

California Women Elected to the U.S. House and Senate

The first woman elected to Congress was Jeanette Rankin from Montana in 1916. California elected the state's first female member of Congress (and fourth overall) seven years later. The first woman elected to the United States Senate was Hattie Caraway from Arkansas in 1932. After the 1992 election, California became the first state with two women serving in the Senate simultaneously. To date, California has had three female senators. Here is the roster of California women who have been elected to the House of Representatives (two-year terms) and U. S. Senate (six-year terms).

U. S. Senate

1992

Barbara Boxer (Dem/Marin County)

Dianne Feinstein (Dem/San Francisco County)

Dianne Feinstein was elected to fill the remainder of Pete Wilson's term. Wilson had resigned to run for California Governor.

1994

Dianne Feinstein (Dem/San Francisco County)

1998

Barbara Boxer (Dem/Marin County)

2000

Dianne Feinstein (Dem/San Francisco County)

2004

Barbara Boxer (Dem/Marin County)

2006

Dianne Feinstein (San Francisco County)

2010

Barbara Boxer (Dem/Marin County)

2012

Dianne Feinstein (Dem/San Francisco County)

2016

Kamala Harris (Dem/San Francisco County)

2018

Dianne Feinstein/ (Dem/San Francisco County)

U.S. House of Representatives

1922 Election (1923 - 1925 Congressional Session)

Mae Ella Nolan (Rep/San Francisco)

California's first female member of Congress, Mae Nola won a special election on January 23, 1923 to finish her late husband's term and serve a full term in the 1923 - 1925 Congressional Session. She was the nation's first woman to succeed her husband in Congress.

1924 Election (1925 - 1927 Congressional Session)

Florence Prag Kahn (Rep/San Francisco County)

Florence Kahn was elected in a special election on February 17, 1925 to succeed her late husband Julius Kahn.

1926 Election (1927 - 1929 Congressional Session)

Florence Prag Kahn (Rep/San Francisco County)

1928 Election (1929 - 1931 Congressional Session)

Florence Prag Kahn (Rep/San Francisco County)

1930 Election (1931 - 1933 Congressional Session)

Florence Prag Kahn (Rep/San Francisco County)

1932 Election (1933 - 1935 Congressional Session)

Florence Prag Kahn (Rep/San Francisco County)

1934 Election (1935 - 1937 Congressional Session)

Florence Prag Kahn (Rep/San Francisco County)

Florence Kahn was defeated in her re-election bid in 1936.

1944 Election (1945 - 1947 Congressional Session)

Helen Gahagan Douglas (Dem/Los Angeles County)

1946 Election (1947 - 1949 Congressional Session)

Helen Gahagan Douglas (Dem/Los Angeles County)

1948 Election (1949 - 1951 Congressional Session)

Helen Gahagan Douglas (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Helen Gahagan Douglas gave up her seat in Congress to run for the U.S. Senate in 1950. She lost to Richard Nixon.

1972 Election (1973 - 1975 Congressional Session)

Yvonne Brathwaite (Dem/Los Angeles County)

1974 Election (1975 - 1977 Congressional Session)

Yvonne Brathwaite (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Shirley Pettis (Rep/San Bernardino County)

Shirley Pettis was elected in a special election on April 9 1975 to succeed her husband, Congressman Jerry Pettis, who died in a plane crash.

1976 Election (1977 - 1979 Congressional Session)

Yvonne Brathwaite (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Shirley Pettis (Rep/San Bernardino County)

Neither Brathwaite nor Pettis ran for re-election in 1978. Pettis retired and Brathwaite ran for California Attorney General (lost to George Deukmejian). Both were replaced by men.

1980 Election (1981 - 1983 Congressional Session)

Bobbi Fiedler (Rep/Los Angeles County)

1982 Election (1983 - 1985 Congressional Session)

Barbara Boxer (Dem/Marin County)

Bobbi Fiedler (Rep/Los Angeles County)

Sala Burton (Dem/San Francisco County)

Sala Burton was elected in a special election on June 21, 1983 to succeed her husband Phil Burton, who passed away.

1984 Election (1985 - 1987 Congressional Session)

Barbara Boxer (Dem/Marin County)

Bobbi Fiedler (Rep/Los Angeles County)

Bobbi Fiedler did not run for re-election in 1986, making an unsuccessful bid for a U.S. Senate seat.

Sala Burton (Dem/San Francisco County)

1986 Election (1987 - 1989 Congressional Session)

Barbara Boxer/Marin County

Sala Burton (Dem/San Francisco County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Nancy Pelosi won a special election on June 2, 1987 to succeed Sala Burton, who passed away.

1988 Election (1989 - 1991 Congressional Session)

Barbara Boxer (Dem/Marin County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

1990 Election (1991 - 93 Congressional Session)

Barbara Boxer (Dem/Marin County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

1992 Election (1993 - 95 Congressional Session)

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Jane Harman (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lynn Schenk (Dem/San Diego County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lynn Woolsey (Dem/Sonoma County)

1994 Election (1995 - 97 Congressional Session)

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Jane Harman (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)

Juanita Millender-McDonald (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Andrea Seastrand (Rep/San Luis Obispo County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lynn Woolsey (Dem/Sonoma County)

1996 Election (1997 - 1999 Congressional Session)

Mary Bono (Rep/Riverside County)

Mary Bono was elected to the United States Congress in a special election on April 7, 1998 to replace her husband, Sonny Bono, who passed away.

Lois Capps (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Lois Capps was elected to the United States Congress in a special election on March 10, 1998. She succeeded her husband, who passed away

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Jane Harman (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Barbara Lee (Dem/Alameda County)

Barbara Lee was elected in a special election on April 7, 1998. She succeeded Ron Dellums, who retired.

Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)

Juanita Millender-McDonald (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Loretta Sanchez (Dem/Orange County)

Ellen Tauscher (Dem/Alameda County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lynn Woolsey (Dem/Sonoma County)

1998 Election (1999 - 2001 Congressional Session)

Mary Bono (Rep/Riverside County)

Lois Capps (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Barbara Lee (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)

Juanita Millender-McDonald (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Grace Napolitano (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Loretta Sanchez (Dem/Orange County)

Ellen Tauscher (Dem/Alameda County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lynn Woolsey (Dem/Sonoma County)

2000 Election (2001 - 2003 Congressional Session)

Mary Bono (Rep/Riverside County)

Lois Capps (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Susan Davis (Dem/San Diego County)

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Jane Harman (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Barbara Lee (Dem/Alameda County)

Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)

Juanita Millender-McDonald (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Grace Napolitano (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Loretta Sanchez (Dem/Orange County)

Hilda Solis (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Ellen Tauscher (Dem/Alameda County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Diane Watson (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Diane Watson was elected in a special election on June 5, 2001. She succeeded Julian Dixon, who passed away.

Lynn Woolsey (Dem/Sonoma County)

2002 Election (2003 - 2005 Congressional Session)

Mary Bono (Rep/Riverside County)

Lois Capps (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Susan Davis (Dem/San Diego County)

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Jane Harman (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Barbara Lee (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)

Juanita Millender-McDonald (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Grace Napolitano (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Loretta Sanchez (Dem/Orange County)

Linda Sanchez (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Hilda Solis (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Ellen Tauscher (Dem/Alameda County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Diane Watson (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lynn Woolsey (Dem/Sonoma County)

2004 Election (2005 - 2007 Congressional Session)

Mary Bono (Rep/Riverside County)

Lois Capps (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Susan Davis (Dem/San Diego County)

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Jane Harman (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Barbara Lee (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)

Doris Matsui (Dem/Sacramento County)

Doris Matsui was elected at a special election on March 8, 2005 to succeed her husband, Bob Matsui, who passed away.

Juanita Millender-McDonald (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Grace Napolitano (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Linda Sanchez (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Loretta Sanchez (Dem/Orange County)

Hilda Solis (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Ellen Tauscher (Dem/Alameda County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Diane Watson (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lynn Woolsey (Dem/Sonoma County)

2006 Election (2007 - 2008 Congressional Session)

Mary Bono (Rep/Riverside County)

Lois Capps (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Susan Davis (Dem/San Diego County)

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Jane Harman (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Barbara Lee (Dem/Alameda County)

Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)

Doris Matsui (Dem/Sacramento County)

Juanita Millender-McDonald (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Grace Napolitano (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Laura Richardson (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Laura Richardson was elected in a special election on August 21, 2007 to succeed Juanita Millender-McDonald, who passed away.

Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Linda Sanchez (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Loretta Sanchez (Dem/Orange County)

Jackie Speier (Dem/San Mateo County)

Jackie Speier was elected in a special election on April 8, 2008 to succeed Tom Lantos, who passed away.

Hilda Solis (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Ellen Tauscher (Dem/Alameda County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Diane Watson (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lynn Woolsey (Dem/Sonoma County)

2008 Election (2009 - 2011 Congressional Session)

Mary Bono (Rep/Riverside County)

Lois Capps (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Susan Davis (Dem/San Diego County)

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Jane Harman (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Barbara Lee (Dem/Alameda County)

Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)

Doris Matsui (Dem/Sacramento County)

Grace Napolitano (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Laura Richardson Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lucille Roybal-Allard Dem/Los Angeles County)

Linda Sanchez (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Loretta Sanchez (Dem/Orange County)

Hilda Solis (Dem/Los Angeles County)/Judy Chu (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Judy Chu was elected in a special Congressional election on July 14, 2009 to replace Hilda Solis, who resigned to serve as Labor Secretary in President Obama's Cabinet.

Jackie Speier (Dem/San Mateo County)

Ellen Tauscher (Dem/Alameda County)

Ellen Tauscher resigned on June 26, 2009. She was succeeded by John Garamendi.

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Diane Watson (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lynn Woolsey (Dem/Sonoma County)

2010 Election (2011 - 2013 Congressional Session)

Karen Bass (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Mary Bono (Rep/Riverside County)

Lois Capps (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Judy Chu (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Susan Davis (Dem/San Diego County)

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Janice Hahn (Dem/Los Cty)

Janice Hahn was elected in a special election on July 12, 2011 to succeed Jane Harman, who resigned from office.

Jane Harman (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Barbara Lee (Dem/Alameda County)

Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)

Doris Matsui (Dem/Sacramento County)

Grace Napolitano (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Laura Richardson (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Linda Sanchez (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Loretta Sanchez (Dem/Orange County)

Jackie Speier (Dem/San Mateo County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lynn Woolsey (Dem/Sonoma County)

2012 Election (2013 - 2015 Congressional Session)

Karen Bass (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Julia Brownley (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lois Capps (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Judy Chu (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Susan Davis (Dem/San Diego County)

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Janice Hahn (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Barbara Lee (Dem/Alameda County)

Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)

Doris Matsui (Dem/Sacramento County)

Grace Napolitano (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Gloria Negrete McLeod (Dem/San Bernardino County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)

Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Linda Sanchez (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Loretta Sanchez (Dem/Orange County)

Jackie Speier (Dem/San Mateo County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

2014 Election (2015 - 2017 Congressional Session)

Karen Bass (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Julia Brownley (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Lois Capps (Dem/Santa Barbara County)
Judy Chu (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Susan Davis (Dem/San Diego County)
Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)
Janice Hahn (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Barbara Lee (Dem/Alameda County)
Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)
Doris Matsui (Dem/Sacramento County)
Grace Napolitano (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Linda Sanchez (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Loretta Sanchez (Dem/Orange County)
Jackie Speier (Dem/San Mateo County)
Norma Torres (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Mimi Walters (Rep/Orange County)
Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

2016 Election (2017 - 2019 Congressional Session)

Nanette Diaz Barragan (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Karen Bass (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Julia Brownley (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Judy Chu (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Susan Davis (Dem/San Diego County)

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Barbara Lee (Dem/Alameda County)

Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)

Doris Matsui (Dem/Sacramento County)

Grace Napolitano (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County))

Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Linda Sanchez (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Jackie Speier (Dem/San Mateo County)

Norma Torres (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Mimi Walters (Rep/Orange County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)

2018 Election (2019 - 2021 Congressional Session)

Nanette Diaz Barragan (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Karen Bass (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Julia Brownley (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Judy Chu (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Susan Davis (Dem/San Diego County)

Anna Eshoo (Dem/San Mateo County)

Katie Hill (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Barbara Lee (Dem/Alameda County)

Zoe Lofgren (Dem/Santa Clara County)

Doris Matsui (Dem/Sacramento County)

Grace Napolitano (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nancy Pelosi (Dem/San Francisco County))

Katie Porter (Dem/Orange County)

Lucille Roybal-Allard (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Linda Sanchez (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Jackie Speier (Dem/San Mateo County)

Norma Torres (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Maxine Waters (Dem/Los Angeles County)