

WOMEN HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICE*

	<u>United States</u>		<u>Massachusetts</u>	
	<u>1975</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1981</u>
United States Congress	4%	4%	14%	7%
Statewide Elective	10%	11%	0%	0%
State Legislative	8%	12%	7%	10%
County	3%	6%	3%	22%
Municipal	4%	13%	3%	12%
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TOTAL**	4%	12%	4%	12%

*This preliminary information is taken from a recent national survey of women officeholders conducted by the Center for the American Woman and Politics/Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, New Jersey. The percentages for US Congress, Statewide Elective, and State Legislative are for 1975 and 1981; percentages for County and Municipal are for 1975 and 1980.

**Proportion of women in elected public office.

TALKING POINTS:

- o The total growth of women in public office in Massachusetts has been consistent with the United States (8%).
- o From 1975 to 1980, the increase of Massachusetts women officeholders in county office has increased seven times while the national percentage has only doubled. (OR the percentage of women holding county office in Massachusetts in 1981 is greater than 3 times the national percentage).
- o The percentage of women holding congressional office in Massachusetts has declined by 7%, but still remains above the national percentage.