

## CHAPTER 21 / Women in the Legislature, 1971–2007

There were 19 women out of 100 delegates to the constitutional convention. The 1972 Constitution established a Senate made up of 50 members elected to four-year terms and a House of Representatives made up of 100 members elected to two-year terms. Review the information in the chart below, and then answer the following questions.

Women Legislators 1971–2007

|        | '71 | '73 | '75 | '77 | '79 | '81 | '83 | '85 | '87 | '89 | '91 | '93 | '95 | '97 | '99 | '01 | '03 | '05 | '07 |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Senate | 1   | 2   | 4   | 2   | 1   | 4   | 3   | 5   | 6   | 6   | 8   | 8   | 9   | 8   | 8   | 7   | 8   | 7   | 9   |
| House  | 1   | 7   | 10  | 12  | 13  | 13  | 16  | 17  | 17  | 21  | 22  | 21  | 27  | 26  | 29  | 26  | 29  | 30  | 29  |

- What *percentage* of senators were women in 1971? \_\_\_\_\_ In 2007? \_\_\_\_\_
- What *percentage* of representatives were women in 1971? \_\_\_\_\_ In 2007? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which part of the legislative branch had a greater increase in the *percentage* of women members over the period shown in the chart? \_\_\_\_\_
- What *percentage* of delegates to the convention were women? \_\_\_\_\_
- Compared to the 1971 and 1973 legislative sessions, do you think the number of women at the constitutional convention was surprising? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Critical Thinking

What factors do you think are most important to explaining the increase of women in the legislature?

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