



# Research-in-Brief

## *Status of Women in the States: Fact Sheet*

### Political Participation

(DC not included in ranks)

#### *Top Five*

- 1) Kansas
- 2) Washington
- 3) Minnesota
- 4) Maine
- 5) Maryland

#### *Bottom Five*

- 50) Tennessee
- 49) Kentucky
- 48) Mississippi
- 47) Pennsylvania
- 46) Arkansas

### Employment and Earnings

#### *Top Five*

- 1) District of Columbia
- 2) Alaska
- 3) Maryland
- 4) Massachusetts
- 5) Connecticut

#### *Bottom Six*

- 51) West Virginia
- 50) Mississippi
- 49) Kentucky
- 48) Alabama
- 46) Arkansas & Indiana

### Economic Autonomy

#### *Top Five*

- 1) District of Columbia
- 2) Maryland
- 3) Colorado & Connecticut
- 5) Vermont

#### *Bottom Six*

- 51) Mississippi
- 50) Arkansas
- 49) West Virginia
- 46) Alabama, Kentucky  
& Louisiana

### Reproductive Rights

#### *Top Five*

- 1) Hawaii
- 2) New York
- 3) Maryland
- 4) District of Columbia
- 5) New Jersey

#### *Bottom Five*

- 51) Nebraska
- 50) North Dakota
- 49) Mississippi
- 48) Utah
- 47) Tennessee

- Taking all four composite indicators into account, women's status is highest in the **District of Columbia, Maryland, Vermont, and Connecticut**. These four ranked in the top ten on all four indicators (while the District of Columbia is unranked for Political Participation, were its elected officials treated as state officials, it would also rank very high). Women also rank well in **Washington, Alaska, California, and Oregon**. These states rank in the top ten on two of the four indicators and in the top third on the other two indicators.
- Women's status is lowest in **Mississippi, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Tennessee**. These states rank in the bottom ten on all four indicators. **Alabama, West Virginia, Louisiana, and South Carolina** rank in the bottom ten on at least two indicators and in the bottom third on the others.

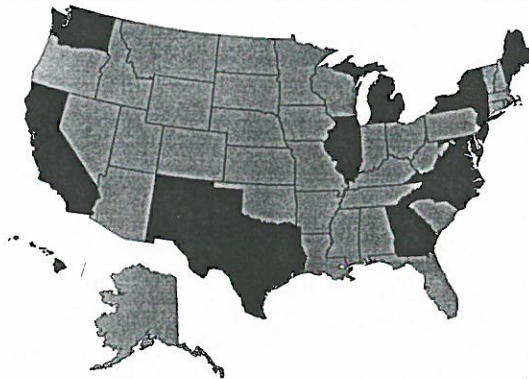
# THE INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH

presents a new study to address women's economic issues on the state level

## THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN YOUR STATE AND THE NATION

A series of fifteen separate reports using a variety of indicators to examine the status of women in the nation and in the states listed below. Each report ranks its state relative to other states in its geographical region as well as all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The national report provides an overview.

**California**  
**District of Columbia**  
**Georgia**  
**Illinois**  
**Maine**  
**Maryland**  
**Michigan**



**New Jersey**  
**New Mexico**  
**New York**  
**North Carolina**  
**Texas**  
**Virginia**  
**Washington**

### POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- ♦ voter registration and turnout
- ♦ women in elected office and more!

### ECONOMIC AUTONOMY

- ♦ access to health insurance
- ♦ educational attainment
- ♦ business ownership
- ♦ women in poverty

### HEALTH

- ♦ fertility and infant health
- ♦ preventive health services
- ♦ environmental and cancer risks

### EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS

- ♦ women's earnings and the wage gap
- ♦ labor force participation
- ♦ unemployment rates and more!

### REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

- ♦ legislative access to abortion
- ♦ maternity stay laws and more!

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