

Women Candidates* Through the Decades: 1912-2018 ©									
Election Year	Statewide Candidates	Bd. Of Equalization Candidates	CA US House Candidates	CA Senate Candidates	CA Assembly Candidates	Total Female Candidates	Won Primary	Won General	Notes
1912	0		1	1	12	14	10	0	13 of the 14 women candidates belong to Prohibition or Socialist parties.
1914**	5	1	0	2	17	25	20	0	Helen K. Williams carries Los Angeles, but loses Republican nomination for Lt. Gov.
1916	0	0	4	3	13	20	16	0	San Joaquin's Edith Dow Moulton wins the Democratic, Progressive, Socialist and Prohibition Assembly nominations, but loses the general election.
1918**	2	0	2	1	15	20	12	4	First four women are elected to the California Legislature.
<b>Decade Total</b>						<b>79</b>			
1920	1	0	1	1	11	14	9	3	
1922**	1	0	2	1	9	13	8	6	Five women are elected to the Legislature. In early 1923, Mae Nolan wins a special election to become the first California woman to be elected to Congress.
1924	0	0	1	2	10	13	8	6	Five women are re-elected to the Legislature. That number won't be equalled until 1976.
1926**	1	0	1	0	10	12	5	3	Florence Kahn of San Francisco wins a 1925 special election to Congress and is re-elected in 1926.
1928	1		2	1	6	10	5	2	Eleanor Miller is the only remaining female Assembly member.
<b>Decade Total</b>						<b>62</b>			

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1930**	1		2	0	8	11	4	3	
1932	1		2	0	15	18	5	2	Eleanor Miller is reelected to a Los Angeles Assembly seat.
1934**	1	1	5	2	19	28	9	3	Orfa Jean Shontz is the first woman ever elected to the Board of Equalization. She only serves one year before being appointed to a vacancy on the Los Angeles Municipal Court.
1936	0	0	3	0	16	19		2	
1938**	8		2	2	14	26	15	2	Two incumbent Assemblywomen are reelected.
<b>Decade Total</b>						<b>102</b>			
1940	1		4	1	12	18	13	2	
1942**	1	1	5	1	14	22	7	1	
1944	1		4	0	10	15	2	2	Helen Gahagan Douglas becomes the first Democratic woman to win a California congressional seat
1946**	1		5	2	6	14	2	2	Lucille Webster Gleason receives more than 420,000 votes in a losing run for Secretary of State
1948	0		6	1	12	19	7	2	
<b>Decade Total</b>						<b>88</b>			

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1950**	3	1	8	0	12	25	7	1	Twenty five female candidates is the highest number in the 1950s decade.
1952			4	0	15	19	6	3	Pauline Davis and Dorothy Donahoe join incumbent Kathryn Niehouse in the State Assembly, the first time since the 1920s that three women served simultaneously.
1954**	1	1	3	4	10	19	11	3	Mildred Younger, wife of future Attorney General Evelle Younger, loses a race for the State Senate.
1956	0		3	1	11	15	7	2	Former Assemblywoman Kathryn Niehouse loses in a comeback attempt.
1958**	0	1	1	2	8	12	7	2	Pauline Davis and Dorothy Donahoe win reelection to the Assembly.
<b>Decade Total</b>						<b>90</b>			
1960			1	1	11	13	5	1	Pauline Davis (Assembly) is the only woman to win a state campaign.
1962**	0	0	3	1	17	21	2	1	
1964			2	5	12	19	4	1	
1966**	2	0	3	8	24	37	5	4	State Treasurer Ivy Baker Priest is the first woman elected to statewide office. Yvonne Brathwaite and March K. Fong win election to the Assembly.
1968	0	0	6	4	29	39	28	3	Three women are reelected to the Assembly.
<b>Decade Total</b>						<b>129</b>			

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1970**	10	5	11	10	38	74	49	4	Female candidates set a record running for state and federal offices.
1972			11	6	29	46	17	3	
1974**	11	2	24	10	40	87	41	6	Teresa Hughes (Assembly) and Shirley Pettis (Congress) win special elections in 1975 to replace male incumbents. March Fona Eu is elected Secretary of State.
1976	4		18	13	52	87	44	8	Rose Ann Vuich is the first woman elected to the State Senate. A record six women are elected to the Legislature.
1978**	11	6	17	11	40	85	47	11	Diane Watson becomes the first black woman elected to the Senate. Iris G. Sankey is appointed by Jerry Brown to a vacant Bd. of Equalization seat in 1976. She loses election in 1978.
<b>Decade Total</b>						<b>379</b>			
1980			15	5	48	68	47	12	
1982**	15	6	17	12	54	104	55	17	In 1982, Gloria Molina is the first Latina elected to the State Assembly.
1984			31	19	40	90	64	17	Two new women are elected to the State Senate, bringing the number of females to four
1986**	12	3	23	8	54	100	69	19	Nancy Pelosi wins a special election to Congress in 1987 to replace Sala Burton. Lucille Roybal-Allard wins a special election in 1987 to replace Gloria Molina, who resigns her Assembly seat.

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1988	2		24	18	48	92	64	21	Assemblywoman Lucy Killea replaces Dave Stirling in a special election for Senate. Tricia Hunter replaces Assemblyman Bill Bradley in a special Assembly election.
<b>Decade Total</b>						<b>454</b>			
1990**	20	3	21	12	72	128	69	23	Dianne Feinstein is the first woman to win a major party nomination for Governor.
1992	5		65	25	104	199	122	38	Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein make California the first state with an all-female U.S. Senate delegation.
1994**	19	5	40	25	79	168	96	35	Delaine Eastin and Kathleen Connell become the first two female constitutional officers to win in one election.
1996			58	15	96	169	105	38	
1998**	23	4	44	21	81	173	122	44	
<b>Decade Total</b>						<b>837</b>			
2000	5		50	18	78	151	121	48	Jan Legia wins election to the State Assembly but resigns before taking office.
2002**	23	3	36	16	62	140	106	52	
2004	5		47	11	69	132	91	49	

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2006**	21	10	49	16	85	181	116	56	For the first time, three women are elected to the Bd. Of Equalization -- Judy Chu, Betty Yee and Michelle Steele
2008			58	20	72	150	91	48	
<b>Decade Total</b>						<b>754</b>			
2010**	31	8	43	16	85	183	27	53	Kamala Harris becomes the state's first female Attorney General. Meg Whitman is only the third woman to secure a major party nomination for Governor.
2012	7		51	25	69	152	78	50	
2014**	15	3	48	25	62	153	74	48	
2016	10		50	20	70	150	84	44	Kamala Harris wins U.S. Senate seat. Two women have simultaneously represented CA in the Senate since 1992
2018**	22	5	64	21	79	191	109		The number of women candidates in 2018 is the second highest in state history.
<b>Decade Total</b>						<b>829</b>			
<b>Total Female Candidates Since 1912</b>						<b>3803</b>			
<p>* When a candidate's first name did not clearly establish their gender, and it was not otherwise publicly known, the authors consulted historical newspaper reports and other documents to help determine the candidate's gender. If it still was unclear whether a candidate was male or female, the candidate's name was not included.</p> <p>** Governor's Election Year</p> <p>Copyright © 2018 by Steve Swatt. May be reproduced with credit to <i>Paving the Way: Women's Struggle for Political Equality in California</i></p>									