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RECORD NUMBER OF WOMEN WILL VIE FOR NJ LEGISLATIVE SEATS IN 2007

Record numbers of women won nominations for New Jersey's Senate and Assembly in the June 5 primaries, according to the [Center for American Women and Politics \(CAWP\)](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu), a unit of the [Eagleton Institute of Politics](http://www.eagletoninstituteofpolitics.org) at Rutgers.

Forty women (26 Democrats and 14 Republicans) will vie for Assembly seats, besting the previous record of 39 set in 2001. Fifteen women (11D, 4 R) won senatorial primaries, topping the previous high of 12 in 2001. (For a complete candidate list, see www.cawp.rutgers.edu.)

"New Jersey has a long-standing weak record on electing women, but the growing number of women candidates bodes well for our future," commented CAWP director Debbie Walsh.

Walsh noted that CAWP's own bipartisan efforts to encourage women to run were beginning to pay off. Fifteen of the women running for the legislature this year have participated in the Center's *Ready to Run*[™] training for potential women candidates. "Research has shown that women need to be encouraged to run, so we're doing that – and also helping them build the skills and networks to win."

The candidates for the Senate include four African American women, two Latinas and one Asian American. The Assembly candidates include six African American women and four Latinas.

The most significant increases are among Democratic women, with 26 seeking Assembly seats, up from 21 in 2001. The number of Republican women running for the legislature has decreased, with just 14 winning Assembly nominations, compared with 18 in 2001 and 2003. Four Republican women are running for the Senate this year, compared with 5 in 2003 and 6 in 2001.

One incumbent Democrat lost her bid for re-election, and two Republican incumbents did not seek to retain their seats: one Republican assemblywoman is challenging a Democratic woman senator in her district, and one Republican senator retired.

New Jersey legislative elections take place according to an irregular pattern, as illustrated below. The earlier records were set in 2001, the most recent year completely comparable to 2007, when there were races for Senate and Assembly but not for Governor.

About CAWP

The Center for American Women and Politics, a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is a university-based research, education and public service center. Its mission is to promote greater knowledge and understanding about women's changing relationship to politics and government and to enhance women's influence and leadership in public life. CAWP is a leading authority in its field and a respected bridge between the academic and political worlds.

Year	NJ Women Assembly Candidates in General Election				NJ Women Senate Candidates in General Election				Offices Elected in This Year
	Incum- bents	Open Seats	Challen-gers	Total	Incum bents	Open Seats	Challen- gers	Total	
2007	14(10D, 4R)	16 (9D,7R)	10 (7D,3R)	40 (26D, 14R)	6 (5D, 1R)	4 (4D)	5 (2D, 3R)	15 (11D, 4R)	Senate, Assembly
2005	11(9D,2R)	6 (2D, 4R)	16 (7D, 9R)	33 (18D, 15R)	--	--	--	--	Assembly, Governor
2003	13 (8D, 5R)	5 (4D, 1R)	16 (4D, 12R)	34 (16D, 18R)	5(3D,2R)	2 (2R)	5 (4D, 1R)	12 (7D,5R)	Senate, Assembly
2001	12 (8D, 4R)	6 (3D, 3R)	21 (10D, 11R)	39 (21D, 18R)	3(1D,2R)	2 (2D)	7 (3D, 4R)	12 (6D, 6R)	Senate, Assembly, Gov.
1999	16 (9D, 7R)	0	14 (7D, 7R)	30 (16D, 14R)	--	--	--	--	Assembly Only
1997	14 (7D, 7R)	1 (1R)	22 (13D, 9R)	37 (20D, 17R)	2 (1D, 1R)	1 (1D)	6 (5D, 1R)	9 (7D,2R)	Senate, Assembly, Gov.
1995	14 (6D, 8R)	4 (2D, 2R)	15 (12D, 3R)	33 (20D, 13R)	--	--	--	--	Assembly Only