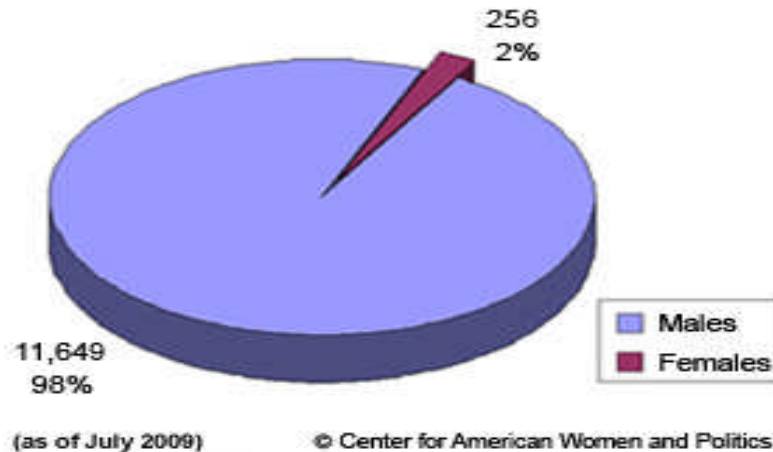




Since 1789 only 2% of members of Congress have been women.



## The Facts

- Since 1917, when Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman to serve in Congress, a total of 260 women have served as U.S. Representatives or Senators.
- First woman Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) was the first woman elected Speaker of the House of Representatives in 2007.
- In 2009, 74 women hold statewide elective executive offices across the country; women hold 23.6% of the 314 available positions. This is less than the number of women -- 88, or 27.4% -- serving in 2002
- In 1995, Sweden became the first country to have an equal number of women and men in ministerial posts. By the end of 2002, Argentina, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Mozambique, the Netherlands Norway, South Africa and Sweden had reached a goal of 30 percent of parliamentary seats being held by women.
- ✓ In the 89 years that women have served in Congress, women have gained an average of 1 seat per year.\*
- ✓ Currently, women hold 16.8% of the seats in congress. In terms of US population women account for 50.7%.\*
- ✓ Four states have never sent a woman to the Senate or House of Representatives; Delaware, Iowa, Mississippi and Vermont.\*
- ✓ The US is ranked 70th internationally in women's political representation. We are behind Rwanda, China, Sierra Leone and the UK.\*\*

\* Figures are for 2009, Source CAWP

\*\* Figures are for 2009, Source The White House Project and IPU World Classification