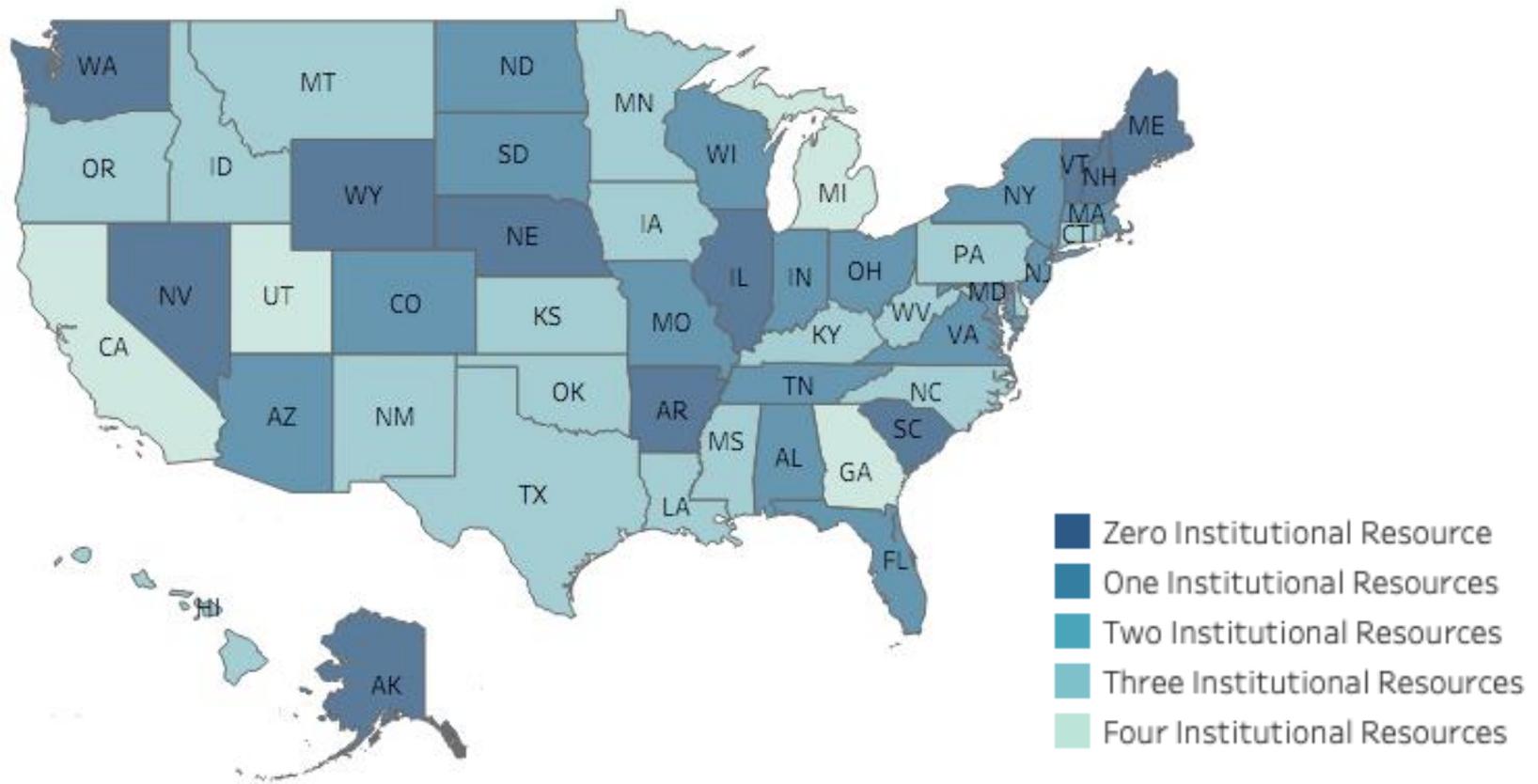
State Legislatures

- Black women make up 30% of all women in the NC State Legislature (8% of all seats).
- Nationally, women of color make up 25% of women serving in state legislatures.

Statewide Elected Office

- Nationally: women of color make up only 18% of women in statewide offices.
- No women of color holds a statewide elected seat in North Carolina.
- In the nation's 100 largest cities, 10 women of color serve as mayors – including Vi Alexander Lyles, mayor of Charlotte, NC.

INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES



- Zero Institutional Resource
- One Institutional Resources
- Two Institutional Resources
- Three Institutional Resources
- Four Institutional Resources

Note: Number of institutional resources for women in the state.

Source: CAWP 2020i, National Women's Political Caucus 2020, and National Conference of State Legislatures 2019. Calculated by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

BARRIERS HINDERING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Gerrymandering

Voter ID Laws

Campaigning While-Female



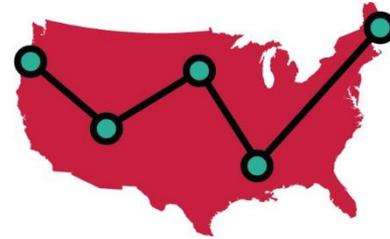
“You can’t be what you can’t see. When women see other women in power, it helps them believe that they can be next.”

SARAH PRESTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LILLIAN’S LIST OF
NORTH CAROLINA

WHAT CAN BE DONE – POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ **Ensure that all women have equal access to a fair electoral process**
- ❖ **Prepare strategies to ensure safety for voters during the pandemic and beyond**
- ❖ **Recruit more women to run for office**
- ❖ **Institute policies that will increase the number of women in elected office (campaign finance, quotas).**
- ❖ **Improve access to opportunities for both mentorship and sponsorship for women running for and in elected office.**
- ❖ **Expand programs that provide education and training for women, especially young women.**
- ❖ **Expand resources that support women's involvement in the political process at all levels.**
- ❖ **Address structural barriers that prevent women from running for office.**

STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE STATES



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