

A woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a black and white striped jacket, is speaking at a podium. She has her hands raised in a gesture. The podium has a microphone and a sign that reads "APAICS ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AND ISLANDIAN COMMUNITIES". The background is dark and out of focus.

INSIDE

Past and present:
AAPI women in Elected Office

APAICS

AAPI WOMEN IN U.S. GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT HISTORY

BY LEVEL:

U.S. Supreme Court

There have been no AAPI women appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.¹

U.S. Senate

Senator Mazie Hirono was the first AAPI woman elected to the US Senate in 2012.² There have been 3 AAPI woman to serve in the US Senate, all of whom are currently still in office: Sen. Hirono (D-HI), Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA).²

U.S. House of Representatives

- Representative Patsy Mink was the first AAPI woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964.³
- There have been 11 AAPI women to serve as voting members of the U.S. House of Representatives: Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HI), Rep. Pat Saiki (R-HI), Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA), then-Rep. Mazie Hirono (D-CA), Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI), then-Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY), Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), and Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL).⁴
- 2 women have since been elected to the US Senate: Senator Mazie Hirono and Senator Tammy Duckworth. 10 women are currently serving in the 116th Congress.⁵
- 1 AAPI woman has served as a non-voting delegate member of Congress: Delegate Amata Radewagen (R-AS) was elected in 2014 and continues to serve in the 116th Congress.⁶

Presidential Candidates:

The 3 AAPI women to run for US President are: Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HI), Sen. Kamala D. Harris (D-CA), and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI).



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Presidential Cabinet Members

Secretary Elaine Chao is the only AAPI woman to serve as a US Cabinet Secretary. She first served under President George W. Bush as Secretary of Labor in 2001 and was appointed again to be Secretary of Transportation in 2017 by President Donald Trump.⁷

U.S. Treasurers

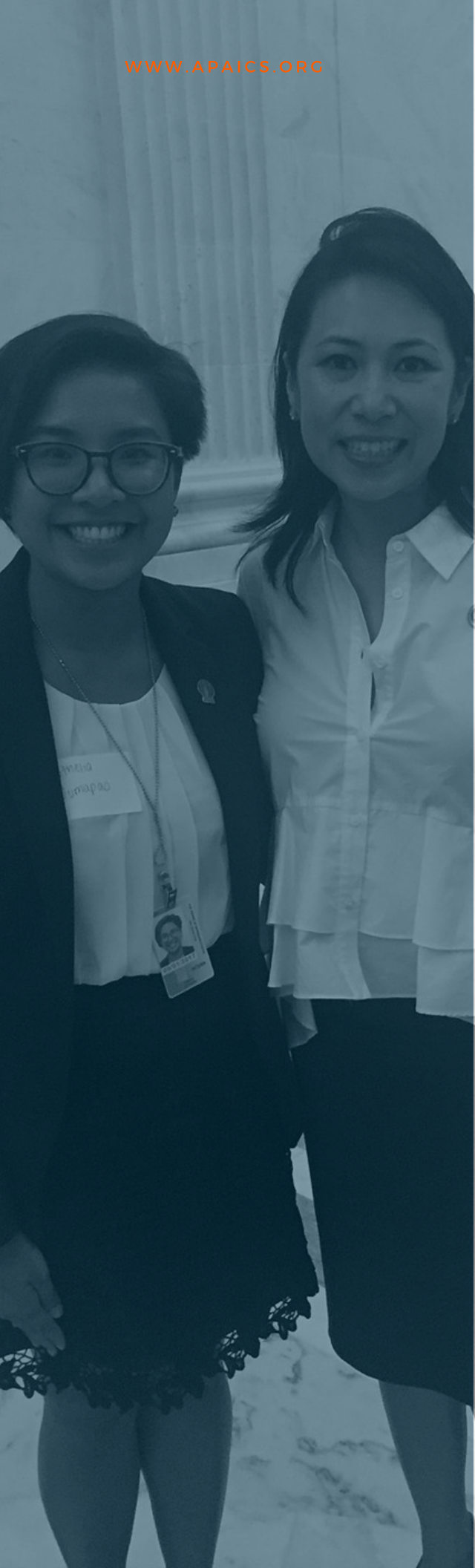
There have been no AAPI women appointed to serve as Treasurers of the United States.⁸

U.S. Governors

Then-Governor Nikki Haley was the first and only AAPI woman elected as governor of a state; she was elected in 2010 as governor of South Carolina.⁹ Governor Lou Leon Guerrero is the first AAPI woman to serve as governor of a US Territory (Guam).¹⁰

Statewide Executives

9 AAPI women have served in statewide elective executive offices: Secretary March Fong Eu as Secretary of State of California 1975-1993, Lt. Gov. Jean Sadako King as Lt. Governor of Hawaii 1979-1982, Secretary Cheryl Lau as Secretary of State of Nevada 1991-1995, then-Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono as Lt. Governor of Hawaii 1995-2003, Acting Lt. Gov. Mona Pasquil as Acting Lt. Governor of California 2010-2010, then-Atty. Gen. Kamala Harris as Attorney General of California 2011-2017, Betty Yee as State Controller of California 2015-present, Fiona Ma as California State Treasurer 2018-present, and Kimberly Yee as Arizona State Treasurer 2018-present.¹¹



State Legislative Leadership

Then-State senator Colleen Hanabusa was the first and only AAPI woman to lead a state legislature; she served as Hawaii's Senate president from 2007-2011.¹²

Mayors

There have been 4 AAPI women who have served as mayor in one of the largest 100 cities in the nation: Mayor Eunice Sato of Long Beach, CA 1980-1982, Mayor Jean Quan of Oakland, CA 2011-2015, Mayor Karen Goh of Bakersfield, CA 2016-present, and Mayor Lily Mei of Fremont, CA 2016-present.¹³



CURRENT AAPI WOMEN ELECTED OFFICIALS

Congress

There are 10 AAPI women in the 116th Congress.¹⁴

There are 3 women in the Senate: Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI), and Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA), and 7 women in the US House of Representatives: Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA), Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY), Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), and Del. Amata Radewagen (R-AS).¹⁵

Statewide Executives

There are currently 3 AAPI women serving in a statewide executive role: California State Controller Betty Yee (serving since 2015), California State Treasurer Fiona Ma (serving since 2018), and Arizona State Treasurer Kimberly Yee (serving since 2018).¹⁶

State Legislature

There are currently 42 AAPI women serving in state legislatures across the country.¹⁷ There are 7,383 state legislators across the country, making AAPI women 0.5% of all state legislators.¹⁸

CITATIONS

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- 8- <https://home.treasury.gov/about/history/treasurers-of-the-united-states>
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