

## WOMEN AND MEN HOLDING OFFICE

In 1981 women hold approximately 12% of public offices nationwide.

In 1981 men hold approximately 88% of public offices nationwide.

- While approximately one-third of both female and male elected officials have former officeholding experience, women are more likely to have held appointive office.
  - 30% of the women have held appointive office (compared to 23% of men)
  - 20% of the men have held elective office (compared to 13% of women)
- Women in office are more active in community organizations than men, listing a median average of 3.6 memberships compared to 2.6 for the men.
- Women officeholders have been more active than men in their political parties.
  - 40% of women in office compared to 34% of men in office have held party office.
- Women are not found disproportionately in small or large districts. Women and men are equally likely to be serving in small districts (with under 5,000 population) at the local level of office.
- Women officeholders are older than their male counterparts when they enter office.
  - In 1976-77, a median of 39 years at age of entry for males; 44 years for females.
  - The median age of women in office is 48 compared to 46 for men.
- Women officeholders have less education beyond college than male officeholders. Women are equally likely to have graduated from college, however.
  - 42% of the men compared to 20% of the women have one or more graduate degrees or have done some graduate study.
- Women officeholders are employed in occupations traditionally considered "female": teaching, nursing, secretarial, social work.
  - 47% of the women compared to only 8% of the men come from these occupations.
- Male officeholders are more often married than their female counterparts (91% to 79%)
- The spouse of a female officeholder is more likely than the spouse of a male officeholder to approve and encourage her/his officeholding activity.
  - 67% of the women's husbands compared to 44% of the men's wives actively encourage their officeholding.
- Male officials are more likely than female officials to perceive a high level of political activity as having negative effects on family life.
  - 77% of men and 49% of women agree that women cannot be really