



GENDER MATTERS

from the New Hampshire Women's Foundation

WHEN YOU KNOW THE FACTS, YOU CAN ACT!

2020: ISSUE 1

The Rise of Women Candidates in New Hampshire Over Three Primary Election Cycles (2016–2020)

Gender realignment is underway in American politics.¹ Record numbers of women ran and won in 2018, in an election cycle that became known as the “Year of the Woman 2.0”. The 2020 election brings an even larger pool of women candidates here in New Hampshire, continuing to trend upward since 2016.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



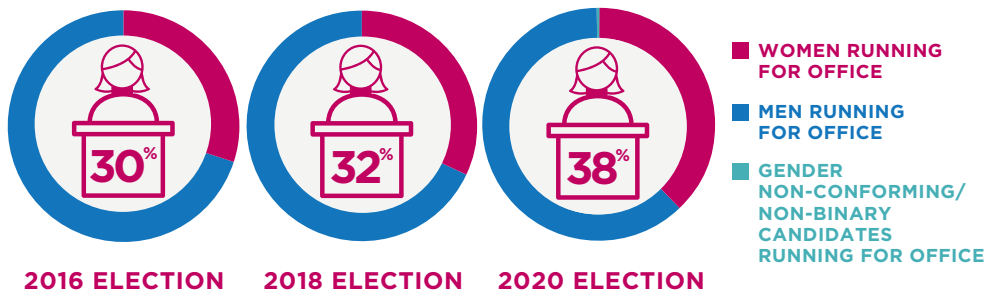
PRIMARY ELECTION DAY
September 8, 2020

GENERAL ELECTION DAY
November 3, 2020

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE
NEED MORE INFO:
VOTENH2020.ORG

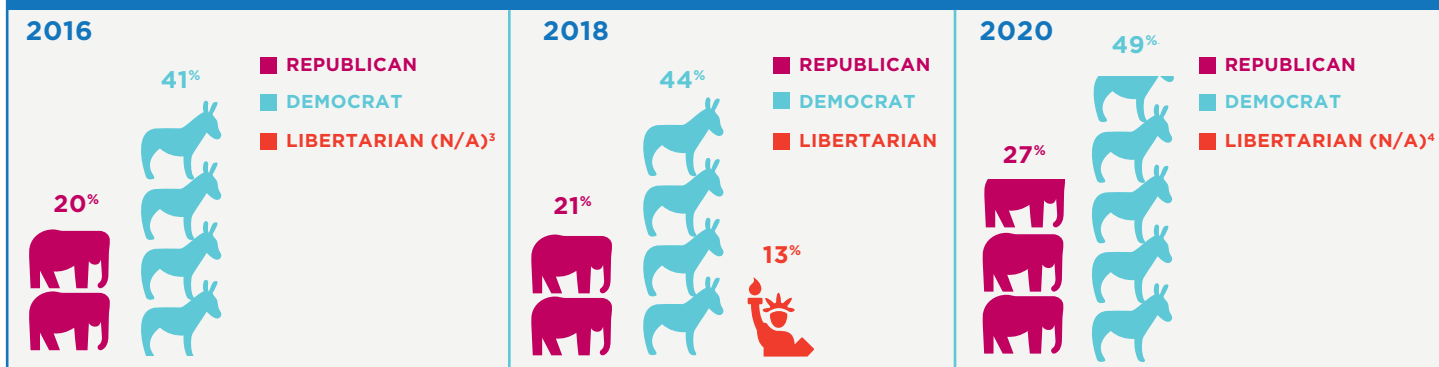
In 2020, **407** New Hampshire women are on the ballot in the primary election for county, state and federal offices. In 2018, **335** women ran for offices and in 2016 there were **306**. The number of women running has grown **33%** over these three election cycles.²

WOMEN CANDIDATES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY ELECTIONS FOR COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL OFFICES (2016–2020)



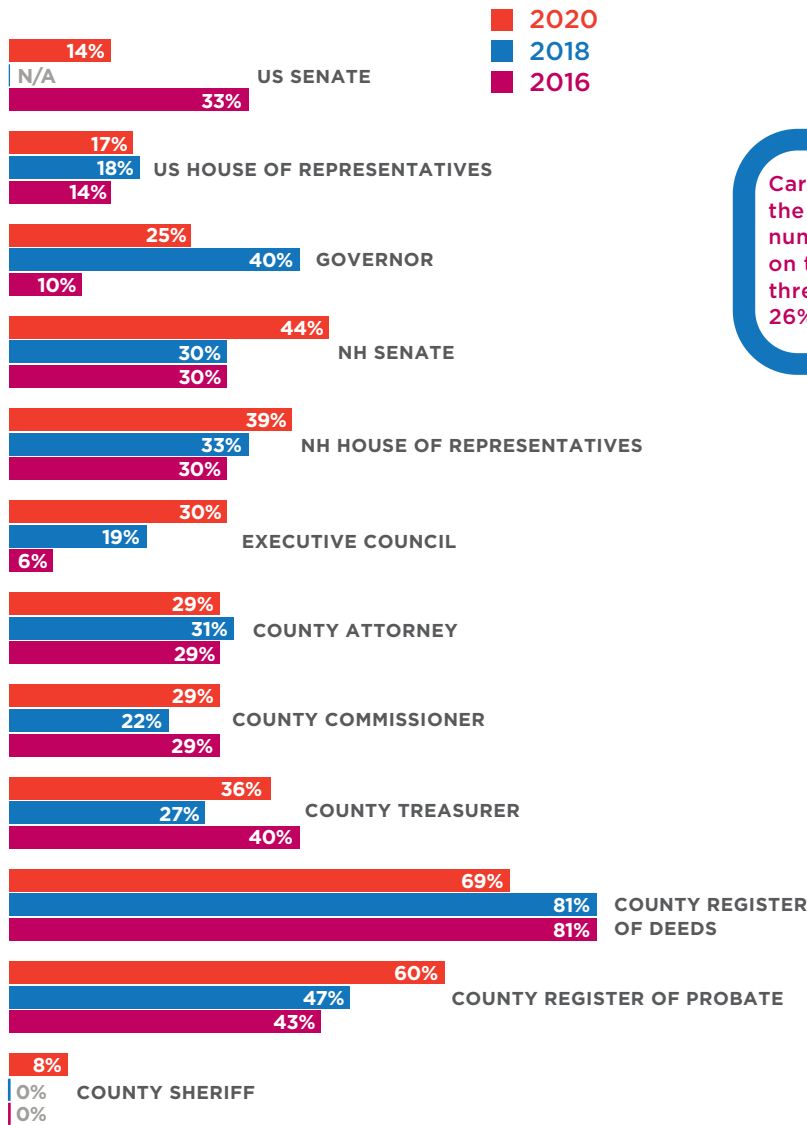
While Democratic women continue to outpace Republican women on the ballot, Republican women's gains as a percentage of their party's candidates were greater between 2018 and 2020 than their Democratic counterparts. Achieving gender parity among candidates and officeholders will be unlikely without more Republican women running for office.

WOMEN AS A PERCENTAGE OF CANDIDATES BY PARTY (2016–2020)

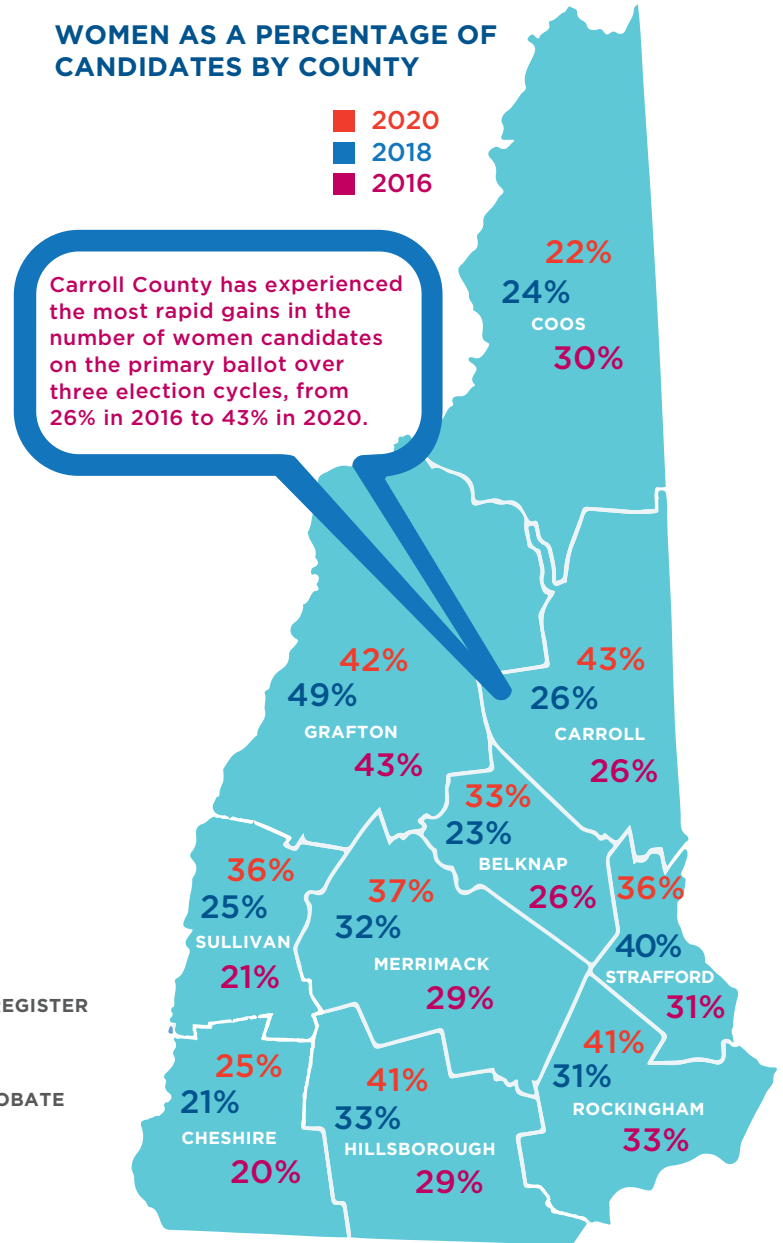


The percentage of women candidates varies greatly depending on the elected office. The vast majority of women candidates on the primary ballots in New Hampshire in the past three cycles were running for state representative. County offices such as Register of Probate and Register of Deeds consistently attract a majority of women. There is also significant geographic variation in gender representation on the ballot.

WOMEN AS A PERCENTAGE OF CANDIDATES BY OFFICE SOUGHT



WOMEN AS A PERCENTAGE OF CANDIDATES BY COUNTY



An Increase in women candidates in primary elections is just one measure of the progress for women in American politics. When considering the gender dynamics at play in electoral campaigns it is clear that there is still much progress left to make in creating equitable conditions for women's political success.

FOOTNOTES

1. *The Future is Female: How the Growing Political Power of Women Will Remake American Politics*, The Brookings Institute, Michael Hais and Morley Winograd, February 19, 2020
2. The research team determined candidates' gender based on the totality of the available evidence, including such evidence as gender information available in the roster of current elected officials; names; photographs; and use of gender-specific pronouns in campaign websites, social media accounts, and other online sources.
3. The Libertarian Party did not have ballot access during the 2016 primary election.
4. The Libertarian Party did not have ballot access during the 2020 primary election.



new hampshire

**WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION**

We invest in opportunity and equality for women and girls in New Hampshire through research, education, advocacy, grantmaking, and philanthropy.

