

California State Controller Betty Yee
Facts and Stats about Gender Disparities
as of April 22, 2016

Women in Elected Office

- Only 10 women have been elected to statewide office in California history. Four of the 10 are currently serving: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, State Attorney General Kamala Harris, and State Controller Betty Yee.
- Approximately 19 percent of U.S. Congress members are women.
- California Women Lead and the League of California Cities' 2015 report on the status of women in government found that 727 women serve on California city councils, up from 706 last year. Men outnumber women at the local government level nearly 3 to 1. One city (Eureka) has all women on the city council. About 16 percent of California's cities have councils that are majority women. Thirty-six percent have just one woman on the council, down about 8 percent from the previous year's report. About a quarter of California cities have women mayors.
- The first women were elected to the California Legislature in 1918. Only 139 women have been elected to the California Legislature since then. (*State Library's CA Research Bureau*)
- Currently, just 31 of the 120 seats in the state Legislature are held by women.
- The gender pay disparity in California stands at 84 percent for women compared to their male counterparts – ranking our state 5th in the nation. (*American Association of University Women*)

Women in Business

- Women hold 12.3 percent of board director and highest-paid executive positions at the 400 largest public companies headquartered in California. Only 17 companies have a female CEO, while 52 have a female CFO. (*UC Davis Study of CA Women Business Leaders*)
- At the median, executive compensation in California is \$2.1 million for men and \$1.9 million for women.
- By industry, the software sector has the greatest proportion of women directors (15.5 percent), and the financial services sector has the greatest percentage of women among highest-paid executives (14.1 percent).

- There are more than 1.3 million women business owners in California. (*National Association of Women Business Owners*)
- Since 1997, there has been a 74 percent increase in women-owned businesses in California. (*2015 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report, American Express*)
- Closing the pay gap would cut poverty in half in the U.S. (*Shriver Report*)
- Companies in the top quartile for gender diversity are 15 percent more likely to have financial returns above national medians. (*McKinsey & Company*)

Women Entrepreneurs

- Just seven percent of venture capital funding in the U.S. goes to women. (*Center for Venture Research*)
- A Dow Jones study looking at successful venture-backed companies that went public or were acquired, found that of those successful companies, the share of female executives was 7.1 percent, compared with 3.1 percent at unsuccessful firms.
- By 2018 women entrepreneurs will be responsible for creating 5.5 million new jobs nationwide because of faster growth rate of women-owned businesses compared to those owned by men. (*U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation*)

STEM

- While engineering and computer-related fields are some of the fastest growing fields in the U.S., women only hold about one-quarter or less of those positions. (*National Science Board*)
- Women earn 57 percent of all undergraduate degrees, 42 percent of all undergraduate math and statistics degrees, 40 percent of all undergraduate physical sciences degrees, but only 18 percent of all undergraduate computer and information sciences degrees. (*National Center for Women & Information Technology*)
- By 2020 there could be more than 1.4 million computing-related job openings. At current rates, only about 30 percent of those jobs can be filled with U.S. computing bachelor's graduates. (*U.S. Department of Labor*)
- Women make up 47 percent of the total U.S. workforce, but are much less represented in science and engineering occupations. For example, 7 percent of mechanical engineers are women, 8 percent of electrical engineers, and 12 percent of civil engineers. (*National Girls Collaborative Project*)