

UNITED WE NATIONAL CIVIC ENGAGEMENT RESEARCH REVEALS WOMEN ARE SIGNIFICANTLY UNDERREPRESENTED ON LOCAL APPOINTED BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

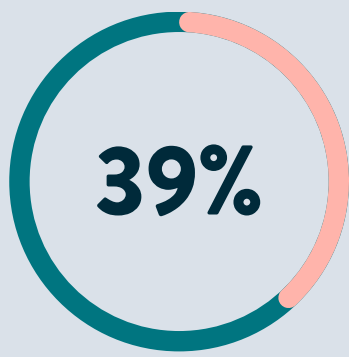
To understand and take necessary steps to create greater balance in gender equity on local boards, United WE commissioned new research to collect data and analyze women's participation on appointed boards and commissions in cities across the U.S.

"My role is to improve the lives of those with disabilities, including making the city more accessible. I'm working with engineering, planning and design consultants, and key stakeholders, such as the Association of the Blind, the Alzheimer's Association and others, to make the sidewalks and city more accessible."

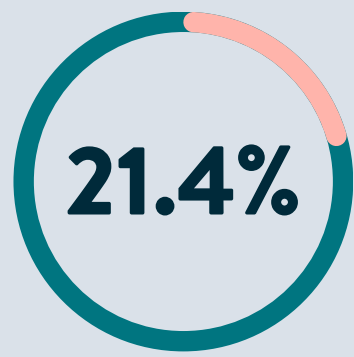
- Nikosi Rodrigues, Fort Worth, Texas Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities



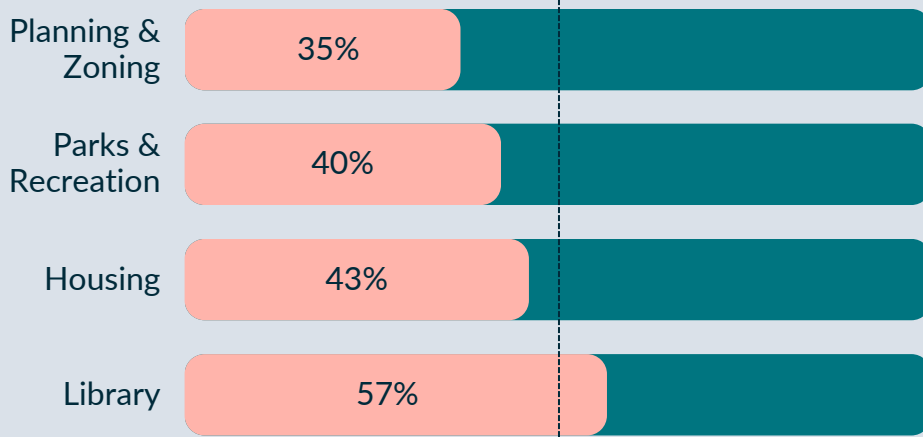
Research Findings



Of the 5,125 board seats analyzed, only 39% are occupied by women even though women make up just over half of the U.S. population.



Women are underrepresented in more than three-fourths of cities. At most, only 21 cities, or 21.4%, meet or exceed a 50% threshold of women on boards.



Women are underrepresented on Planning and Zoning, Parks and Recreation, and Housing boards where highly impactful decisions are made about land use, green space, and affordable housing. On Library boards, women occupy five to six out of every 10 seats. ¹

"When women aren't on boards where high-level policy decisions are made then, things are not going to change. Women need to get more plugged in and comfortable with the value that they can bring. Being appointed to this board allows me to leverage my role at Everygy to help people gain access to affordable housing and other services, such as utility payment assistance, energy savings tools and financial literacy training. It's been a perfect match."

- Elizabeth Danforth, Kansas City, Missouri Housing Authority Board of Commissioners



Optimism for the Future

As more citizens and their respective cities and counties learn about board participation, there will be greater change.

"As our research shows, there are still significant gender gaps in local and statewide boards and commissions nationwide — meaning women's voices aren't fully represented in policymaking. That's why we developed the Appointments Project and are determined to make sure women are encouraged to pursue positions of civic leadership across the country. We know when women have a seat at the table, everyone benefits."

- Wendy Doyle, President & CEO of United WE



To read the entire research report, click [here](#).

1. Research analysis shows no regional differences in women's representation across board types. In every region, women are overrepresented on Library boards and are most underrepresented on Planning and Zoning boards.