



GENDER MATTERS

from the New Hampshire Women's Foundation

WHEN YOU KNOW THE FACTS, YOU CAN ACT!

2021: ISSUE 2

New Hampshire Women in City Government

The New Hampshire Women's Foundation works toward social and political gender equality in New Hampshire and political pathways to power often start at the local level.

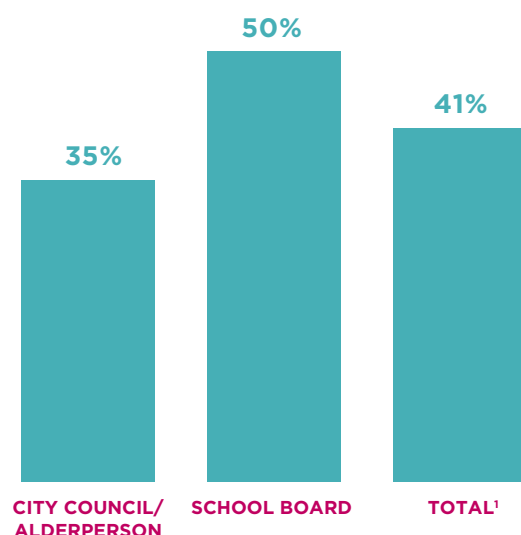
STATE OVERVIEW

Similar to New Hampshire towns, there is a significant gender gap in elected officials representing the 13 municipalities recognized as cities. While it is worth celebrating the gender parity observed in total elected school board officials, it is important to recognize that this is not consistent across all cities, and unfortunately, does not have the same level of political power other elected city positions are awarded. Mayor and City Council or Board of Alderperson represent the executive and legislative branches in a city, respectively, and have significantly more authority over city-wide policy decisions than the school board.

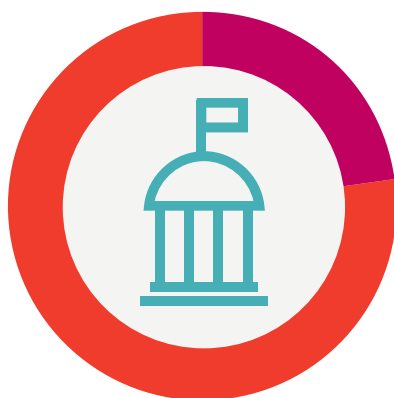
¹ Total column includes mayors

Women comprise only **41% of total elected city officials** (School Board, City Council/Alderperson, and Mayor) in New Hampshire. Statewide, women represent **23%** of mayors, **35%** of City Council/Alderperson, and **50%** of city School Boards.

TOTAL PERCENTAGE WOMEN ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE BY POSITION



PERCENTAGE OF ELECTED CITY MAYORS BY GENDER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



■ 23% WOMEN ■ 77% MEN

WOMEN IN TOP CITY LEADERSHIP ROLES

Women are woefully underrepresented as Mayors in New Hampshire cities. The cities of Claremont, Manchester, and Rochester are the only cities with a woman as elected Mayor². Moreover, the cities of Laconia and Somersworth have still never elected a woman Mayor. As the representative of the executive branch, and in some cases legislative branch, the city Mayor is often the most visible representative of a city, and has an influential role in the day-to-day operations and oversight of their city.

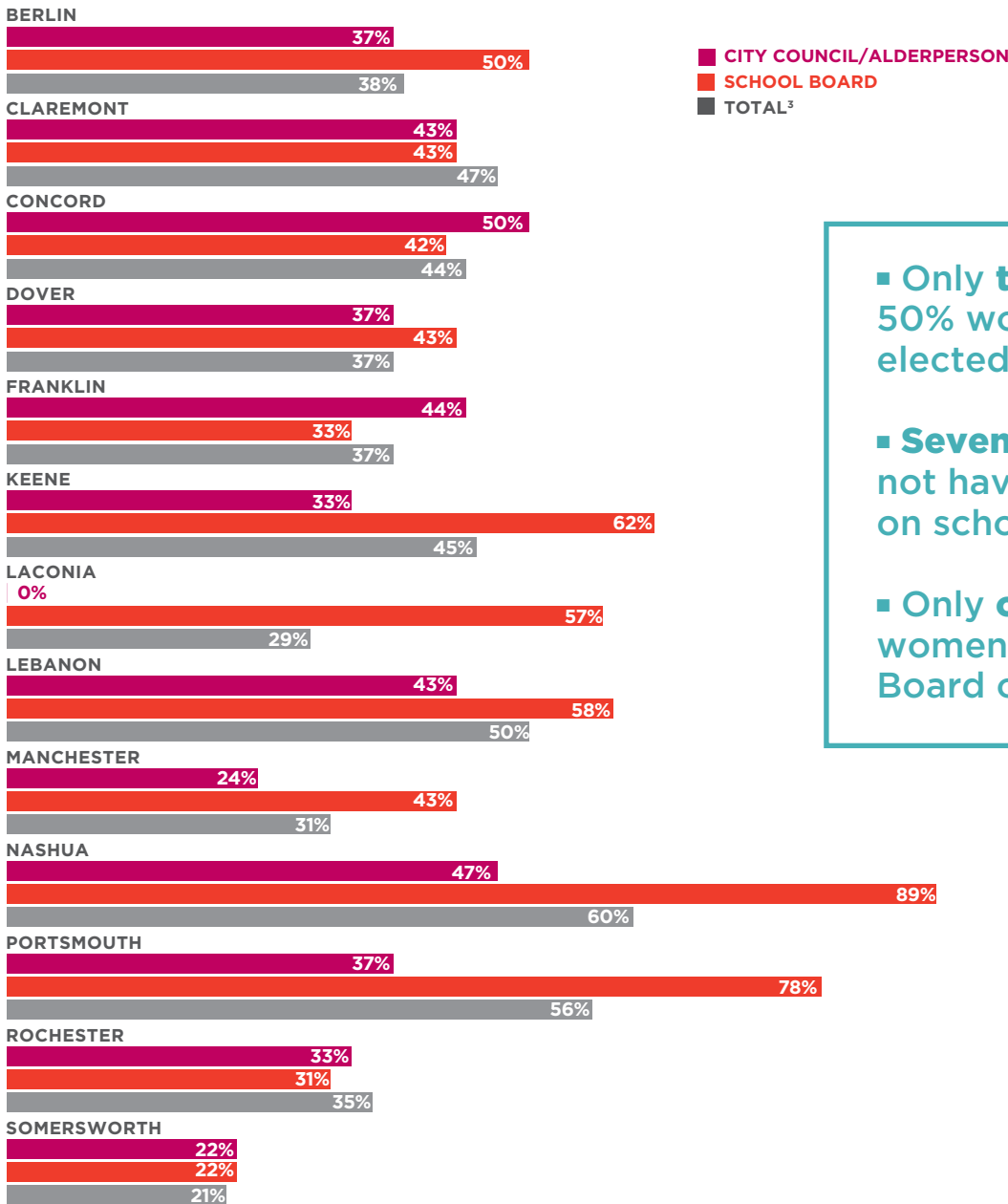
² As of January 2021, Franklin elected Mayor resigned and city council appointed an interim Mayor. Although the interim Mayor is female, they were not elected into office by the people of Franklin, and were therefore omitted from the mayoral data.

There are currently only three cities with women serving as the elected Mayor, representing just **23% of the total elected Mayors** in the state.

WOMEN ELECTED OFFICIALS BY CITY

There is a concerning lack of gender parity in New Hampshire city government. Although the representation of women in elected positions varies significantly by city, there are zero cities that have achieved gender parity in both their City Council/Board of Alderperson and School Board.

WOMEN AS A PERCENT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS BY CITY



- Only **three cities** have 50% women in total elected positions
- **Seven cities** still do not have 50% women on school boards
- Only **one city** has 50% women on City Council/Board of Alderperson

³ Total row includes city mayors

METHODOLOGY: This report was produced conducting original research obtained from elected official listings published by each of the 13 cities in New Hampshire and accessing other public references to local elected officials that identify them by gender/sex. These data are current as of July 2020, and may not represent more recent resignations, appointments or special elections.



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.