Demographics of the 116th Congress

Visualizing ethnic/gender diversity, gender composition, and more

January 8, 2019
Roadmap

- Ethnic/racial composition
- Gender composition
- LGBTQ+ representation
- Generational composition
- Religious composition
- Spotlight: House freshmen by age, race and gender
116th Congress (2019-2020) by ethnic/racial background

Senate

- White, 92
- African American, 3
- Hispanic, 3
- Asian/Pacific Islander, 3
- Native American, 0

House

- White, 327
- African American, 52
- Hispanic, 42
- Asian/Pacific Islander, 14
- Native American, 4

Sources: Add Source
The House and Senate have become more racially and ethnically diverse

Number of voting members of Congress that identify as a racial or ethnic minority, by year

Sources: Kristen Bialik and Jens Manuel Krogstad, “115th Congress sets new high for racial, ethnic diversity,” Pew Research Center, Jan. 24, 2017; Grace Panetta and Samantha Lee, “This one graphic shows how much more diverse the House of Representatives will become in January,” Business Insider, December 4, 2018.
Roadmap

- Ethnic/racial composition
- Gender composition
- LGBTQ+ representation
- Generational composition
- Religious composition
- Spotlight: House freshmen by age, race and gender
116th Congress (2019-2020) by gender

**Senate**
- Female: 24
- Male: 76

**House**
- Female: 102
- Male: 332

*1 House race remains uncalled


Alice Johnson | Slide last updated on: January 8, 2019
More Democratic women will serve in the 116th Congress than Republican women

An overview of women who will serve in the Senate and House, by party

- Republican incumbent
- Democratic incumbent
- Republican new member
- Democratic new member

Senate

- 15 Democratic incumbents
- 5 Republican incumbents
- 2 Democratic new members
- 1 Republican new member

House

- 54 Democratic incumbents
- 35 Republican incumbents
- 12 Republican new members
- 1 Democratic new member

Sources: “2018 Summary of Women Candidates,” Rutgers University
Women candidates in the midterm election broke a number of long-standing barriers when they won

Historic firsts as congressional candidates

Ayanna Pressley (MA)
First black woman in Congress from Massachusetts

Janet Mills (ME)
First female governor of Maine

Veronica Escobar (TX) & Sylvia Garcia (TX)
First Latinas in Congress from Texas

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY) & Abby Finkenauer (IA)
Youngest women elected to Congress

Marsha Blackburn (TN)
First woman senator from Tennessee

Jahana Hayes (CT)
First black woman in Congress from Connecticut

Deb Haaland (NM) & Sharice Davids (KS)
First Native American women in Congress

Rashida Tlaib (MI) & Ilhan Omar (MN)
First Muslim women in Congress

More women were elected this year than in any other congressional session

Number of newly elected (non-incumbent) women, by congressional session (65th to 116th)

AS OF NOVEMBER 28, 2018

The previously held record for newly elected women in Congress was in the 1992 elections, also dubbed the “Year of the Woman”

The number of total women in Congress has grown steadily since the first woman was elected in 1916

Number of women in the House and Senate

AS OF NOVEMBER 28, 2018

- Members of the House and Senate
- House only (including non-voting members)
- Senators only

Roadmap

- Ethnic/racial composition
- Gender composition
- LGBTQ+ representation
- Generational composition
- Religious composition
- Spotlight: House freshmen by age, race and gender
There are ten total Members of Congress who openly identify as LGBTQ+

116th Congress (2019-2020) by sexual orientation

NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN BOTH CHAMBERS OF CONGRESS

- Not openly LGBTQ+
- Openly gay
- Openly lesbian
- Openly bisexual

House

- 5 Not openly LGBTQ+
- 2 Openly gay
- 1 Openly lesbian
- 1 Openly bisexual

426

Senate

- 1 Not openly LGBTQ+
- 1 Openly gay
- 1 Openly lesbian

98

Sources: Daily Kos analysis of member demographics.

Danari White | Slide last updated on: January 8, 2019
There are five LGBTQ+ members returning to Congress (2019-2020)

**Senate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Party-State</th>
<th>First elected</th>
<th>Sexuality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tammy Baldwin</td>
<td>D-WI</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Lesbian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**House of Representatives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Party-State-District</th>
<th>First elected</th>
<th>Sexuality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Cicilline</td>
<td>D-RI-1</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Gay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Pocan</td>
<td>D-WI-2</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Gay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Takano</td>
<td>D-CA-41</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Gay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Patrick Maloney</td>
<td>D-NY-18</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Gay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Daily Kos analysis of member demographics

Slide updated: January 08, 2019
**Roadmap**

- Ethnic/racial composition
- Gender composition
- LGBTQ+ representation
- Generational composition
- Religious composition
- Spotlight: House freshmen by age, race and gender
Younger generations acquired a larger share of the House in the 2018 elections

Generational breakdown of the incoming and incumbent representatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>115th Congress</th>
<th>116th Congress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milennial (1981-1996)</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen X (1965-1980)</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boomer (1946-1964)</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silent (1928-1945)</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analysis

- The ages of the 116th Congress range from 29.2 to 85.6
- The median age of incoming House Republicans is 48.9, younger than that of continuing House Republicans (58.4)
- The median age of incoming House Democrats is 45.8, down from the median age of continuing members (65.3)

Roadmap

- Ethnic/racial composition
- Gender composition
- LGBTQ+ representation
- Generational composition
- Religious composition
- Spotlight: House freshmen by age, race and gender
Congress is slightly more religiously diverse in 2019 than it was in 2018

Religious composition of the House of Representatives
TOTAL NUMBER, 116th CONGRESS (2019-2020)

Highlights
• The 116th Congress has first two Muslim women to serve in the House of Representatives
• Christians in Congress are overrepresented; however, the combined chambers saw a 3% decrease in Christian membership following the 2018 midterm elections
• All Hindus, Muslims and Unitarians are in the House

Both chambers saw an increase in members who do not specify a religious affiliation

Religious composition of the Senate
TOTAL NUMBER, 116th CONGRESS (2019-2020)

- Democrats
- Republicans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mormon</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know/refused</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaffiliated</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlights
• The Senate gained its first member to identify as religiously unaffiliated with the election of Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)
• The Senate is less religiously diverse than the other Chamber, as all of the Hindus and Muslims are in the House
• The Senate has a higher percentage of Jewish members than the House, at 8% to 6%


Danari White | Slide last updated on: January 8, 2019
Protestants still comprise majorities in both chambers, but the share of this denomination has decreased over time

Changes in religious composition of Congress, 1961-2019


Danari White | Slide last updated on: January 8, 2019
Roadmap

- Ethnic/racial composition
- Gender composition
- LGBTQ+ representation
- Generational composition
- Religious composition

Spotlight: House freshmen by age, race and gender
The incoming House Democratic class will be among the youngest and most diverse yet

Proportion of House Democratic freshmen with selected characteristics

**Age**

- Silent Generation (born 1928-45), 2%
- Baby Boomers (born 1946-64), 24%
- Generation X (born 1965-79), 48%
- Millennials (born 1980- ), 27%

**Race/Ethnicity**

- White, 65%
- Hispanic, 14%
- Black, 14%
- Asian, 3%
- Native American, 3%

**Gender**

- Female, 56%
- Male, 44%

Sources: Daily Kos analysis of member demographics
The incoming House Republican class is less racially diverse than the previous House Republican class

Proportion of House Republican freshmen with selected characteristics

**Age**
- Silent Generation (born 1928-45), 3%
- Baby Boomers (born 1946-64), 33%
- Generation X (born 1965-79), 46%
- Millennials (born 1980-), 18%

**Race/Ethnicity**
- White, 97%
- Hispanic, 3%

**Gender**
- Male, 94%
- Female, 6%

Sources: Daily Kos analysis of member demographics