

ARE POLITICAL WOMEN AMBITIOUS? YES!

The majority of women at every level of office plan to seek another term in their present office --- about half of the women serving in office would like to hold some other public office in the future

<u>Present Office</u>	<u>Will Seek Additional Term</u>	<u>Would Like Future Office</u>
State Judiciary	82%	50%
State Executive	63%	66%
State Senate	84%	82%
State House	82%	62%
County Commission	72%	56%
Mayoralty	54%	48%
Local Council	62%	49%

- Women who have high political ambitions differ from other women in office. Highly ambitious women are:
 - younger
 - more highly educated
 - more organizationally active
 - more politically experienced
 - likely to be serving in larger districts
 - more likely to identify themselves as liberals
 - more supportive of feminist issues such as ERA, abortion and social security for homemakers.
- Women are somewhat MORE politically ambitious than their male counterparts. Comparison samples of female and male officeholders in selected states reveal:
 - 64% of women compared with 55% of men in office will probably or definitely seek an additional term in their current office
 - 57% of women compared with 44% of men would like to hold one or more other offices in the future
- Women who are politically ambitious are MORE likely to perceive sex discrimination within the political parties:
 - 76% of state legislators who would like some other office in the future (changers) compared with 62% of those who are planning on remaining in their current office (stayers) agree that men in party organizations try to keep women out of leadership roles
 - 80% of local councillors who are "changers" compared with 72% of the "stayers" agree with this statement

This information is taken from a recent nationwide survey of women officeholders (and a sample of male officeholders) conducted by the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP). Further information can be found in "Profile of Women Holding Office II" in Women in Public Office: A Biographical Directory and Statistical Analysis, Second Edition, compiled by Center for the American Woman and Politics (Metuchen, N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, 1978). A reprint of "Profile of Women Holding Office II" is available from CAWP for \$4.00.

Additional information available from:

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