



Black State Legislator Changes

Delaware leads in increasing Black representation among state legislatures since 2015

Delaware Overview

Over the past two election cycles, the Delaware General Assembly has seen a significant increase in Black elected officials. Delaware's General Assembly went from four Black elected officials in 2015 (including three State Representatives and one State Senator) to twelve Black elected officials after the 2020 election (including nine State Representatives and three State Senators). Overall, Delaware saw a 13.35% increase in Black representation in the Delaware General Assembly between 2015 and 2021.

Nationwide Overview

Overall, only five states saw a 5% or higher increase in Black state legislator representation, including: Delaware (13.35%), Maryland (7.85%), Nevada (7.46%), Colorado (6%), and Washington (5.12%). On the other end of the spectrum, despite being the home of Vice President Kamala Harris, California had the largest decrease, losing 2.33% of its Black State legislative representation.

Resources for More Information

On the following pages we list the full table on state legislatures as measured by Black representation. The 2015 data comes from the [Who We Elect report from the National Conference on State Legislatures](#) while the 2021 data can be found in [Blacks in State Legislatures: A State-by-State Map analysis from Governing.com](#) along with data from state legislative Black caucuses.

State	2015 % of Black state legislators	2021 % of Black state legislators	% increase in Black state legislature composition
Delaware	6%	19.35%	13.35%
Maryland	23%	30.85%	7.85%
Nevada	10%	17.46%	7.46%
Colorado	3%	9.00%	6.00%
Washington	1%	6.12%	5.12%
Virginia	12%	16.43%	4.43%
Louisiana	22%	25.69%	3.69%
Missouri	9%	12.69%	3.69%
South Carolina	23%	26.47%	3.47%
Ohio	11%	14.39%	3.39%
Oklahoma	2%	5.37%	3.37%
Alaska	0%	3.33%	3.33%
Michigan	9%	12.16%	3.16%
Mississippi	28%	31.03%	3.03%
Georgia	25%	27.97%	2.97%
Connecticut	7%	9.63%	2.63%
Wisconsin	5%	7.58%	2.58%
Minnesota	1%	3.48%	2.48%
Oregon	2%	4.44%	2.44%
North Carolina	20%	22.35%	2.35%
Rhode Island	4%	6.19%	2.19%
Pennsylvania	8%	9.88%	1.88%
New Jersey	14%	15.83%	1.83%
New Mexico	1%	2.68%	1.68%
Hawaii	1%	2.63%	1.63%

State	2015 % of Black state legislators	2021 % of Black state legislators	% increase in Black state legislature composition
Indiana	8%	9.33%	1.33%
Arizona	1%	2.22%	1.22%
Illinois	18%	19.21%	1.21%
Iowa	3%	4.00%	1.00%
South Dakota	0%	0.95%	0.95%
Florida	16%	16.88%	0.88%
Kentucky	5%	5.80%	0.80%
Texas	10%	10.50%	0.50%
West Virginia	2%	2.24%	0.24%
Vermont	1%	1.11%	0.11%
Wyoming	1%	1.11%	0.11%
Nebraska	4%	4.08%	0.08%
Maine	1%	1.06%	0.06%
New York	15%	15.02%	0.02%
Massachusetts	3%	3.00%	0.00%
Montana	0%	0.00%	0.00%
North Dakota	0%	0.00%	0.00%
New Hampshire	1%	0.94%	-0.06%
Tennessee	13%	12.88%	-0.12%
Kansas	5%	4.85%	-0.15%
Arkansas	11%	10.37%	-0.63%
Idaho	1%	0.00%	-1.00%
Utah	2%	0.96%	-1.04%
Alabama	24%	22.86%	-1.14%
California	9%	6.67%	-2.33%