

WOMEN COUNCILLORS IN THE COMMONWEALTH

The Commonwealth Women in Local Government Network (ComWLG) seeks to promote women's political inclusion, to support more women to get involved in local government as politicians and practitioners, and to increase the influence of women in the decisions made about local priorities. For more information, www.clgf.org.uk

Commonwealth Country	% of women councillors	Election year (latest available)	Elected/Appointed/Reserved
Antigua and Barbuda	66.6	2021	Elected
Australia	33.9	2018	Elected
Bahamas	28.6	2022	Elected
Bangladesh	23.3 ¹	2021	Elected + some reserved (one-third of union parishad, municipality and city corporation seats are reserved for women)
Barbados	Not available	Not available	Appointed
Belize	31.5	2021	Elected
Botswana	14.9	2019	Elected
Brunei Darussalam	No local gov	Not applicable	Not applicable
Cameroon	24.5	2020	Elected
Canada	31	varies	Elected
Cyprus	16.1	2016	Elected
Dominica	45	Varies (data provided in 2023)	Elected
Eswatini	14.2	2018	Elected
Fiji	Not available	No local elections since 2005	Currently no elected councillors
Gabon	Not available	2023	Elected
The Gambia	15.8	2023	Elected
Ghana	3.8	2019	Elected
Grenada	No local gov	Not applicable	Not applicable
Guyana	38.7	2018	Elected
India	45.6	2018	Elected + some reserved (one-third of seats across all types of local government bodies must be reserved for women, raised to 50% in many States)
Jamaica	18.3	2016	Elected
Kenya	35.2	2022	One third reserved for women
Kiribati	7.2	2020	Elected
Lesotho	41.3	2017	One third reserved
Malawi	14.6	2019	elected
Malaysia	15.6	Not applicable (data from last LG appointment in 2020)	Appointed
Maldives	39.5	2021	Elected
Malta	26.3	2019	Elected
Mauritius	24.4	2020	Elected
Mozambique	26.4	2023	Elected
Namibia	44.9	2020	Elected
Nauru	No local gov	Not applicable	Not applicable
New Zealand	45.5	2022	Elected
Nigeria	11.6	2022	Elected
Pakistan	19.9	2019	Elected
Papua New Guinea	Not available		Elected
Rwanda	47	2021	30% reserved
Saint Kitts and Nevis	42.8 (Nevis Island assembly only)	2022	Elected
Saint Lucia	Not available		Appointed
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Not available		Appointed
Samoa	Not available		Elected
Seychelles	Not available		Appointed
Sierra Leone	26.4	2023	Elected
Singapore	No local gov		Appointed
Solomon Islands	Not available		Elected
South Africa	37	2021	Elected
Sri Lanka	10.9 ²	2018 (2022 elections postponed on several occasions)	25% seats reserved for women
Tanzania	30.6	2019	Elected
Togo	12.9	2019	Elected
Tonga	Not available		Elected
Trinidad and Tobago	38.7	2019	Elected
Tuvalu	12.5	2020	Elected
Uganda	22.1 ³	2021	30% of seats reserved for women
United Kingdom	32.9	2021-2023	Elected
Vanuatu	10.8	2020	Elected
Zambia	8	2021	Elected

Average across Commonwealth : 27% (*average across latest known year for the 42 countries with available data)

- 1 There are no reservations across all levels of local government at the rural level therefore the percentage does not add up to one third of all council seats across the country.
- 2 Although a minimum 25 percent seats in each council are reserved for women, if the candidate quotas produce less than 25 percent representation, the Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) lacks an enforcement mandate on anything beyond the candidate nomination process.
- 3 The percentage is under the reservation percentage due to a year where no reservations were undertaken for women as well as the revision of constituency boundaries which had an impact on the number of female councillors.

