



take action!

DARE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Shirley McClain, WAND Women Speakers Bureau

Over half the U.S. population is female.

Guess how many women occupy these decision-making positions:

State Legislators

Governors

Members of Congress

(Answers on page 2)

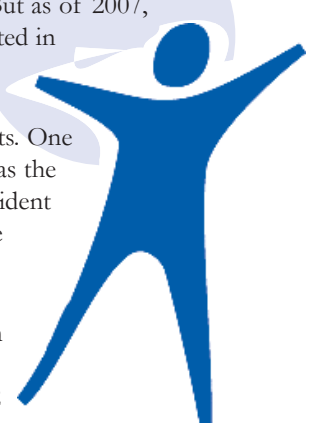
MORE WOMEN NEED TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE!

ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES IS A WORLD LEADER IN MANY AREAS, women's leadership is not one of them. While more than 20 countries have had women presidents or prime ministers, the U.S. has not. Four states have never sent a woman to Congress.* Women have had the vote since 1920. But as of 2007, only 2% of all the U.S. Senators and Representatives ever elected in the history of Congress have been women.

Recently, women *have* begun to make some progress, and Congress is looking a little bit more like the nation it represents. One of the most important, and visible, moments in our history was the sight of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi sitting behind the President during the 2007 State of the Union address, as the first female Speaker of the House (second in line to the presidency).

In 2007, 70 women serve in the U.S. House of Representatives (plus three Delegates), and 16 women serve in the U.S. Senate; this sets a record for 16% of the seats in Congress. In state legislatures, women hold 1,734 of the 7,382 seats (23.5%). In addition, 76 women currently hold statewide elected executive posts (24% of 315 positions, such as governor, attorney general).

However — while these statistics show improvement, it's simply not enough. The fact remains that women's voices are often missing in debates about issues critical to their lives. Women need to be at the tables where decisions are made about important matters: in schools, colleges, churches, boardrooms, courts, legislatures, and more.



*Delaware, Iowa, Mississippi, Vermont. In 2007, New Hampshire sent a woman (Carol Shea-Porter) to Congress for the first time.



Fern Katz, WAND Board of Directors

- Women start the majority of new businesses.
- Women-owned businesses are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. economy.
- Women make about 80% of consumer decisions.
- Women are the single largest group of health care consumers.
- Women make the health care decisions in three of four U.S. households.
- Women are the primary caregivers in U.S. society
- Women are the majority of voters.
- Women are more than half the population in the U.S.



Amanda Formica, STAND activist

So why aren't women making at least half the decisions?

GET CONNECTED!

Check out these great online resources.

WAND Education Fund web site:
www.WANDEducationFund.org

WiLL web site:
www.willwand.org

STAND web site:
www.standwand.org



Women's Action for New Directions Education Fund • 2007



Women's Action for New Directions
Education Fund

WAND Education Fund educates the public and opinion leaders about the need to reduce violence and militarism in society, and redirect excessive military spending to unmet human and environmental needs.

Susan Shaer, Executive Director

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And the answer is...

Women In Decision-Making Positions, 2007

Total U.S. Population
302 million (51% female)

State Legislators
1,734 of 7,382 (23.5%)

Governors
9 of 50 (18%)

Members of Congress
86* of 535 (16%)

*Does not include delegates. There are three women delegates — representing the District of Columbia, Guam and the Virgin Islands — who cannot vote on legislation before Congress.

Note: Figures may change due to special elections; for up-to-date information, as well as the names of women in office, visit the Center for Women and Politics: www.cawp.rutgers.edu

WOMEN AT THE TABLE OF POWER

HAVE AMERICAN VOTERS FINALLY CHANGED THEIR MINDS ABOUT ACCEPTING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP?

NOT NECESSARILY. The main reason so few women hold public office (according to the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)), is not because they win less often than men, *but because women have been only a small portion of those running for office.*

"The prescription for greater progress in the future is to recruit more women to run for public office," states NWPC, "particularly to recruit well-qualified women to run for winnable open seats." **It is time for more women to step forward, dare to make a difference and claim equal representation at all decision-making tables.**

WOMEN HAVE VALUABLE, AND DIFFERENT, EXPERIENCES TO BRING TO THE TABLE

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (CA) is the first woman in American history to lead a major party in the U.S. Congress, and the first woman to serve as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 2004, at the WAND/WiLL reception in Washington, DC, she received a symbolic chair pin from U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow. At the ceremony, she spoke about leadership and what it is like to be a woman and a leader in today's political world.

"We don't need women to lead simply because they are women — but because we are over half the population and offer incredible resources and life experiences. We are one of the oldest democracies in the world, and should have women leading at the highest levels."

—Susan Shaer,
WAND executive director



U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (MI), Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (CA)

"One of the first things that happened to me when I was elected Whip, I went to the White House for a meeting with the President; it was the opening of the session for that particular year, to talk about the agenda. I didn't even think much about it. I have been to the White House numerous times before..."

... As soon as that door closed and I looked at the table, I realized that this was unlike any other meeting I had been to at the White House. In fact, it was unlike any other meeting a woman had been to at the White House. Here we would be consulting over what the agenda would be.

... As the President began to talk, I began to feel squeezed in at my chair. It was if people were sitting there with me. It was getting tighter and tighter. **I could just sense that every woman who had worked to promote women's opportunity was sitting on that chair with me. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, certainly Juliette Gordon Low, were sitting on that chair with me, and many others. And all of a sudden I could hear them say: 'At last, we have a seat at the table.' And then they were gone. My first thought was: 'we want more.'**

And it drove home to me what my responsibility was, certainly my opportunity, but also the responsibility that I have. A reminder that we all stand on the shoulders of others.

"For our daughters and our granddaughters, today we have broken the marble ceiling. For our daughters and our granddaughters, the sky is the limit. Anything is possible for them!"

—Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, in her first speech to Congress as the first woman Speaker of the House, 1/4/07



Maria Mannarino, WAND Women Speakers Bureau

Did you know?

- The first woman elected to Congress was Jeanette Rankin from Montana in 1917 — three years before women were guaranteed the Constitutional right to vote.
- In 2007, ten women serving in Congress are raising children under 13.
- A total of 36 women of color have served in Congress. Roughly three-quarters (28) of these were elected after 1990.

We're making progress, but we have a long way to go. So run for public office!

WILL's VOTING SCORECARD: 109TH CONGRESS, 2006-2007

Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL, a program of WAND), analyzed voting records from five national advocacy organizations to compare how members of Congress voted on important issue areas: children (Children's Defense Fund), women (American Association of University Women), environment (League of Conservation Voters), and national security (Council for a Livable World and Friends Committee on National Legislation). In all cases, women voted much more progressively on these issues than did their male colleagues. Overall, women voted in support of these issues 67% of the time compared to 48% for men.

Women from the ranks of WAND and WILL voted in support of these issues 90% of the time.

GENDER COMPARISON OF CONGRESSIONAL VOTES IN SUPPORT OF MAJOR ISSUES

ISSUE	WAND-WiLL Women	Women	Men
Children	93	69	51
Women	96	74	57
Environment	93	66	45
National Security	85	61	47

WOMEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

All issues are women's issues: foreign policy, military spending, security, the economy, agriculture, trade and transportation — as well as health, education, and social services. Women are becoming leaders on issues that were traditionally regarded as "men's issues."

For example, during the 110th Congress:

Representative Lynn Woolsey (CA) introduced H.RES. 227: the Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism (SMART) security platform. SMART security views war as a last resort and only after every possible peaceful and diplomatic strategy has been exhausted. It also addresses the causes of terrorism by seeking to improve the lives of impoverished people and nations, controlling the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and reducing dependence on foreign oil.

Senator Barbara Boxer (CA) introduced S. 147, the Afghan Women Empowerment Act of 2007 to improve the lives of women and girls in Afghanistan. The act would provide medical supplies and funds to reduce maternal mortality rates. It includes a provision that funding recipients must adhere to international human rights laws.

Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (CA) is the prime sponsor of H.Res. 146, which calls for protecting women and girls during and after conflicts. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 states that in post-conflict regions, international human right laws will be used to protect women and girls from all forms of violence.

Representative Carolyn McCarthy (NY) introduced H.R. 297 to strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) by imposing stricter regulations in the Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act. The bill would give states the funding to get rid of legal loopholes that allow forbidden persons to legally buy firearms.



(top) **Rep. Gwen Moore (WI)** (c) is surrounded by some of the young women from WAND at the annual WAND/WILL Capitol Hill reception.

(bottom) WAND joined hands with partner organizations to introduce an important legislative initiative: the SMART Security proposal (Sensible, Multilateral Alternative Response to Terrorism). **Rep. Lynn Woolsey (CA)** and **Rep. Barbara Lee (CA)** introduced the bill with a coalition of groups and Members of Congress at a press conference on Capitol Hill.



A SEAT AT THE TABLE OF POWER

ARE WOMEN AT THE DECISION-MAKING TABLES ON CAPITOL HILL?

INSIDE CONGRESS, COMMITTEE ROLES ARE KEY. Because the work is so complex, and the volume so high, Congress divides tasks among committees and subcommittees — roughly 250 of them.

The total number of women in Congress — just 86 out of 535 in 2007 — doesn't spread very far among these many committees.

On spending issues, the critical committees are budget and appropriations. Before any testimony is received, the budget committees in both the House and the Senate make major decisions about how to slice the federal budget pie — deciding how much each major budget category will get to spend. Then it

is up to the appropriations committees to decide the exact amounts to be spent on individual programs.



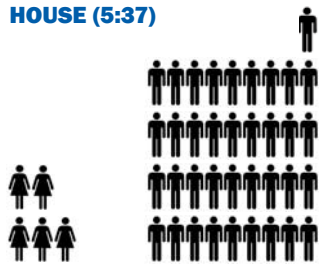
Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (CA), WAND executive director Susan Steier

BUDGET COMMITTEE (2007)

SENATE (2:23)

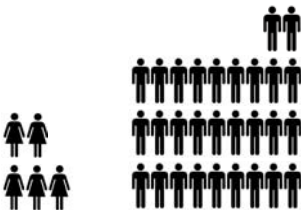


HOUSE (5:37)



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE (2007)

SENATE (5:29)



HOUSE (10:66)



*“Jump,
and the net will appear.”*

THOSE WERE THE WORDS of the late Marianne Bond Webster, WAND National Board member. They acknowledge the risks women take and symbolize the support women candidates receive when they decide to run for elected office. Several organizations provide training, support and encouragement to women interested in running for elected office.

If you are interested in running for local, statewide or federal office and need information and ideas on technical support or financial assistance, please contact the following organizations:

Business and Professional Women/USA: www.bpwusa.org (202) 293-1100.

Center for the American Woman and Politics: provides list of women's PACs and donor networks. www.cawp.rutgers.edu | (732) 932-9384.

EMILY's List: assists Democratic pro-choice women. www.emilyslist.org (202) 326-1400.

League of Women Voters: www.lwv.org (202) 429-1965.

National Organization for Women: assists pro-choice candidates. www.now.org | (202) 628-8669.

National Women's Political Caucus: nonpartisan, assists pro-choice women. www.nwpc.org | (202) 785-1100.

WAND PAC: bipartisan, assists WAND and WiLL members running for Congress. www.wandpac.org | (202) 544-5055.

WISH List: assists Republican pro-choice women. www.thewishlist.org | (703) 778-5550.

Women Legislators' Lobby: assists women state legislators in running for higher office. www.wand.org | (202) 544-5055.

Women's Campaign Fund: nonpartisan, assists pro-choice women. www.wcfonline.org | (202) 393-8164.



State Rep. Melba Curls (MO); State Rep. Buffy McFayden (CO)

What you can do!

ACTIONS TO TAKE TODAY

Register to vote and get family and friends to do so.

Call ten friends and encourage them to get more involved in politics.

Help women run for office. Support them during their campaigns and after they win.

Consider a run for office yourself!

Develop relationships with candidates and their staff members and work locally to support their efforts.

