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Women in Primaries: A Study of 1990-2002 Primaries for the U.S. House of Representatives

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**WOMEN IN PRIMARIES: A STUDY OF 1990-2002 PRIMARIES FOR THE U.S.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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Currently women comprise over 50% of the US population, yet only 14% of our national legislators are female.

Given the assumption that adding women to the US legislature does make a difference in representative government, research into the factors of elections that lead to women gaining office is significant. It is thus important to probe the bottlenecks that limit the number of women gaining seats in the US legislature. Primaries are theorized as one such tangible bottleneck that a woman seeking national office must pass.

The present study examines the US House of Representatives' primary elections from 1990-2002. Empirical data was used in frequency, trend, and regression analyses to probe the frequency of female candidates, the success of such candidates, and the variables regarding the candidate and district. Results of the analyses will be discussed.