

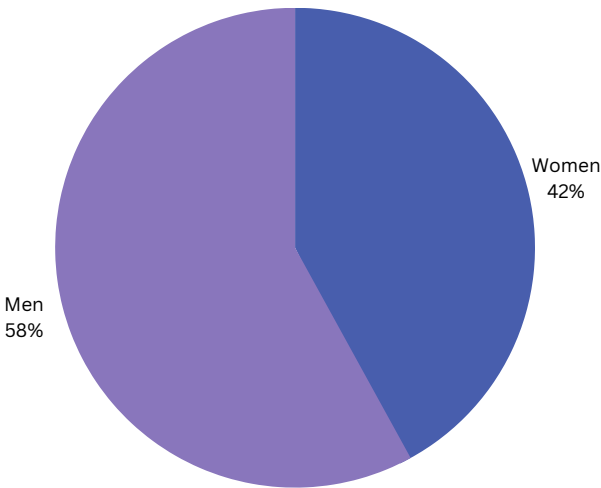
Women's Well-Being Index

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

2023

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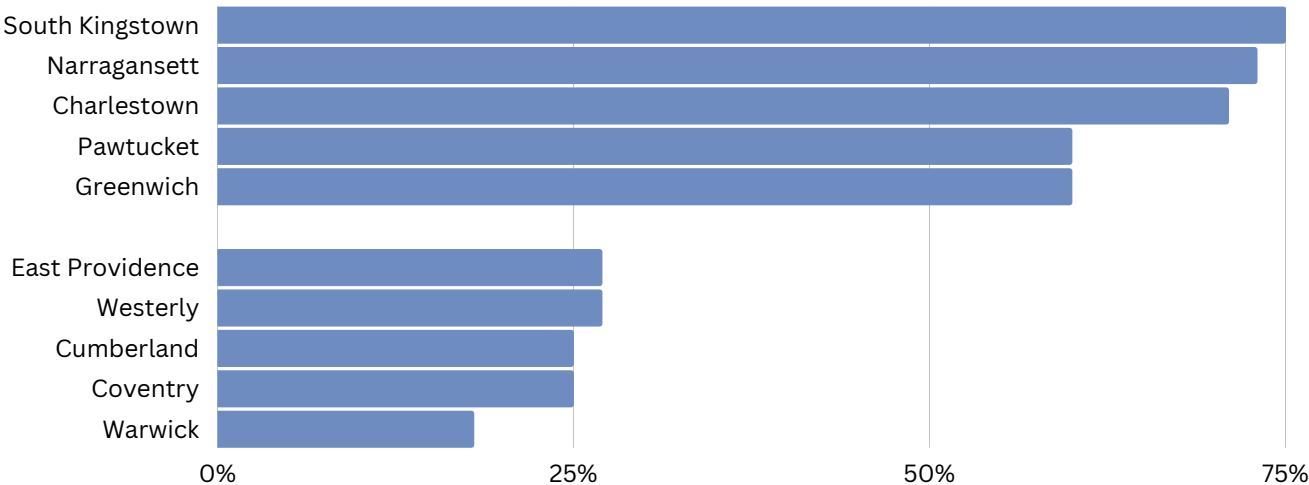
This policy brief explores the latest data for the Women’s Civic Engagement. The data shown is based on the 2022 Election Cycle.



Representation

In Rhode Island's 2022 election cycle, 205 women won seats vs. 309 men. Overall, women accounted for 40% of elected offices. Of the women elected, 15%* were women of color. 47 women were elected to Rhode Island's General Assembly, resulting in 42% representation by women. Only one woman was elected to Executive Office (Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos).

Percentage of Women Elected Per Town (top and bottom 5)

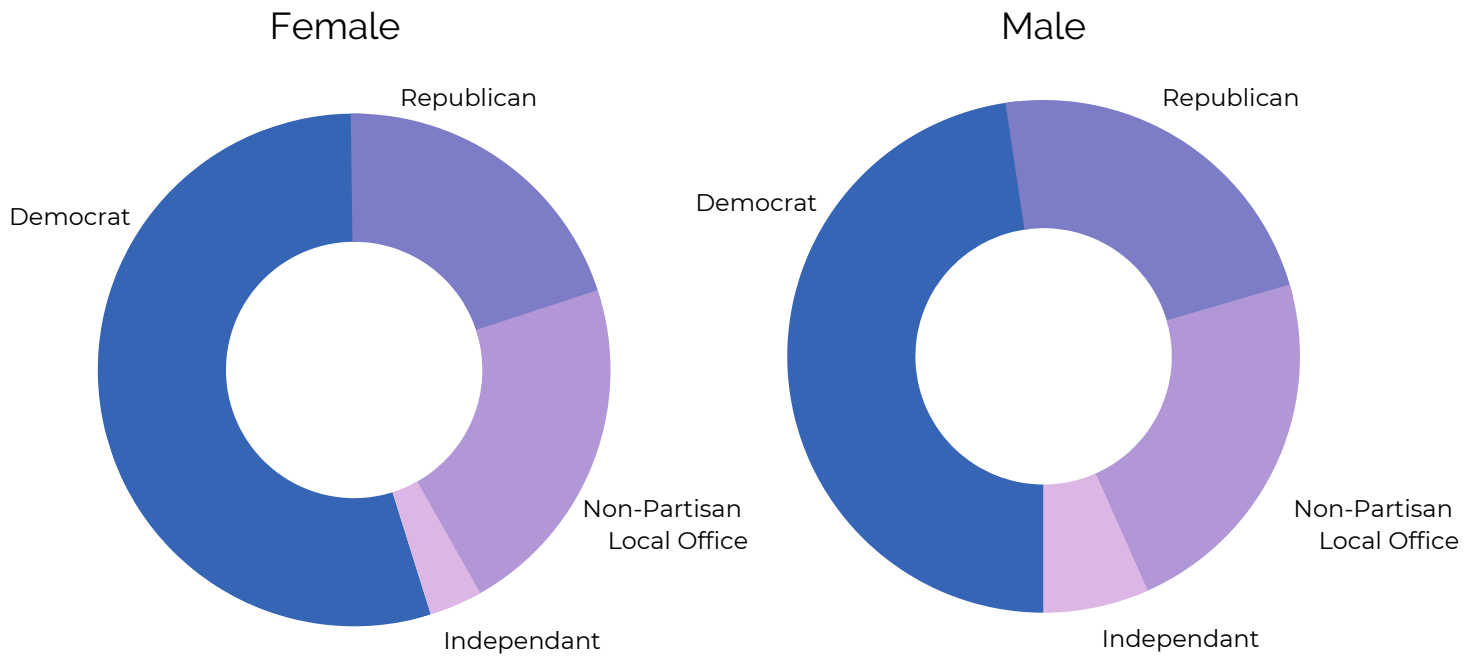


The percentage of women elected by cities/towns is a strong indicator of the political presence of women. The five cities/towns with the highest rate of women winning seats in 2022 by descending order are South Kingston, Narragansett, Charleston, East Greenwich, and Pawtucket.

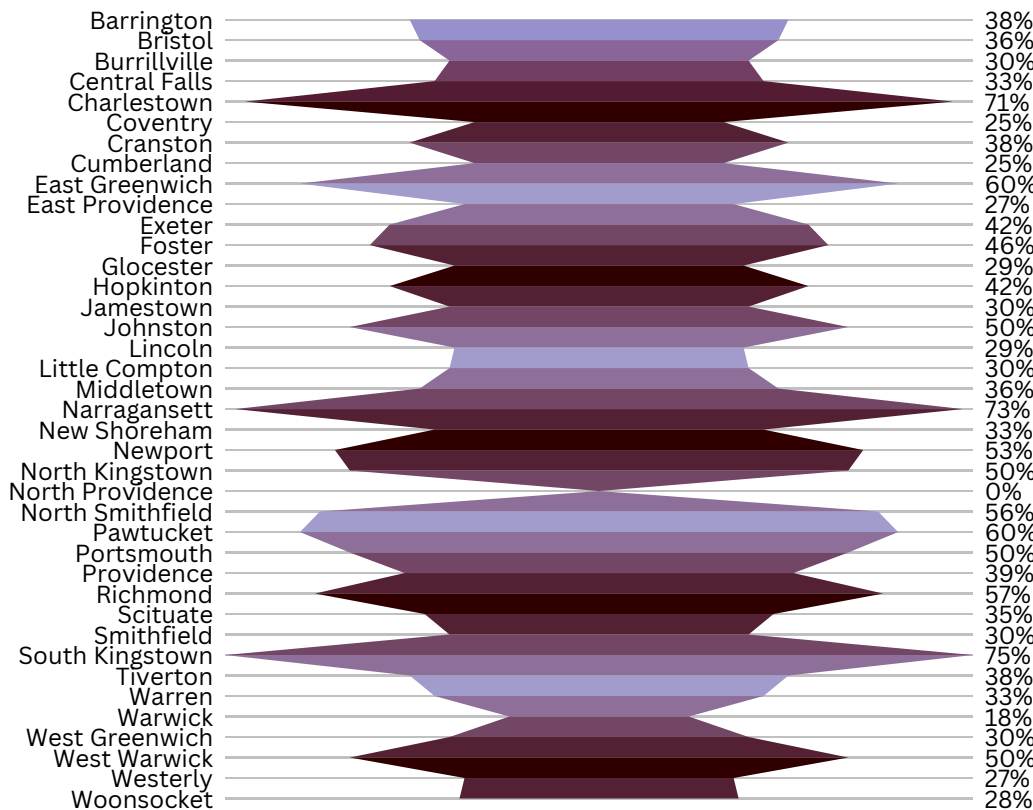
Conversely, the five cities/towns with the lowest rate of elected women in 2022 are East Providence, Westerly, Cumberland, Coventry, and Warwick.

Breakdown by Party

When comparing the breakdown of political affiliation between male and female candidates, women tend to identify as Democratic while men are more likely to identify as Republican. It should be noted that RI candidates who won overwhelmingly identified as Democrats (67%).



Funnel Chart of Female Representation Winning Seats 2022



64%

elected officials to serve on school boards are women.

4/10

women account for 40% of elected officials in Rhode Island.

Other Considerations

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Breakdown by Party.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

After considering many factors and data, we recommend the following:

01

Leadership Programs

Provide opportunities to train young women in leadership skills that will enhance their political engagement -ie High School/ college programs.

02

Political mentorship

Offer political mentoring or training programs that enhance political skills and prepare women and people of color for political work.

03

Support underserved segments

Train, motivate, and support women and people of color to consider running for office.

04

Support mothers

Make childcare an allowable campaign expense for candidates for office AND provide childcare at the polls for parents who are waiting in line to vote.

05

Funding

Create campaign stipends for areas with low female and BIPOC participation.

06

Reflect diversity in appointments

Through a state mandate, candidates for appointed positions should reflect the state's racial and gender diversity before any appointments are made.

07

Transparency

Mandate transparency in the board and commission appointment process at the state and local levels, so it is clear when openings are available and what the application process is. Information should be easily available and public.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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