



Analysis of  
Environmental Voting Records  
of  
Women  
in the  
United States Senate  
and the  
House of Representatives  
1983 - 2002

Prepared for  
**RACHEL'S NETWORK**

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## Summary

In both the House and Senate women's environmental voting records were consistently better than men's as scored by the League of Conservation Voters. In the Senate there were two exceptions; from 1983-86 there were only two women Senators, both Republican, and from 1999-2002 Democratic men scored slightly better than women.

The differences have become more dramatic in recent years. This is primarily due to the fact that as the numbers of women have increased in both bodies, greater percentages have been Democrats. Democrats have consistently scored much higher than men. The Congress has become much more partisan in recent years.

## Discussion

This analysis covers the environmental voting records of women vs. men for period from the 98<sup>th</sup> through the 107<sup>th</sup> Congresses, 1983-2003, as reflected by the score assigned by the League of Conservation Voters.

### Senate

In the Senate Republican women's scores were dramatically higher than men's in the last decade, (Figure 1). The average difference during the period analyzed was 12.8%, women 58.9% and men 46.1% (Table 1). The difference is particularly strong among Republicans (Figure 4) but is still noticeable among Democrats (Figure 3) except for the last two Congresses, 1999-2002. The increasingly partisan behavior of the Senate is well illustrated by Figure 2. The gender differences for Republican women may not be statistically significant since there were relatively few women Republicans during this period.

Figure 9 shows the growth in the number of women in the Senate from 1983 to 2002

### House

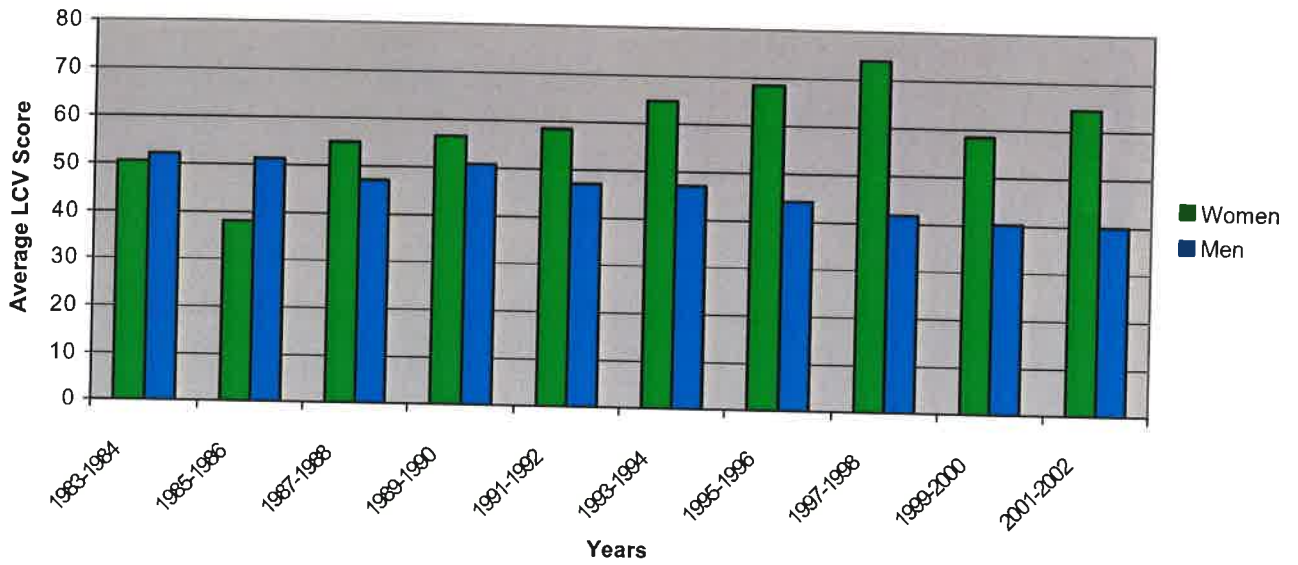
The gender differences in the House were more pronounced than the Senate. The average LCV score for women was 65.0% and for men 47.7%, for a 17.3% difference. Thus women scored 36% higher during the period analyzed (Chart 2). Women scored better in each of the 10 Congresses (Figure 5) and for both Democrats (Figure 7) and Republicans (Figure 8). The partisan differences have also grown alarmingly (Figure 6)

Figure 10 shows the growth in the number of women in the House of Representatives from 1983 to 2002

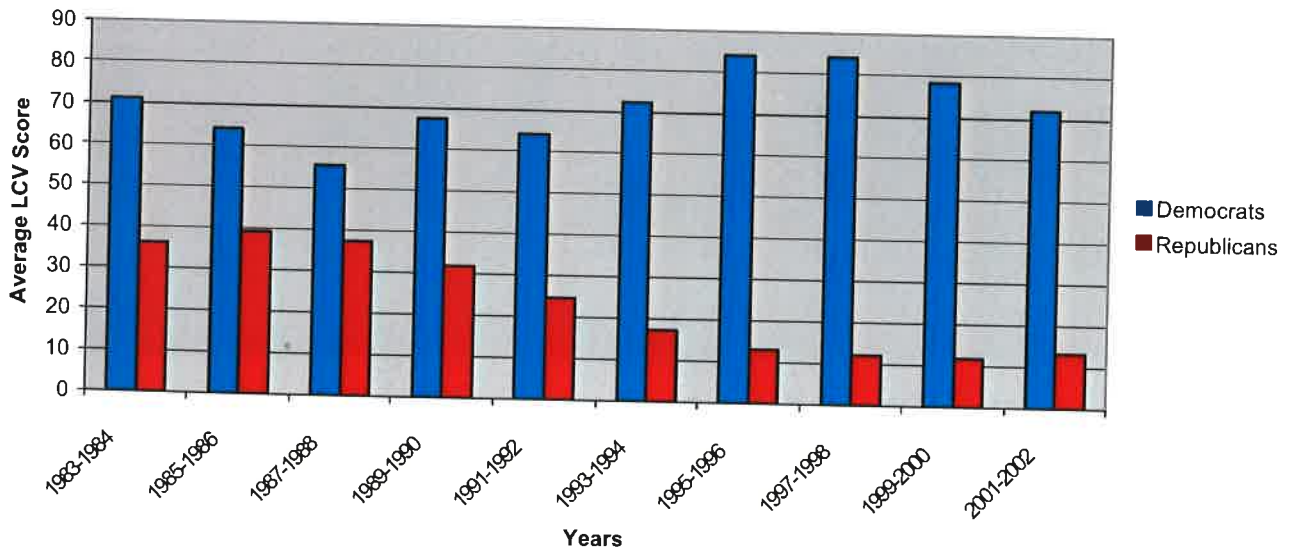
### Women in Congress

As background information the number of women in Congress is displayed as a percentage of the total membership in Figure 10 for the period 1983-2003 and in Figure 11 for the entire period since the election of the first woman, Jeanette Rankin, to the House in 1917. Table 3 shows the data in numeric format.

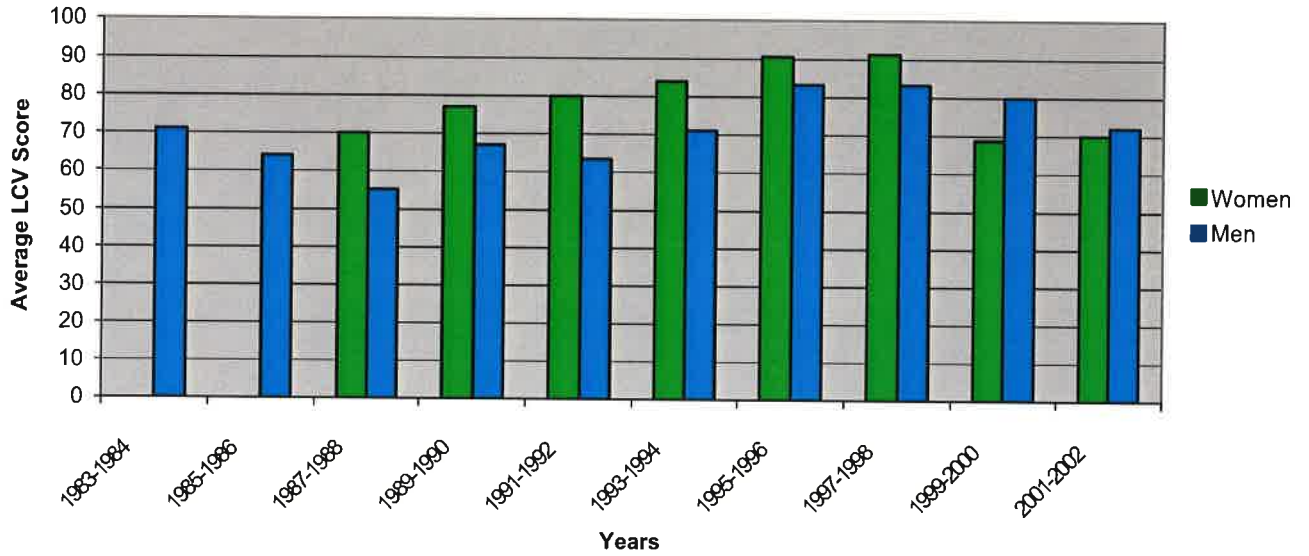
**Figure 1**  
**United States Senate - All Parties**



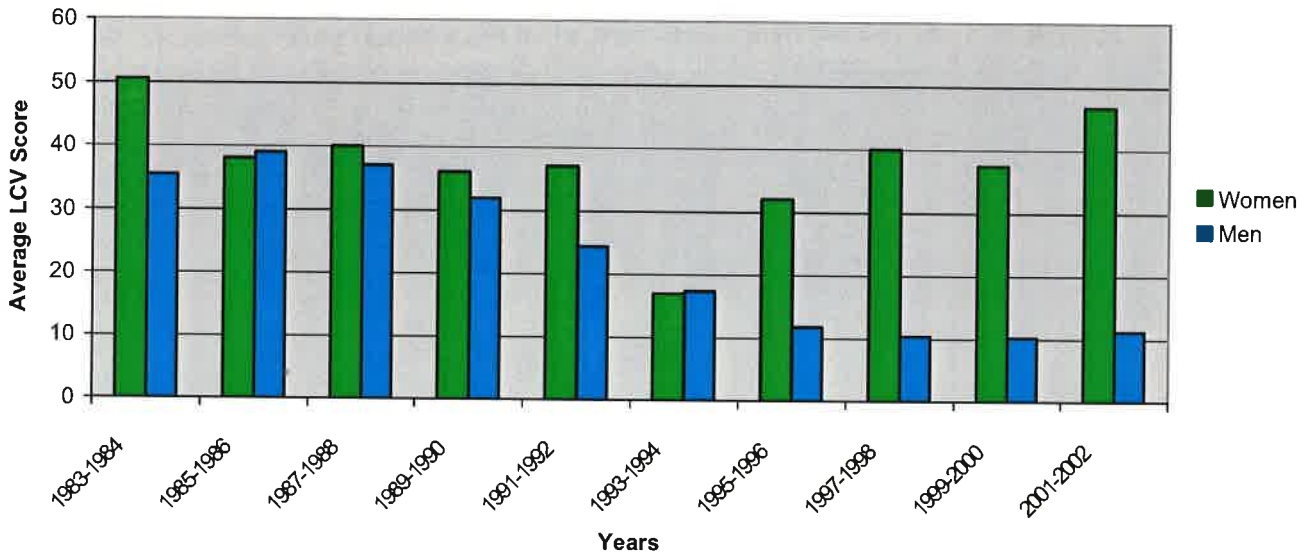
**Figure 2**  
**United States Senate by Party**



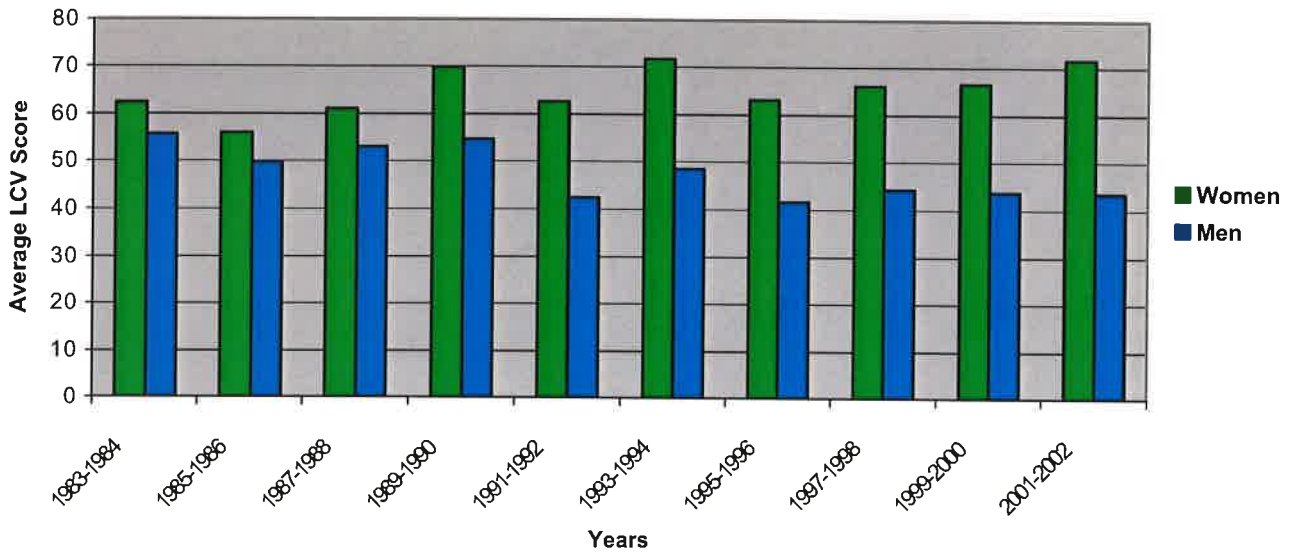
**Figure 3**  
**United States Senate - Democrats**



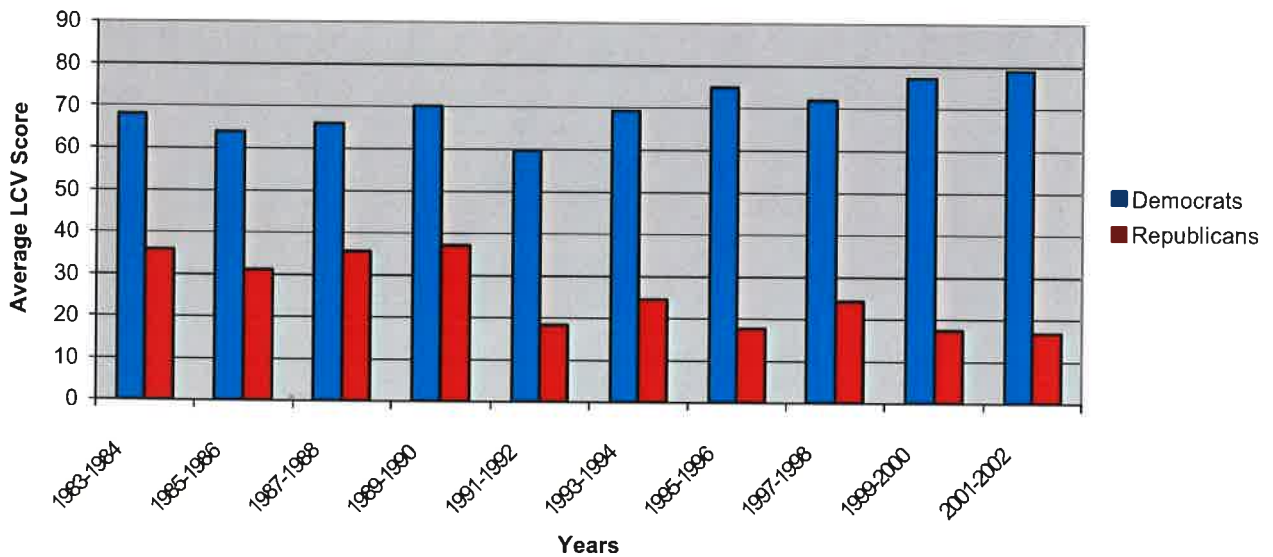
**Figure 4**  
**United States Senate - Republicans**



**Figure 5**  
**House of Representatives - All Parties**

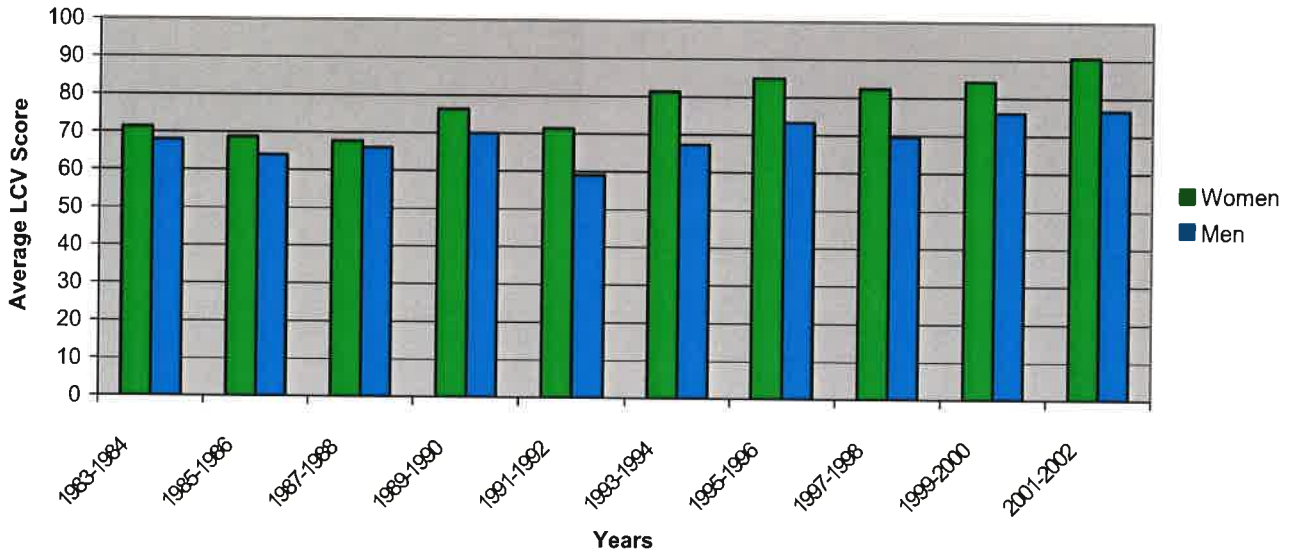


**Figure 6**  
**House of Representatives by Party**

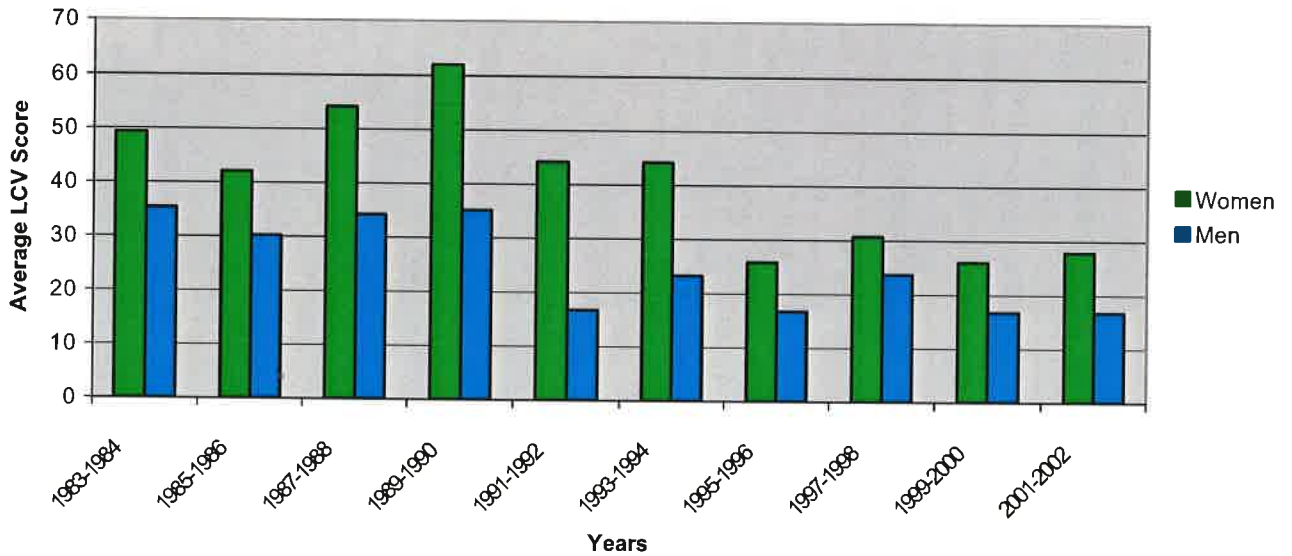




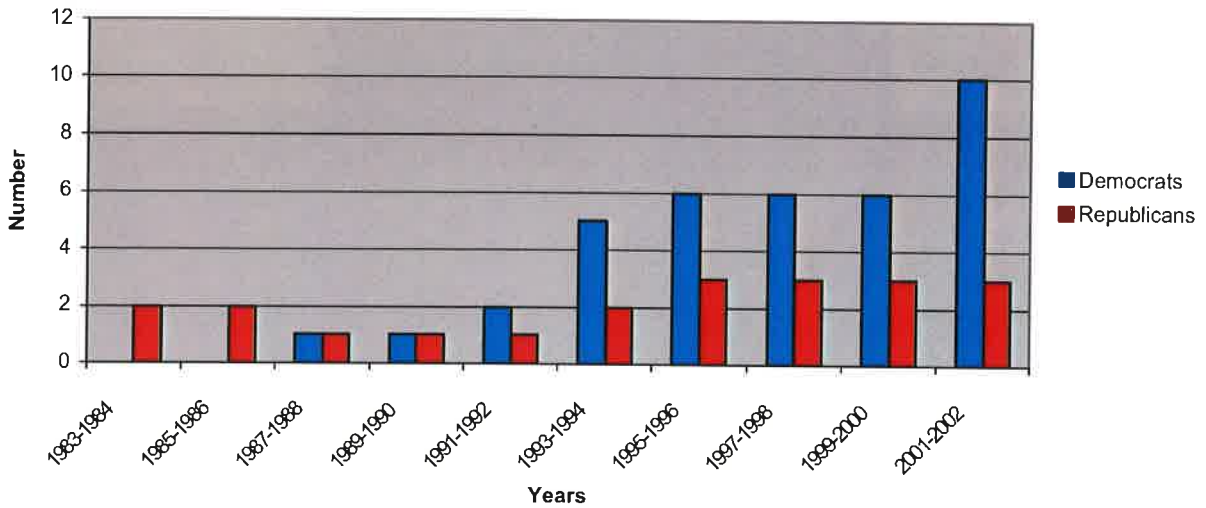
**Figure 7**  
**House of Representatives - Democrats**



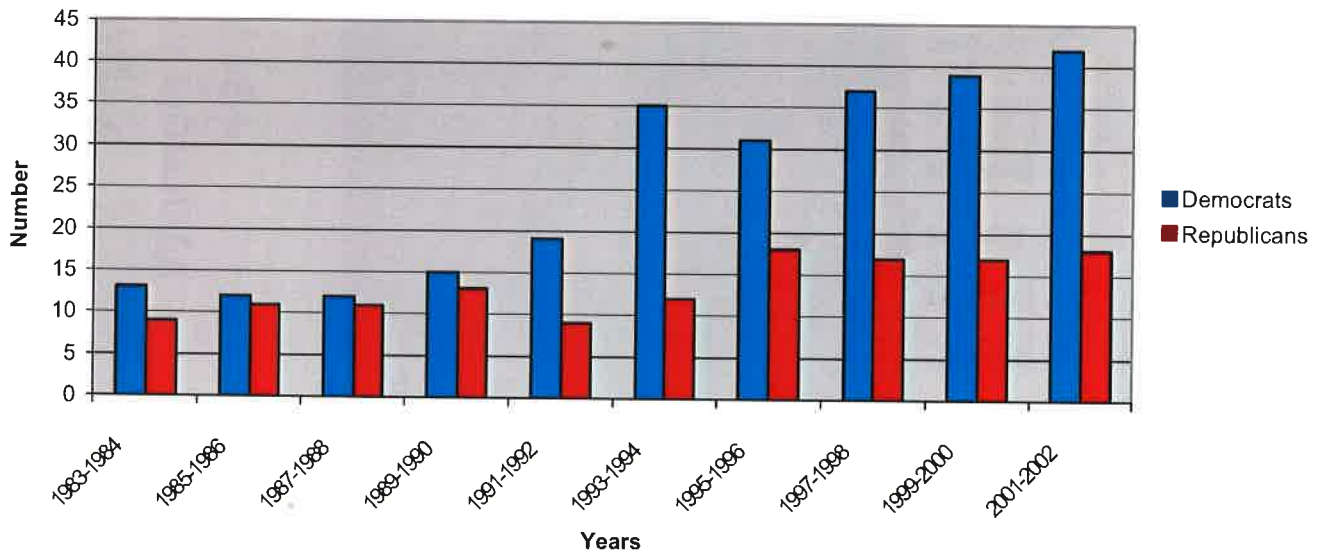
**Figure 8**  
**House of Representatives - Republicans**



**Figure 9**  
**Women in United States Senate by Party**

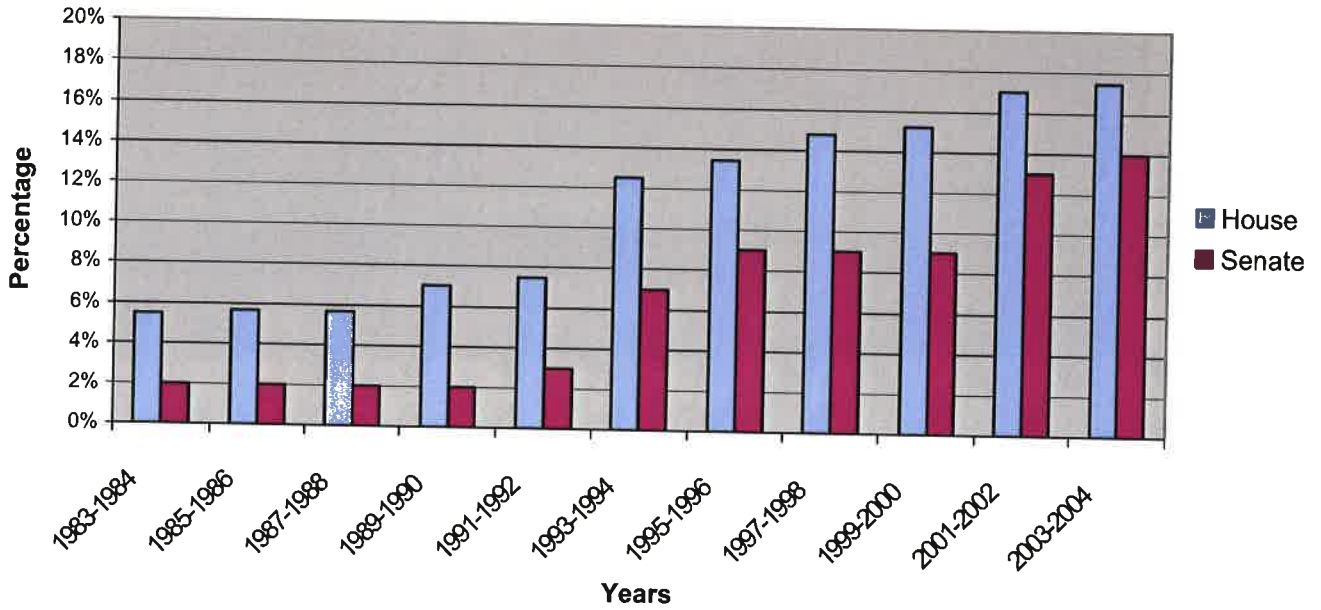


**Figure 10**  
**Women in House of Representatives by Party**

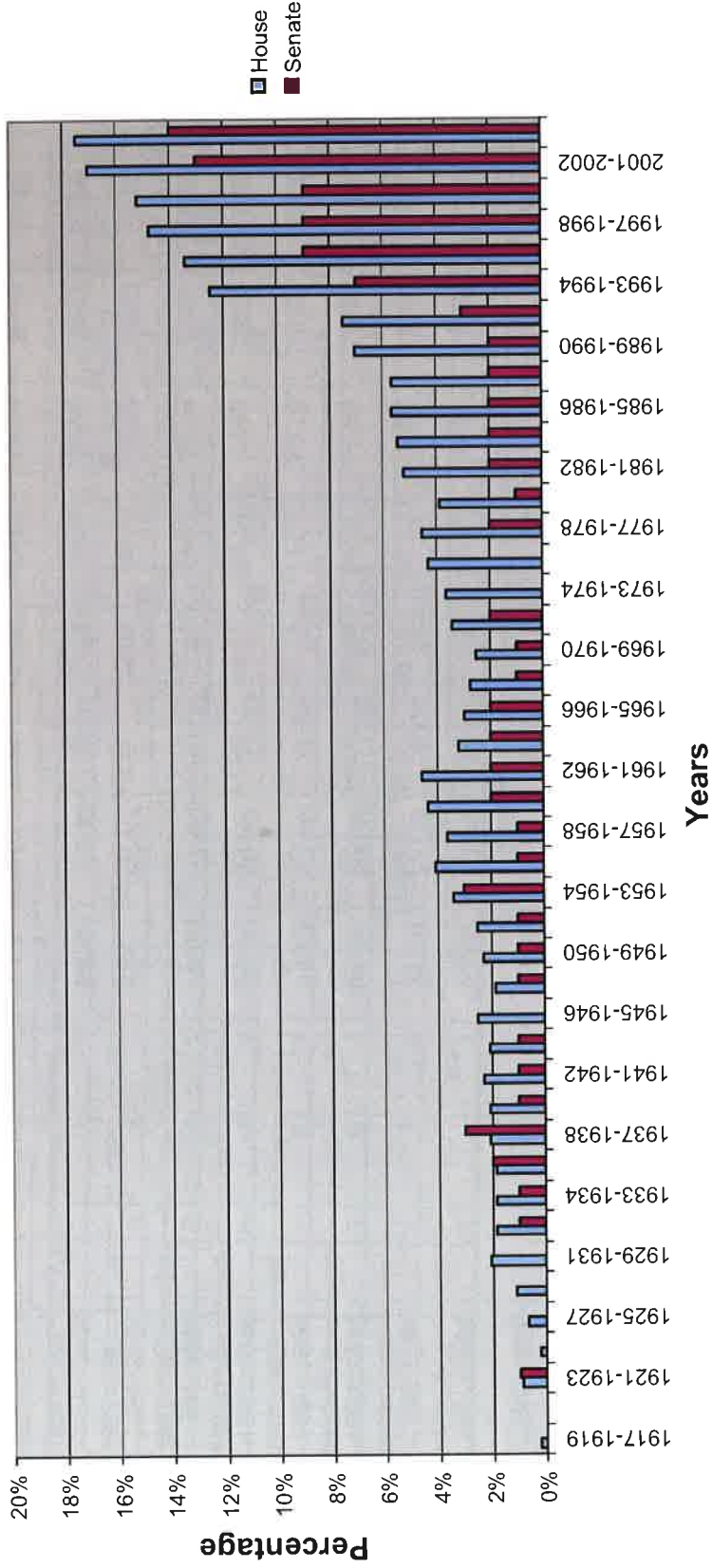




**Figure 11**  
**Women in Congress**  
**1983-2003**



# Figure 12 Women in Congress 1917-2003



# Table 1 - United States Senate

Congress	Years	No. Women			Women Average LCV			Men Average LCV			All Average LCV		
		All	Dem	Rep	All	Dem	Rep	All	Dem	Rep	All	Dem	Rep
98th	1983-1984	2	0	2	50.50		50.50	52.03	71.00	35.44	52.00	71.00	36.00
99th	1985-1986	2	0	2	38.00		38.00	51.27	64.00	39.04	51.00	64.00	39.00
100th	1987-1988	2	1	1	55.00	70.00	40.00	46.99	55.24	37.09	47.15	55.51	37.15
101st	1989-1990	2	1	1	56.50	77.00	36.00	50.70	67.09	31.91	50.82	67.27	32.00
102nd	1991-1992	3	2	1	58.50	80.00	37.00	47.11	63.52	24.27	47.33	64.11	24.56
103rd	1993-1994	7	5	2	64.71	83.80	17.00	47.00	71.11	17.36	48.24	72.24	17.34
104th	1995-1996	9	6	3	68.50	90.40	32.00	44.04	83.26	11.84	46.00	84.00	13.00
105th	1997-1998	9	6	3	74.00	91.00	40.00	41.62	83.23	10.40	44.53	84.27	12.02
106th	1999-2000	9	6	3	58.33	68.83	37.33	40.09	79.92	10.21	41.73	78.44	11.69
107th	2001-2002	13	10	3	64.62	70.00	46.67	40.00	71.84	11.13	43.20	71.84	13.31

## Table 2 – House of Representatives

Congress	Years	No. Women				Women Average LCV			Men Average LCV			All Average LCV		
		All	Voting	Dem	Rep	All	Dem	Rep	All	Dem	Rep	All	Dem	Rep
98th	1983-1984	22	22	13	9	62.23	71.23	49.22	55.67	67.84	35.24	56.00	68.00	36.00
99th	1985-1986	23	23	12	11	55.91	68.58	42.09	49.67	63.77	30.29	50.00	64.00	31.00
100th	1987-1988	23	23	12	11	61.09	67.58	54.00	53.09	65.88	34.25	53.51	65.96	35.47
101st	1989-1990	29	28	15	13	69.68	76.27	62.08	54.70	69.85	35.23	55.67	70.22	37.22
102nd	1991-1992	30	28	19	9	62.54	71.26	44.11	42.50	58.80	16.88	43.79	59.69	18.34
103rd	1993-1994	48	47	35	12	71.64	81.06	44.17	48.54	67.45	23.22	51.04	69.30	24.65
104th	1995-1996	50	49	31	18	63.10	84.77	25.78	41.61	73.20	16.90	44.04	74.96	17.60
105th	1997-1998	56	54	37	17	65.96	82.22	30.59	44.27	69.59	23.65	46.97	71.86	24.17
106th	1999-2000	58	56	39	17	66.63	84.26	26.18	43.72	75.88	16.78	46.68	77.43	17.50
107th	2001-2002	62	60	42	18	71.72	90.52	27.83	43.31	76.41	16.79	47.23	79.22	16.79

## Table 3 – Number of Women in Congress

Congress	Years	Number				Percent	
		Total	House	Del.	Senate	House	Senate
65th	1917-1919	1	1	3	0	0.2%	0.0%
66th	1919-1921	0	0	3	0	0.0%	0.0%
67th	1921-1923	4	3	3	1	0.9%	1.0%
68th	1923-1925	1	1	3	0	0.2%	0.0%
69th	1925-1927	3	3	3	0	0.7%	0.0%
70th	1927-1929	5	5	3	0	1.1%	0.0%
71st	1929-1931	9	9	3	0	2.1%	0.0%
72nd	1931-1933	8	7	3	1	1.8%	1.0%
73rd	1933-1934	8	7	3	1	1.8%	1.0%
74th	1935-1936	8	6	3	2	1.8%	2.0%
75th	1937-1938	9	6	3	3	2.1%	3.0%
76th	1939-1940	9	8	3	1	2.1%	1.0%
77th	1941-1942	10	9	3	1	2.3%	1.0%
78th	1943-1944	9	8	3	1	2.1%	1.0%
79th	1945-1946	11	11	3	0	2.5%	0.0%
80th	1947-1948	8	7	3	1	1.8%	1.0%
81st	1949-1950	10	9	3	1	2.3%	1.0%
82nd	1951-1952	11	10	3	1	2.5%	1.0%
83rd	1953-1954	15	12	3	3	3.4%	3.0%
84th	1955-1956	18	17	3	1	4.1%	1.0%
85th	1957-1958	16	15	3	1	3.7%	1.0%
86th	1959-1960	19	17	1	2	4.4%	2.0%
87th	1961-1962	20	18	1	2	4.6%	2.0%
88th	1963-1964	14	12	1	2	3.2%	2.0%
89th	1965-1966	13	11	1	2	3.0%	2.0%
90th	1967-1968	12	11	5	1	2.7%	1.0%
91st	1969-1970	11	10	5	1	2.5%	1.0%
92nd	1971-1972	15	13	5	2	3.4%	2.0%
93rd	1973-1974	16	16	5	0	3.6%	0.0%
94th	1975-1976	19	19	5	0	4.3%	0.0%
95th	1977-1978	20	18	5	2	4.5%	2.0%
96th	1979-1980	17	16	5	1	3.9%	1.0%
97th	1981-1982	23	21	5	2	5.2%	2.0%
98th	1983-1984	24	22	5	2	5.5%	2.0%
99th	1985-1986	25	23	5	2	5.7%	2.0%
100th	1987-1988	25	23	5	2	5.7%	2.0%
101st	1989-1990	31	29	5	2	7.0%	2.0%
102nd	1991-1992	33	30	5	3	7.5%	3.0%
103rd	1993-1994	55	48	5	7	12.5%	7.0%
104th	1995-1996	59	50	5	9	13.4%	9.0%
105th	1997-1998	65	56	5	9	14.8%	9.0%
106th	1999-2000	67	58	5	9	15.2%	9.0%
107th	2001-2002	75	62	5	13	17.0%	13.0%
108th	2003-2004	77	63	5	14	17.5%	14.0%

Prior to 1934 the Congress convened in March. After on January 3.

The number of delegates was used to add to 435 in calculating the percentage. The delegate count includes both men and women.

## Methodology

Two primary sources of data were used:

- The published *Scorecards* of the League of Conservation Voters, 1983-2002, and
- *Women in the United States Congress: 1917-2001*, Congressional Research Service, Updated August 20, 2001
- 

The data was aggregated by the two year period covered by each Congress, primarily because during the period 1983-1988 the League of Conservation Voters scorecards were produced only for a full Congress and did not produce a separate score for each year. The CRS report was used to assign genders to the members.

## Notes on the Data

When I began the analysis I had assumed that getting the data would be fairly easy. This turned out not to be the case. Although the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) has the scorecards for the past 24 years on their web site, [www.lcv.org](http://www.lcv.org), some of this data was missing pages and in other cases was illegible. Only for the past 3 Congresses was the data directly usable. For the preceding years it was necessary to use optical character recognition with substantial manual checking. I am recommending to LCV that they remedy these defects to make the data more usable to others who may want to research it.

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