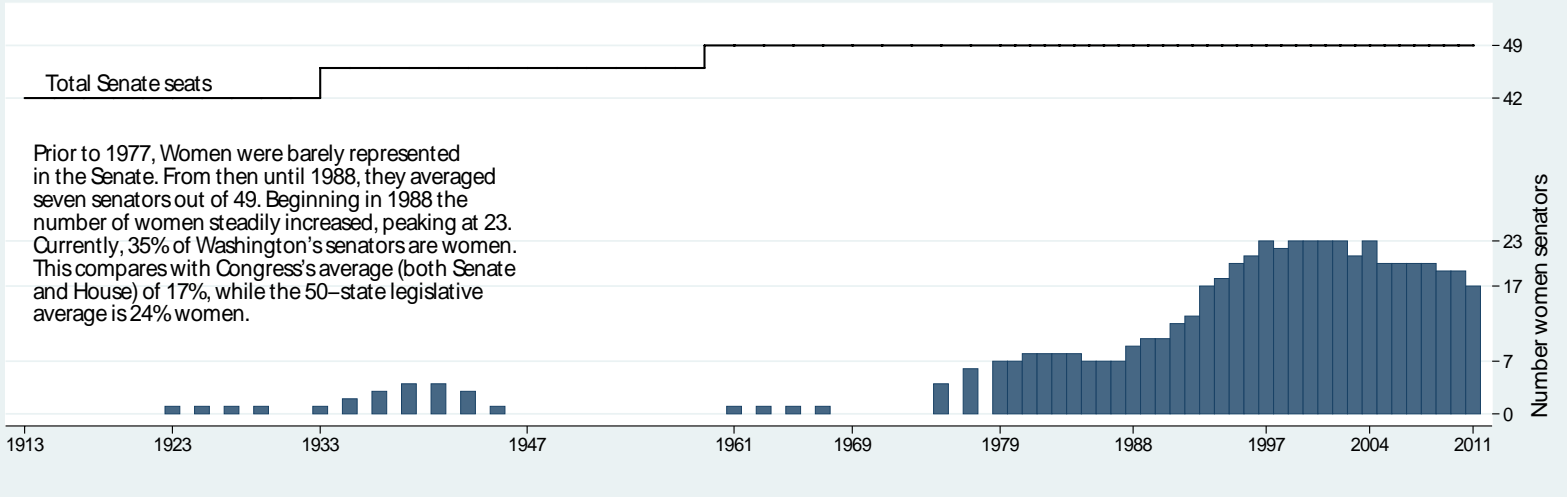


Women legislators in the Washington State Senate

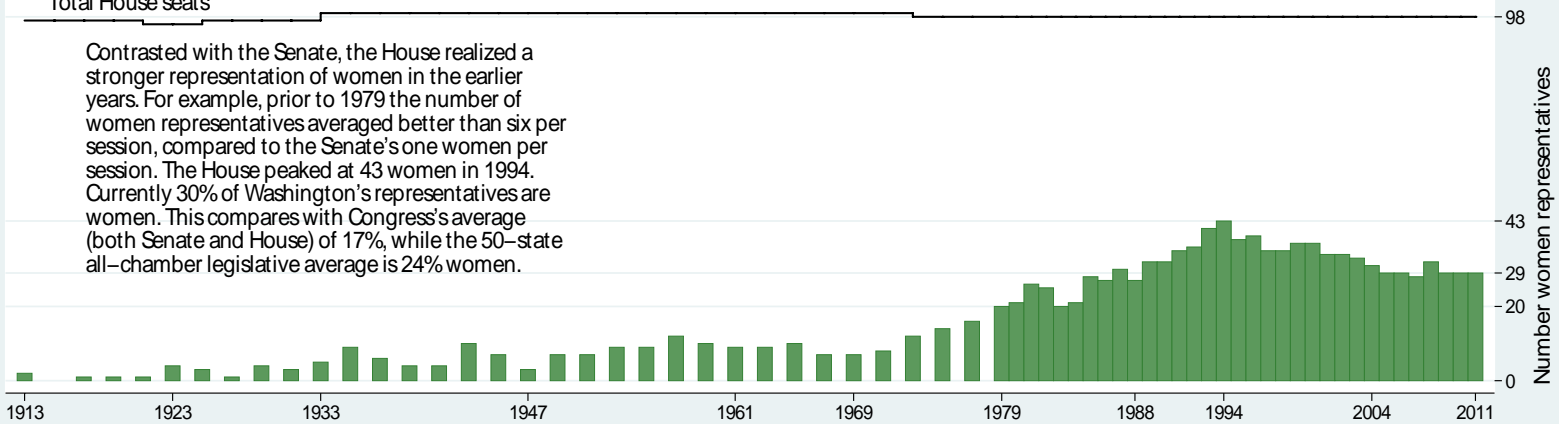


Prior to 1977, Women were barely represented in the Senate. From then until 1988, they averaged seven senators out of 49. Beginning in 1988 the number of women steadily increased, peaking at 23. Currently, 35% of Washington's senators are women. This compares with Congress's average (both Senate and House) of 17%, while the 50-state legislative average is 24% women.

Women legislators in the Washington State House

Total House seats

Contrasted with the Senate, the House realized a stronger representation of women in the earlier years. For example, prior to 1979 the number of women representatives averaged better than six per session, compared to the Senate's one women per session. The House peaked at 43 women in 1994. Currently 30% of Washington's representatives are women. This compares with Congress's average (both Senate and House) of 17%, while the 50-state all-chamber legislative average is 24% women.



Women legislators in the Washington State House and Senate

In 1910, ten years before women's suffrage became the law of the land, Washington women gained the right to vote. Three years later, in 1913, two women became members of the House. Now there are 46 state women legislators, 31% of the total 147 legislative seats. The 50-state average is 24%.

