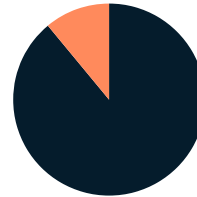


# 5 things you didn't know about the new Congress

We went beyond the spin and ran the numbers on the “most diverse Congress” in history.

## 1. It's not very new.

- 87% of House winners and 79% of Senate winners were incumbents; out of Congress' 535 members, *only 65 are new*.
- Only 8% of House races did not have an incumbent running
- Only 16 out of 435 House seats (4%) changed party



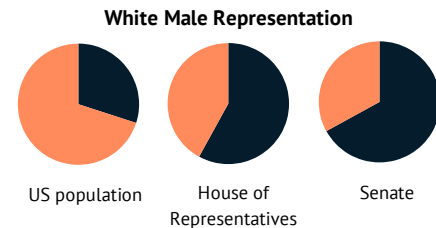
Out of Congress' 535 members, **only 65 are new.**

## 2. The advantages of incumbency prevent change, locking in the race and gender status quo.

- 61% of House incumbent candidates were white men
- 73% of Senate incumbent candidates were white men

## 3. The most diverse Congress ever is still overwhelmingly white and male.

- At 30% of the US population, white men are 58% of the 117th House of Representatives
- White men are 67% of Senators



## 4. Headlines about a Republican Party diversity “breakthrough” distract from a grim reality.

- The GOP flipped 12 House seats with women and people of color candidates, but 78% of Republican House candidates were men, and 81% were white.
- Republicans in the 117th House are 93% white, 86% male, and 82% white & male.
- Republicans in the Senate are 94% white, 82% male, and 76% white and male.
- Democratic House members almost exactly mirror the demographics of the country: 61% white (34% white men, 28% white women) and 38% people of color (20% men of color, 18% women of color).
- Senate Democrats are less reflective: 59% white men, 26% white women, and 8% women of color, and 6% men of color.

## 5. The glass ceiling isn't about to shatter.

- From 2016 to 2018, women increased by 24% in the House and 14% in the Senate, a massive acceleration over prior cycles. *At that pace of change, in theory, half the members of Congress could have been women in just 10 years.*
- But from 2018 to 2020, women increased by just 13% in the House and 9% in the Senate, putting the brakes on progress.

## Seeking additional demographic data about the political landscape?

The Campaign is available to generate custom data and analyses on the demographics of power focused on specific ethnicities, levels of office, and/or geographies.

We can also provide the context, offering an overview of structural barriers within the political system, why power is shifting, and how women and people of color are sparking change.

For more information, please write to [hello@wholeads.us](mailto:hello@wholeads.us) and follow us on Twitter [@WhoLeadsUs](https://twitter.com/WhoLeadsUs) for daily insights on the demographics of power across the country.

## About The Reflective Democracy Campaign

The American political system is built to exclude women and people of color from power, distorting our democracy and resulting in unrepresentative policy outcomes that impact the lives of every single American. Yet today, women and people of color are overcoming these structural barriers to win elections at historic levels throughout the country.

The Reflective Democracy Campaign is the only resource for data and analysis on the race and gender of elected officials and candidates at the federal, state, county, and city levels. Sparking activism to open the halls of power to people of color and women, our data, reports, infographic toolkit, and other resources are freely available at [WhoLeadsUs](https://www.wholeads.us).

### Our recent investigations include:

- **Power Shift in America's Cities:** Dramatic gains by women and people of color are changing the face of power in America's largest cities. Learn more in our 2020 report: [Confronting the Demographics of Power: America's Cities](#).
- **Exposing the Criminal Justice System:** Our reports on America's [sheriffs](#) and [elected prosecutors](#) explore the broken demographics of a system foundationally biased against people of color, and harmful to women and families in crisis.
- **The Myth of White Male Electability:** Are white men really more electable than other candidates? We ran the numbers and exposed the "superior electability" of white men as a myth.