

DEMOGRAPHICS

TABLE 8.8

Women Governors Throughout History

<i>Name (Party-State)</i>	<i>Dates served</i>	<i>Special circumstances</i>
Nellie Tayloe Ross (D-WY)	1925-1927	Won special election to replace deceased husband
Miriam "Ma" Ferguson (D-TX)	1925-1927, 1933-1935	Inaugurated 15 days after Ross; elected as surrogate for husband who could not succeed himself
Lurleen Wallace (D-AL)	1967-1968	Elected as surrogate for husband who could not succeed himself
Ella Grasso (D-CT)	1975-1980	First woman elected governor in her own right; resigned for health reasons
Dixy Lee Ray (D-WA)	1977-1981	
Vesta Roy (R-NH)	1982-1983	Elected to state senate and chosen as senate president; served as governor for seven days when incumbent died
Martha Layne Collins (D-KY)	1984-1987	
Madeleine Kunin (D-VT)	1985-1991	First woman to serve three terms as governor
Kay Orr (R-NE)	1987-1991	First Republican woman governor and first woman to defeat another woman in a gubernatorial race
Rose Mofford (D-AZ)	1988-1991	Elected as secretary of state, succeeded governor who was impeached and convicted
Joan Finney (D-KS)	1991-1995	First woman to defeat an incumbent governor
Ann Richards (D-TX)	1991-1995	
Barbara Roberts (D-OR)	1991-1995	
Christine Todd Whitman (R-NJ)	1994-2001	Resigned to take presidential appointment as commissioner of the Environmental Protection Agency
Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	1997-2003	
Jane Dee Hull (R-AZ)	1997-2003	Elected as secretary of state, succeeded governor who resigned; later elected to a full term
Nancy Hollister (R-OH)	1998-1999	Elected lieutenant governor; served as governor for 11 days when predecessor took U.S. Senate seat and successor had not yet been sworn in
Jane Swift (R-MA)	2001-2003	Elected as lieutenant governor, succeeded governor who resigned for an ambassadorial appointment
Judy Martz (R-MT)	2001-2005	
Olene Walker (R-UT)	2003-2005	Elected as lieutenant governor, succeeded governor who resigned to take a federal appointment
Ruth Ann Minner (D-DE)	2001-2009	
Jennifer M. Granholm (D-MI)	2003-2011	
Linda Lingle (R-HI)	2003-2011	
Janet Napolitano (D-AZ)	2003-2009	First woman to succeed another woman as governor; resigned to become U. S. Secretary of Homeland Security
Kathleen Sebelius (D-KS)	2003-2009	Father was governor of Ohio; resigned to become U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services
Kathleen Blanco (D-LA)	2004-2008	
M. Jodi Rell (R-CT)	2004-2011	Elected as lieutenant governor, succeeded governor who resigned
Christine Gregoire (D-WA)	2005-2013	
Sarah Palin (R-AK)	2007-2009	Resigned
Beverly Perdue (D-NC)	2009-2013	
Jan Brewer (R-AZ)	2009-2015	Elected as secretary of state, succeeded governor who resigned
Nikki Haley (R-SC)	2011-2017	First Asian (Indian) American woman to be elected governor; resigned to become U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations
Maggie Hassan (D-NH)	2013-2017	
Mary Fallin (R-OK)	2011-present	
Susana Martinez (R-NM)	2011-present	First Latina to be elected governor
Gina Raimondo (D-RI)	2015-present	
Kate Brown (D-OR)	2015-present	Elected as secretary of state, succeeded governor who resigned
Kay Ivey (R-AL)	2017-present	Elected as lieutenant governor, succeeded governor who resigned
Kim Reynolds (R-IA)	2017-present	Elected as lieutenant governor, succeeded governor who resigned
Laura Kelly (D-KS)	2019-present	
Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM)	2019-present	
Janet Mills (D-ME)	2019-present	
Kristi Noem (R-SD)	2019-present	
Gretchen Whitmer (D-MI)	2019-present	

Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.