

Electing more women, and especially women of color, to state legislatures will create a more representative government and accelerate social progress.

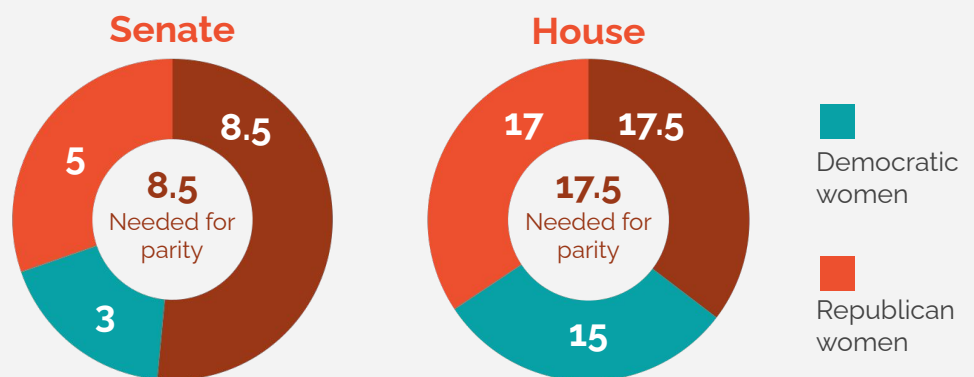
State legislatures create **real change** for communities and serve as a **training ground** for higher office.



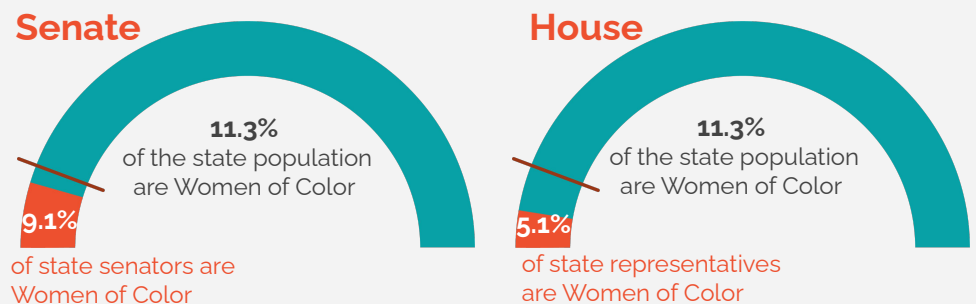
## How representative is Ohio's state legislature today?

### 26

Twenty-six more women are needed to reach a majority of women state legislators.



More women of color must be elected to both the Senate and House to reflect the state population.



# 2024 Electoral dynamics

Extensive recruitment efforts by LEAD OH resulted in **women running in 77% of the targeted, competitive state legislative races**. This includes five of seven competitive Senate races and 15 out of 20 House races. **Seven of the recruited candidates are women of color**. The primary resulted in three gains for women, two of which are women of color, and three losses. Going into the general election, this prospectus features two opportunities to gain new seats for women, two opportunities to hold seat previously held by women, and one critical woman incumbent who need protection.

While the state is unlikely to be a presidential battleground, the U.S. Senate race is one of the top targets in the country. Additionally, state legislative districts have already been redrawn three times since 2020.

All members of the State House and half of the State Senate seats will be on the ballot.

A ballot measure to institute an independent redistricting commission is likely to be on the ballot.

A State Supreme Court race is on the ballot, but will not change the conservative balance of the court.

The U.S. Senate race, with Senator Sherrod Brown (D) seeking reelection, is one of the top targets in the country and will be receiving a lot of attention and investment. There are also three targeted US House races.

**WomenCount** is an online giving platform that raises funds for women candidates and simplifies the giving process. WomenCount and Electing Women Alliance, a national network of giving groups, work together to close the political gender giving gap as a pathway to electing more women.

## Campaign finance considerations

Donation limit:

**\$15,499.69** per State Senator or State Representative

The average cost of a state legislative race is roughly

**\$40,000** For the House | **\$250,000** For the Senate

- LLCs can contribute directly to candidates. The contribution is allocated to individual limits.
- There are no unique disclosure requirements for independent expenditures.

**All donors are advised to consult an accountant and/or legal counsel to determine the limits and reporting requirements that apply.**

# Opportunities to gain more women and women of color state legislators



## Dr. Rachael Morocco for State House

*House District 60 (Delaware County)*

Dr. Morocco is a pediatrician and holds a Master's in Public Health from Ohio State University. She has spent her career developing relationships with her patients and their families and helping them find solutions to the struggles they face. Over the years, she's encountered problems that, as a physician in a clinic setting, she couldn't fix. Issues with health care, the education system, affordable childcare, and the opioid crisis, to name a few. Being a fighter and a problem solver by nature, she eventually realized she could do more to help. As a state representative, she believes she can change policies that will positively affect children and families across the whole state.



## Sue Durichko

*Senate District 24 (Cuyahoga County)*

As a devoted Geriatric Nurse of over 15 years and a public servant of over five years, Durichko has a proven history of fostering meaningful connections with the people she cares for and serves. She has natural empathy that she has mastered during her many years as a dedicated nurse. As a City Councilwoman at Large in Parma Heights, Durichko is an experienced public servant with an expansive knowledge of civic duties and processes. She leads with integrity, confidence and wisdom and is ready and eager to represent you at the State House. Durichko aims to work across perspectives to create an Ohio that best meets the needs of all Ohioans.

**Contribute now to some or all of these candidates:**

<https://womenscount.org/teams/womens-political-parity-ohio/>

# Opportunities to hold a seat previously held by a woman



## Crystal Lett for State House

*House District 11 (Western Franklin County)*

Lett is a certified mental health professional who was inspired to do the work after losing her brother to suicide. Lett left that position when her first-born son was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder and required consistent care. CHIP healthcare coverage made it possible for Lett to provide her son with the treatments he needed. When CHIP funding came under attack, Lett traveled to Washington, DC, on behalf of the Ohio Children's Hospital Network to advocate for CHIP families. US Senator Sherrod Brown invited Lett to work directly with his office to fight for CHIP families and funding. Lett went on to work alongside PL+US to advocate for paid family leave and created a nonpartisan women's political discussion group before joining the LEAD Ohio team.



## Rose Lounsbury for State House

*House District 36 (Western Montgomery County)*

Lounsbury cares deeply about protecting democracy in Ohio. As a former public school teacher, current small business owner, and suburban mom of teenage triplets, she is committed to making sure that the voices of all Ohioans are heard in decision-making in Columbus. She's passionate about supporting the hard-working families in this state, guaranteeing all children access to a fairly funded public education, and making sure all Ohioans receive compassionate, affordable health care.

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# Women incumbents in need of protection



## Rep. Rachel Baker\*

*House District 27 (Hamilton County)*

State Rep. Baker is currently serving her first term in the Ohio House of Representatives. Rep. Baker ran for office to use her problem-solving skills to make decisions that are backed by evidence when addressing the issues facing Ohioans. She is particularly interested in improving access to quality healthcare, increasing support for mental health care, promoting preventive care and population health, advocating for adequate funding of Ohio's public schools, and increasing good-paying jobs for working families to promote Ohioans' ability to live happy and healthy lives.

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