

Demographics of the 116th Congress

Visualizing ethnic/gender diversity, gender composition,
LGBTQ+ representation and more

January 28, 2019

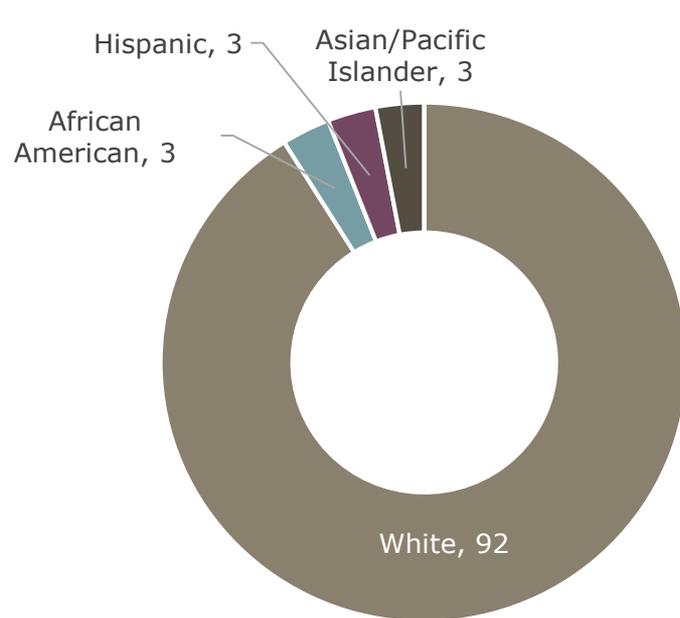
Producer

Danari White

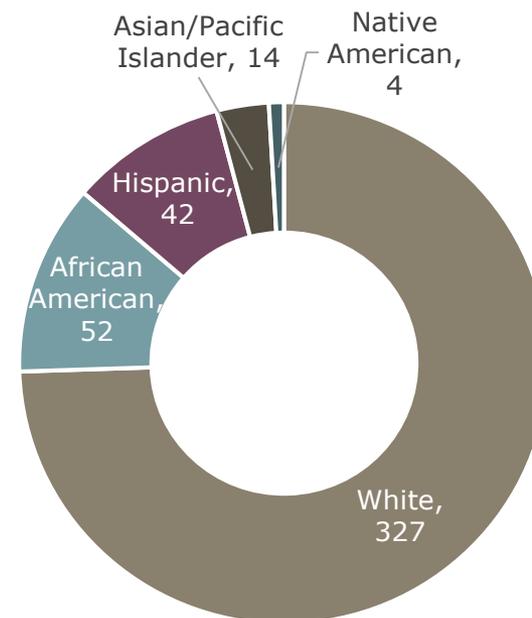
Roadmap

- 
- Ethnic/racial composition
 - Immigrants and children of immigrants
 - Gender composition
 - LGBTQ+ representation
 - Generational composition
 - Religious composition
 - Spotlight: House freshmen by age, race and gender
-

116th Congress (2019-2020) by ethnic/racial background



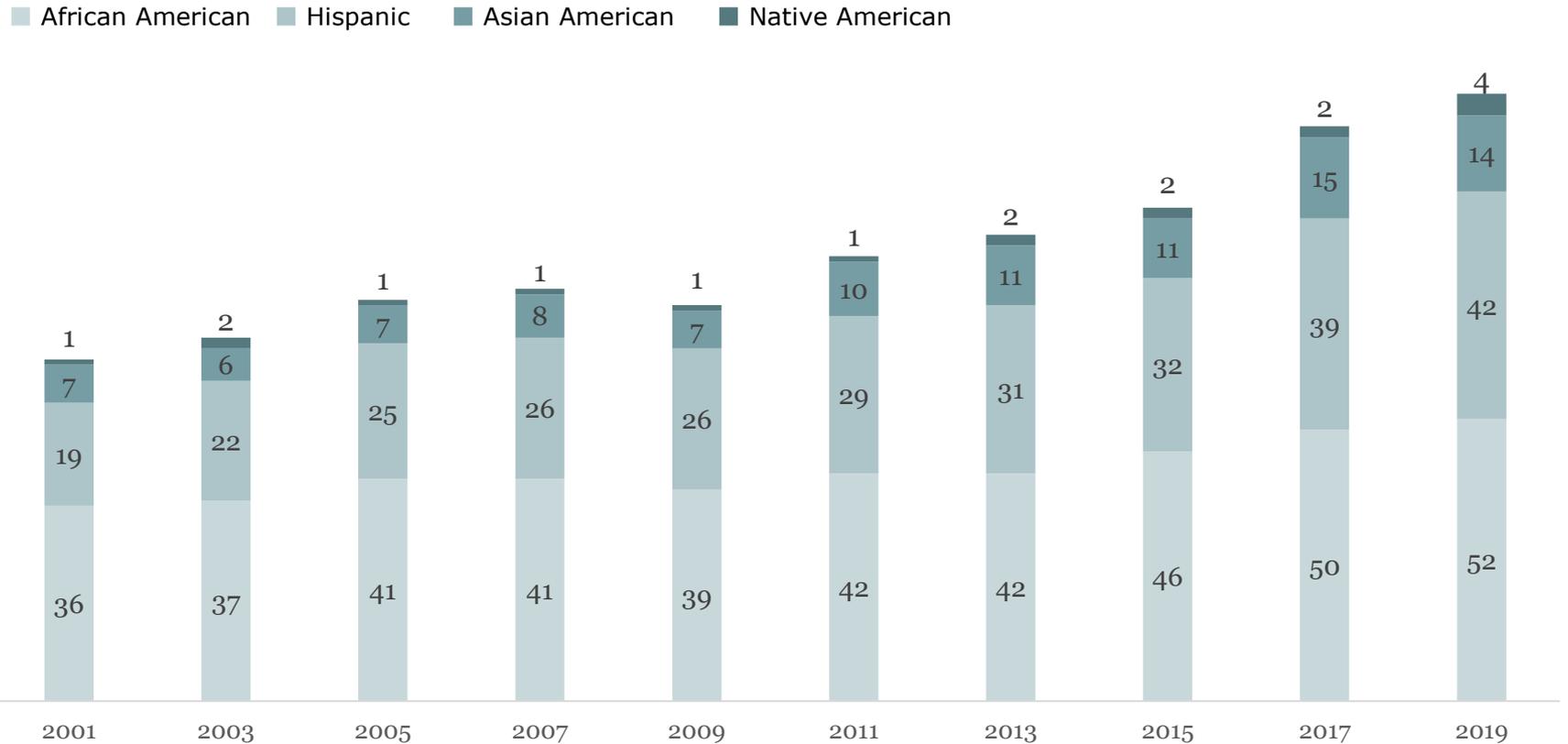
Senate



House

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



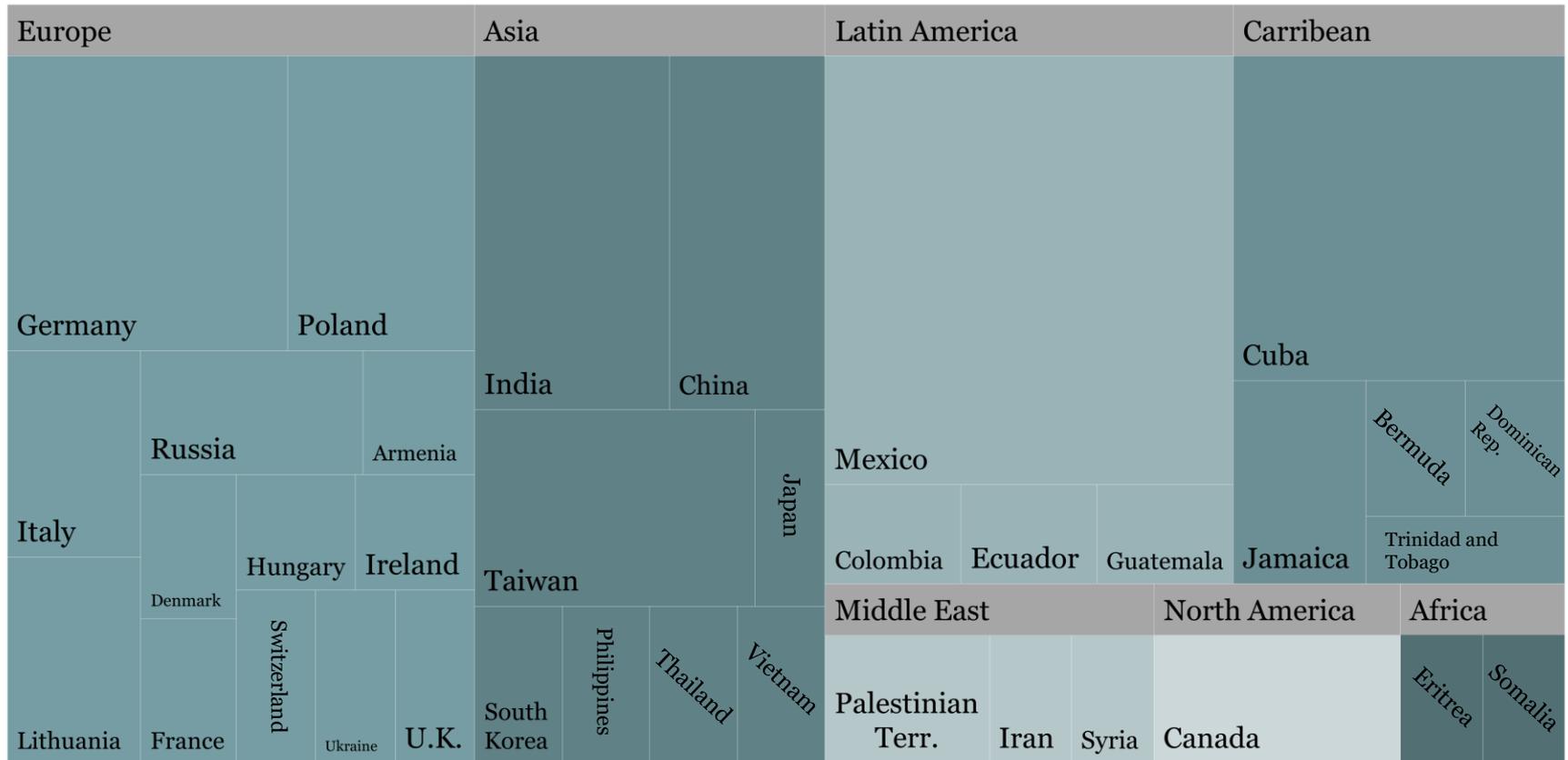
Sources: Kristen Bialik and Jens Manuel Krogstad, "115th Congress sets new high for racial, ethnic diversity," Pew Research Center, Jan. 24, 2017; Grace Panetta and Samantha Lee, "This one graphic shows how much more diverse the House of Representatives will become in January," Business Insider, December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

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At least 13% of all voting members of the 116th Congress are immigrants or children of immigrants, with heritage in 37 countries

Birthplace and parentage of immigrants and children of immigrants in the 116th Congress, by country



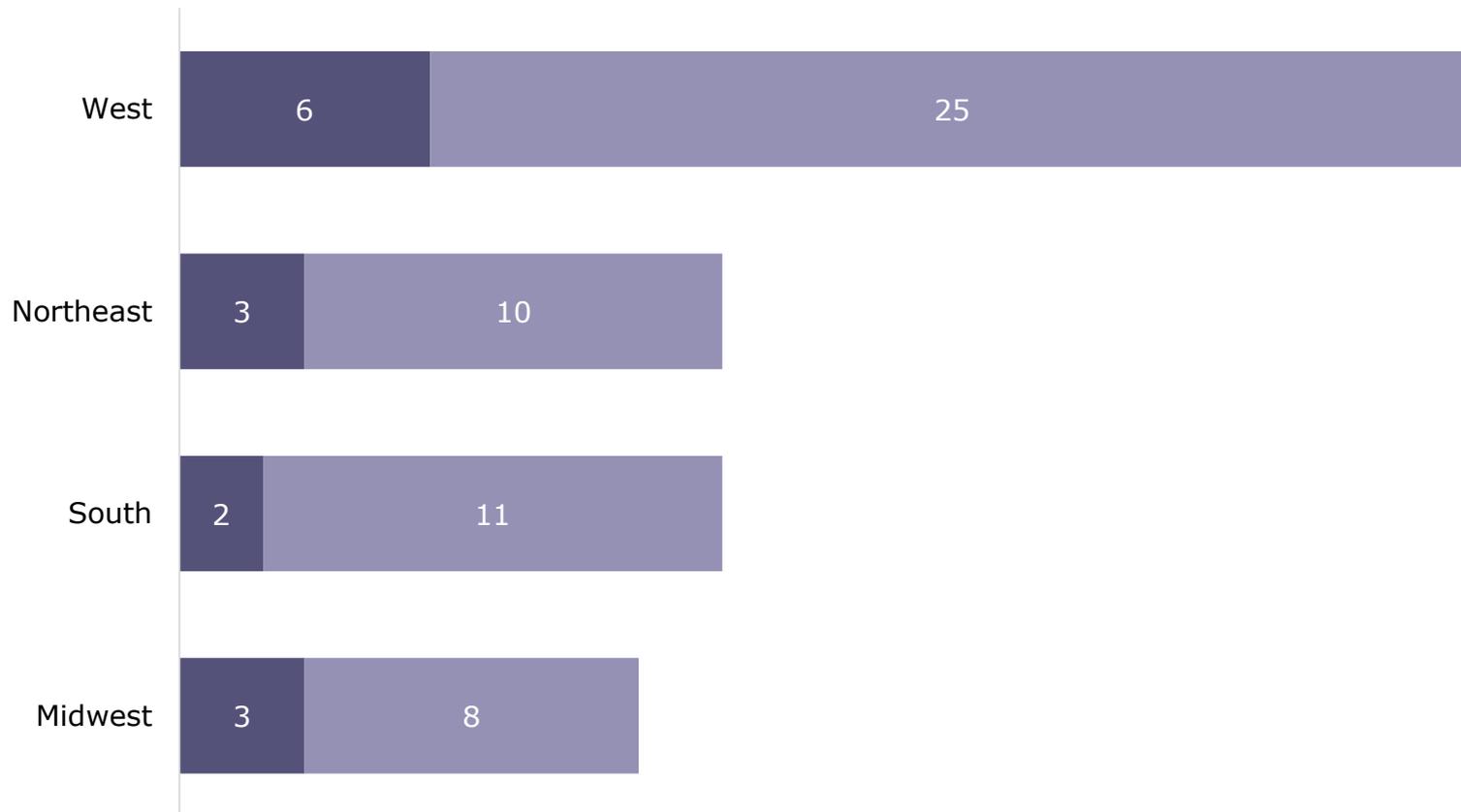
*Includes the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

Sources: Abigail Geiger, "In the 116th Congress, at least 13% of lawmakers are immigrants or the children of immigrants," Pew Research Center, January 24, 2019.

24 states are represented by immigrants and children of immigrants; nearly half of immigrants represent Western states

States represented by immigrants and children of immigrants, by region

■ Immigrant ■ Child of immigrant

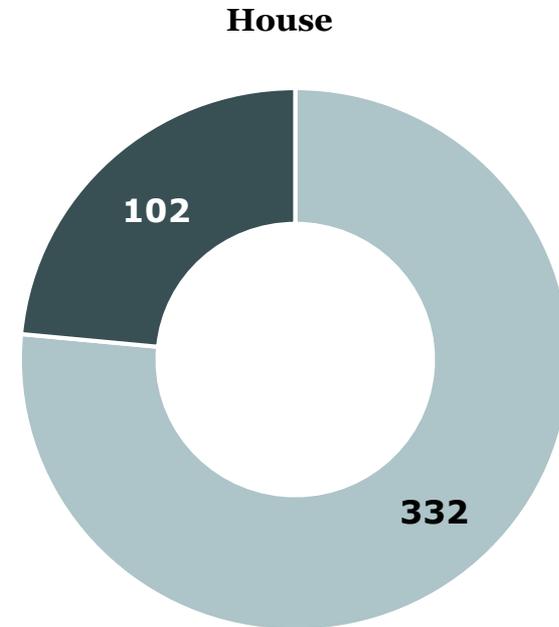
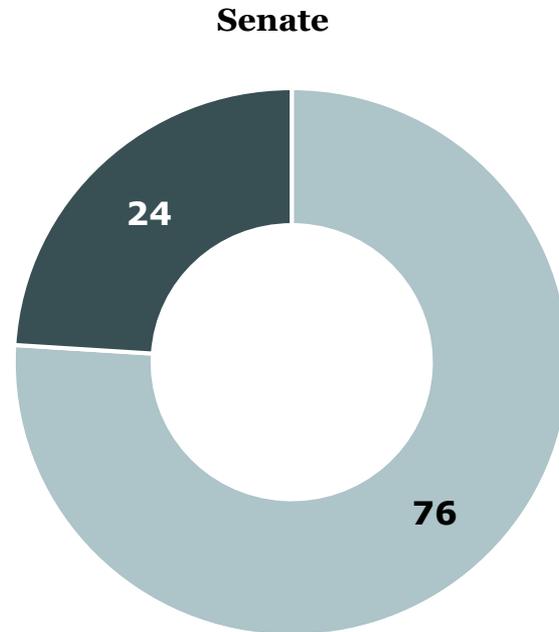


Sources: Abigail Geiger, "In 116th Congress, at least 13% of lawmakers are immigrants or the children of immigrants," Pew Research Center, January 24, 2019.

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116th Congress (2019-2020) by gender



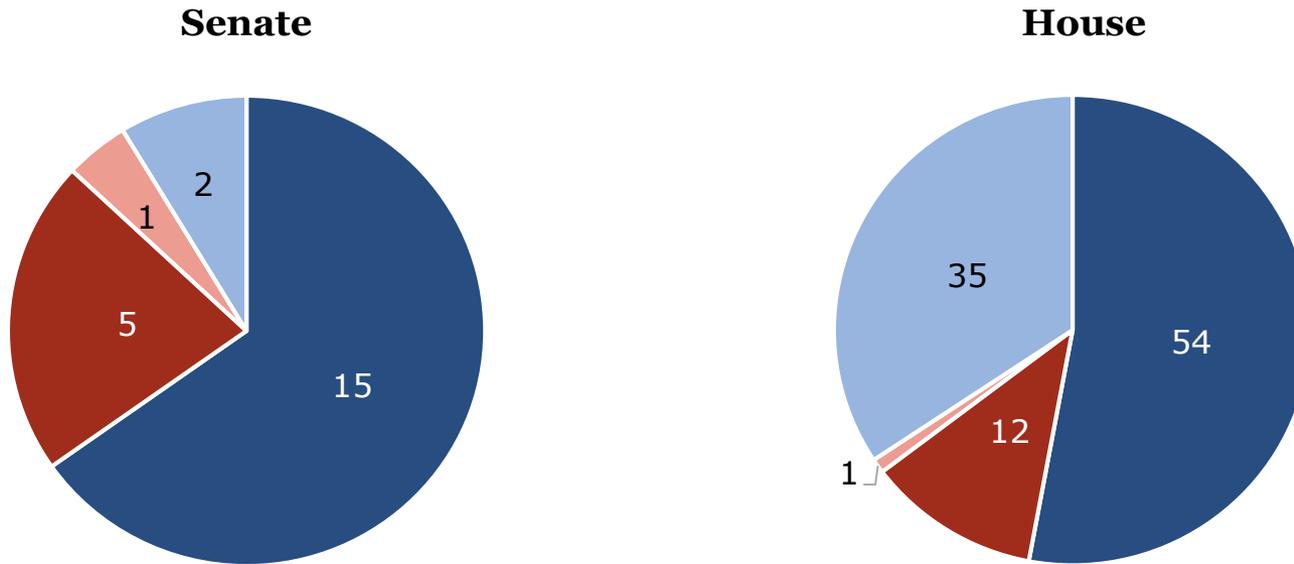
*1 House race remains uncalled

Sources: "The Women Candidate Tracker," *Politico*. November 12, 2018.

More Democratic women serve in the 116th Congress than Republican women

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

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

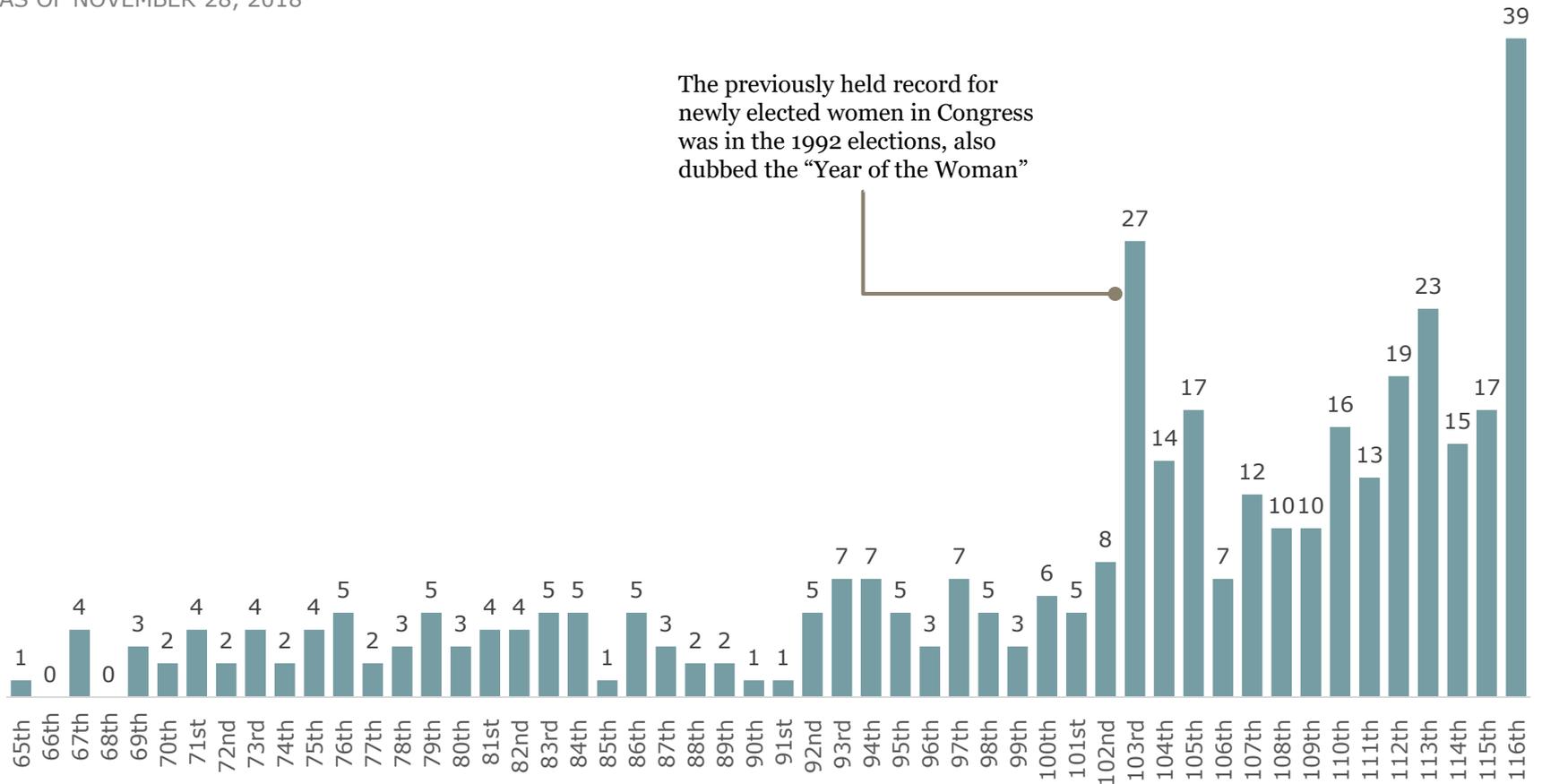
First Muslim women in Congress

Sources: "9 women to watch from this year's midterms," Vox. July 25, 2018; Jeremy W. Peters and Jonathan Martin, "Groundbreaking Night for Women and Diversity, While a Trump Critic Falls," August 14, 2018; Kayla Epstein and Eugene Scott, "The Historic Firsts of the 2018 Midterms," The Washington Post. November 7, 2018.

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

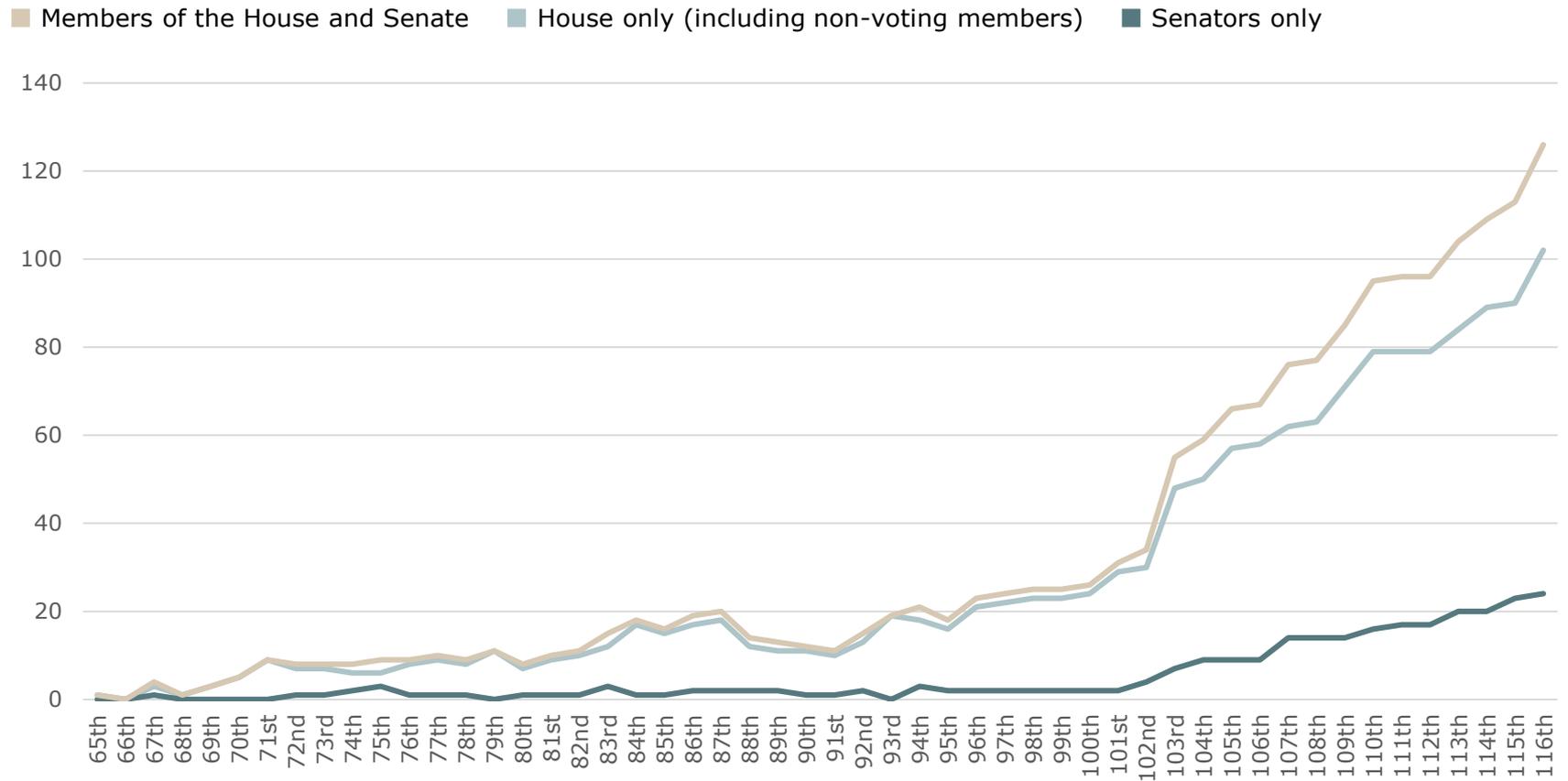


Sources: “Women Representatives and Senators by Congress, 1917-Present,” *US House of Representatives*.

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



Sources: "Women in Congress: Statistics and Brief Overview," Congressional Research Service; "The Women Candidate Tracker," Politico. November 12, 2018.

Roadmap

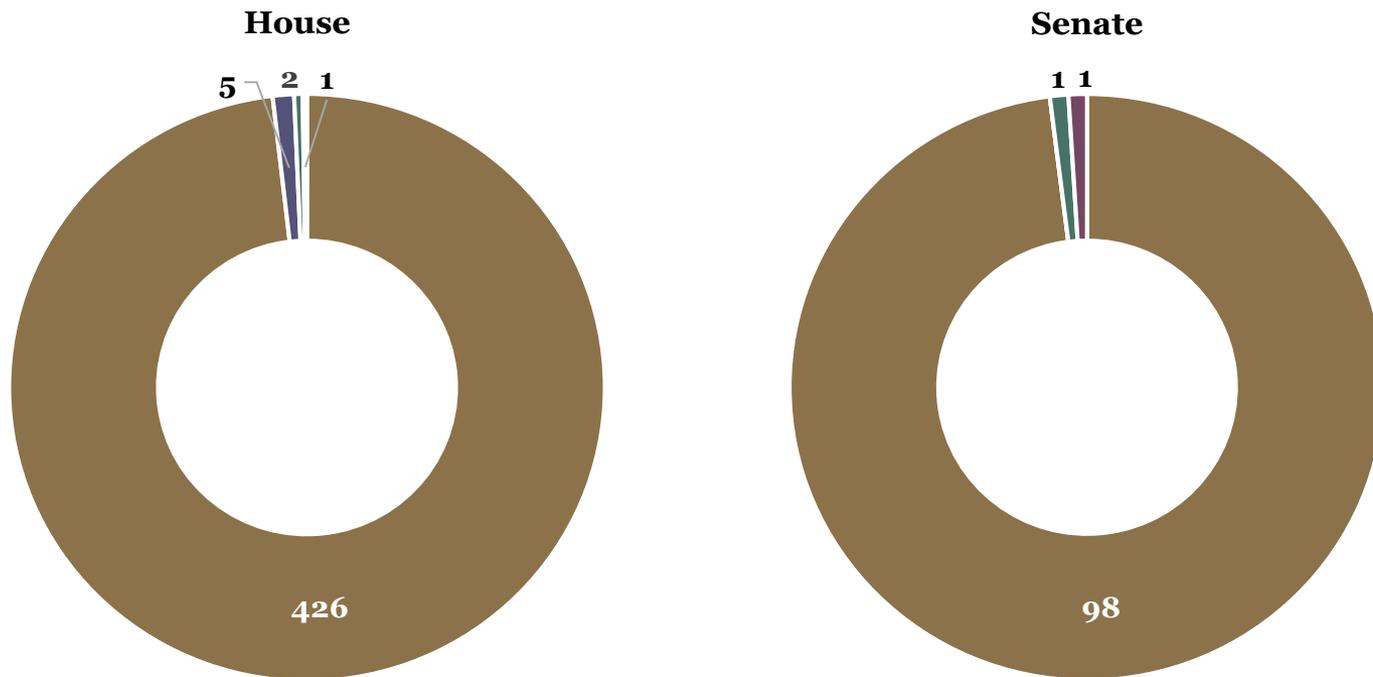
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There are ten total Members of Congress who openly identify as LGBTQ+

116th Congress (2019-2020) by sexual orientation

NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN BOTH CHAMBERS OF CONGRESS

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



Sources: Daily Kos analysis of member demographics.

There are five LGBTQ+ members returning to Congress (2019-2020)

Senate

Name	Party-State	First elected	Sexuality
Tammy Baldwin	D-WI	2012	Lesbian

House of Representatives

Name	Party-State-District	First elected	Sexuality
David Cicilline	D-RI-1	2010	Gay
Mark Pocan	D-WI-2	2012	Gay
Mark Takano	D-CA-41	2012	Gay
Sean Patrick Maloney	D-NY-18	2012	Gay

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Younger generations acquired a larger share of the House in the 2018 elections

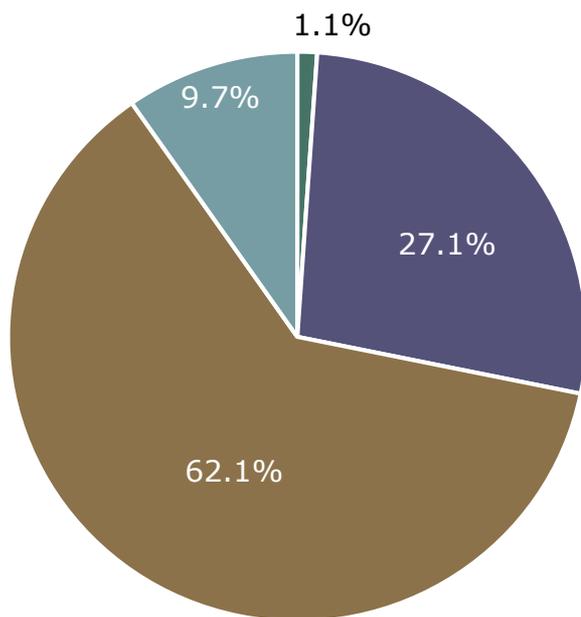
Generational breakdown of the incoming and incumbent representatives

■ Millennial (1981-1996) ■ Gen X (1965-1980)
■ Boomer (1946-1964) ■ Silent (1928-1945)

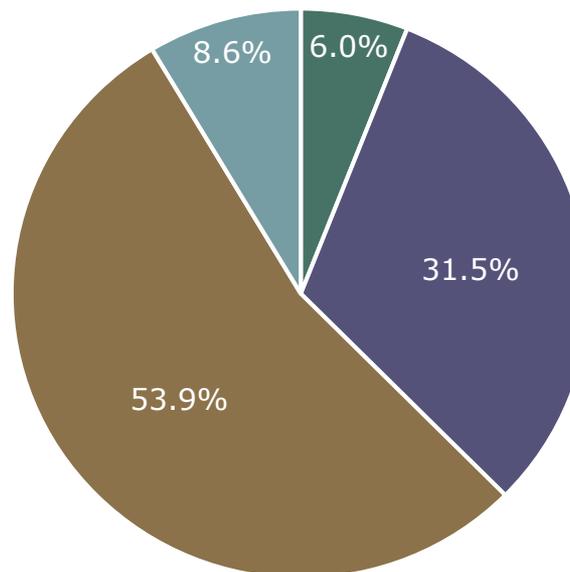
Analysis

- 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)

115th Congress



116th Congress



Sources: Drew DeSilver, "Millennials, Gen X increase their ranks in the House, especially among Democrats," Pew Research, November 21, 2018.

Roadmap

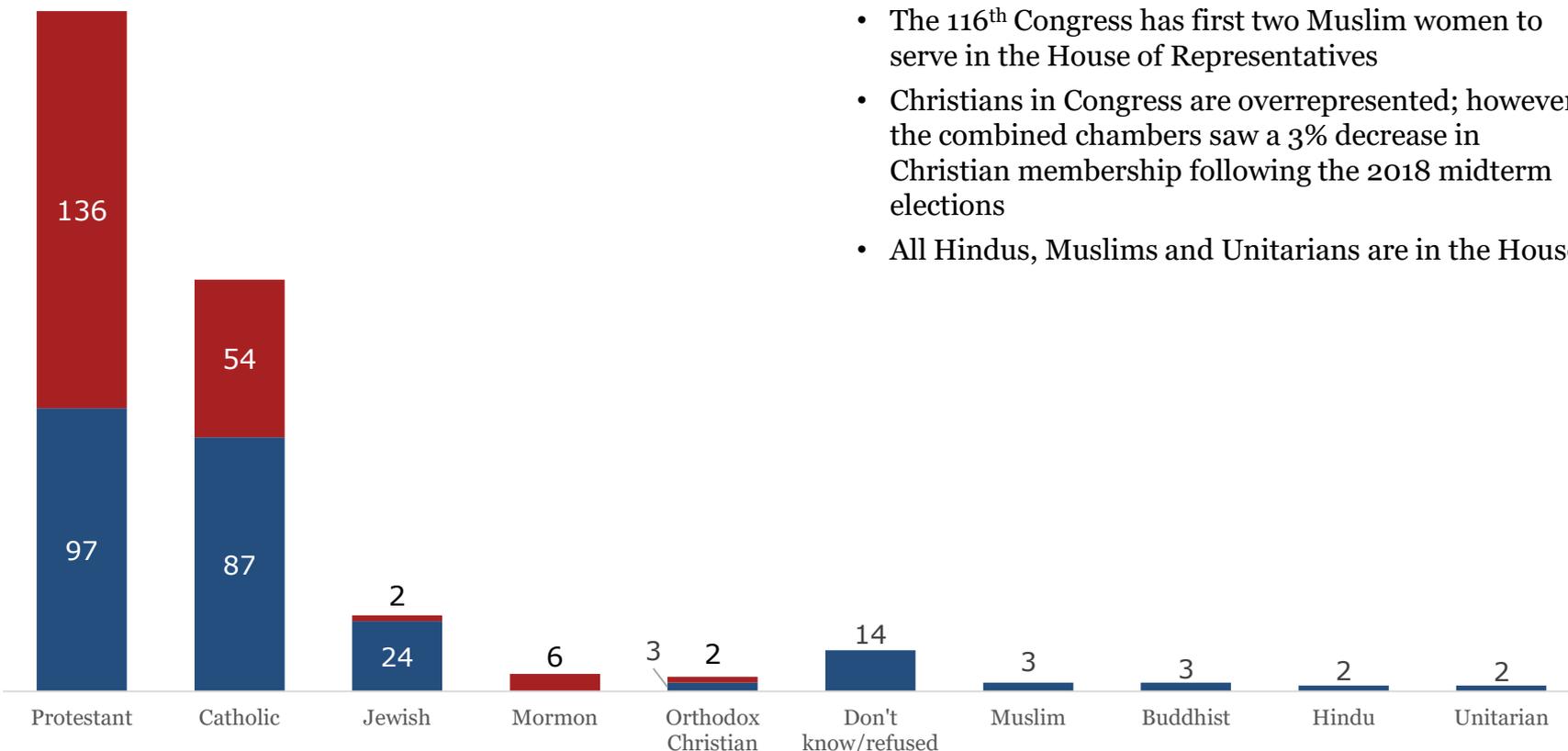
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Congress is slightly more religiously diverse in 2019 than it was in 2018

Religious composition of the House of Representatives

TOTAL NUMBER, 116th CONGRESS (2019-2020)

■ Democrats ■ Republicans



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

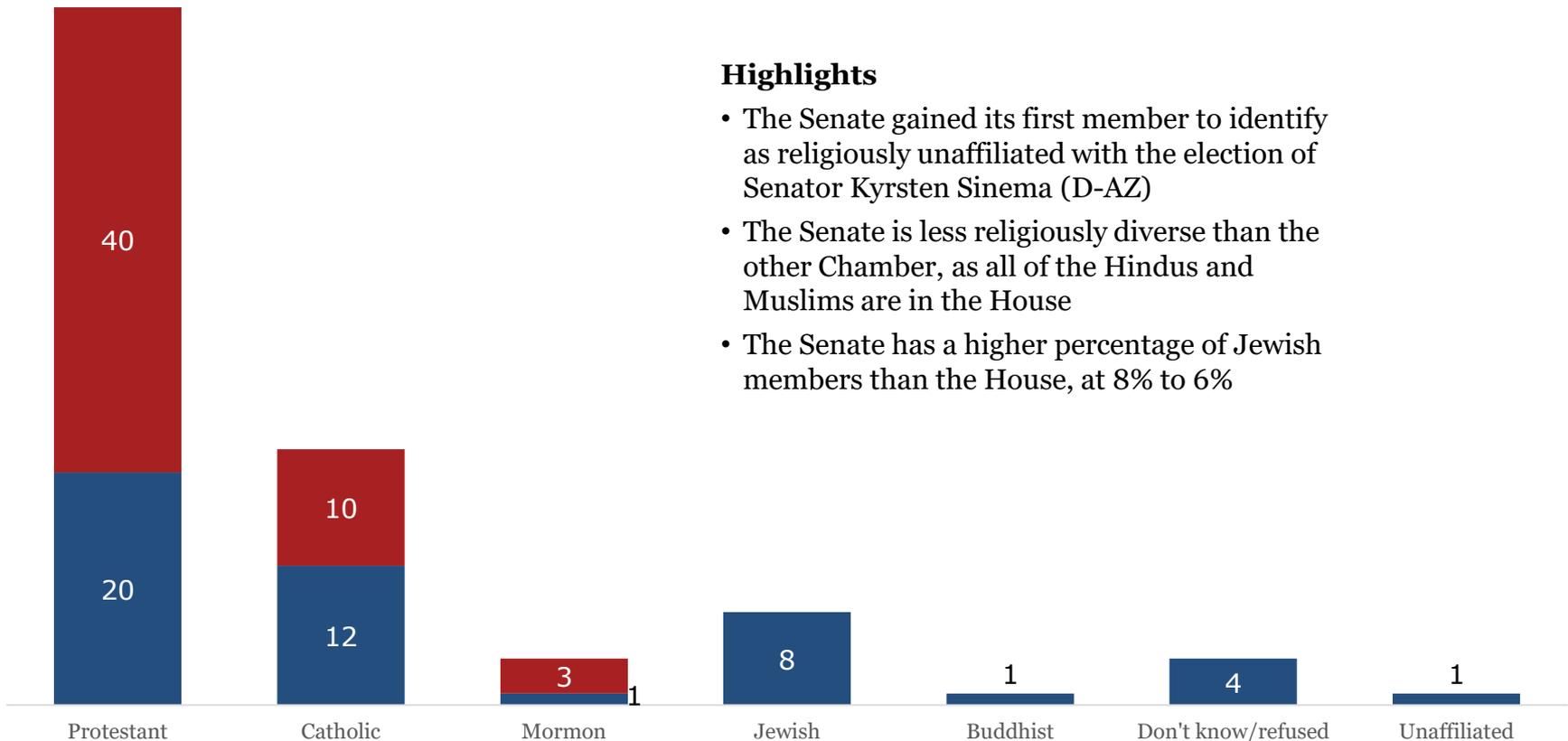
Sources: Pew Center Research, "Faith on the Hill: The religious composition of the 116th Congress," Jan. 3, 2019; Aleksandra Sandstrom, "Faith on the Hill: The religious composition of the 115th Congress," Pew Research Center, Jan. 3, 2017.

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



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%

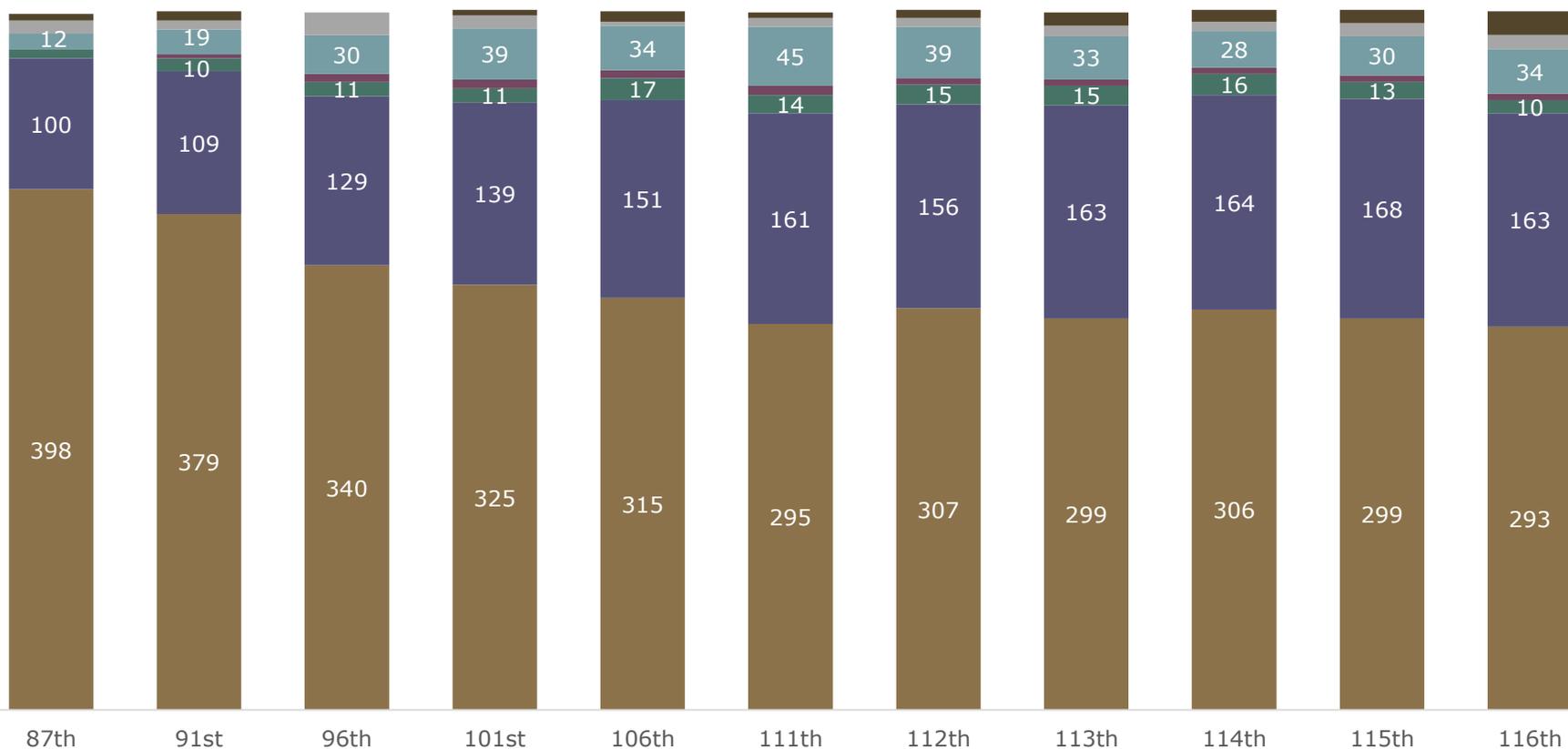
Sources: Pew Center Research, "Faith on the Hill: The religious composition of the 116th Congress," Jan. 3, 2019; Aleksandra Sandstrom, "Faith on the Hill: The religious composition of the 115th Congress," Pew Research Center, Jan. 3, 2017.

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

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS

Protestant Catholic Mormon Orthodox Christian Jewish Other Don't know/refused



Sources: Pew Center Research, "Faith on the Hill: The religious composition of the 116th Congress," Jan. 3, 2019; Aleksandra Sandstrom, "Faith on the Hill: The religious composition of the 115th Congress," Pew Research Center, Jan. 3, 2017.

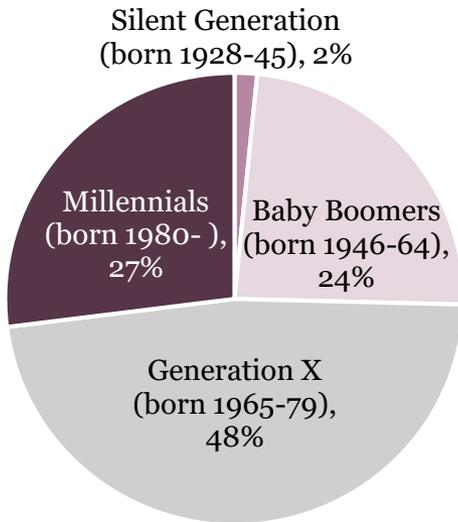
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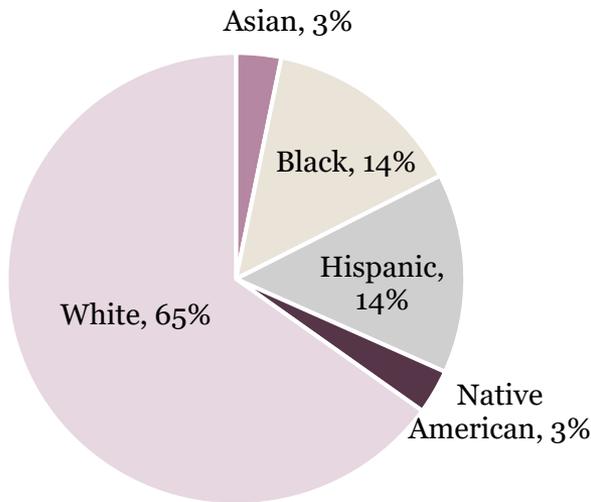
The incoming House Democratic class will be among the youngest and most diverse yet

Proportion of House Democratic freshmen with selected characteristics

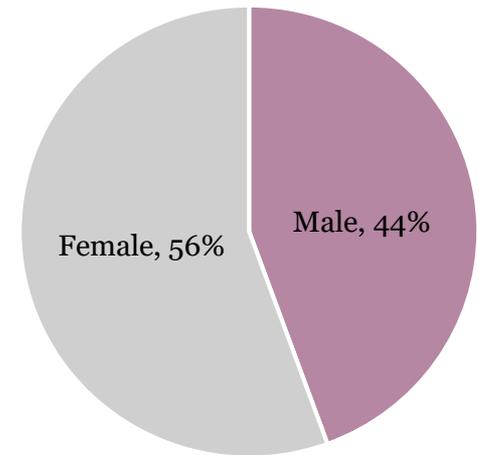
Age



Race/Ethnicity



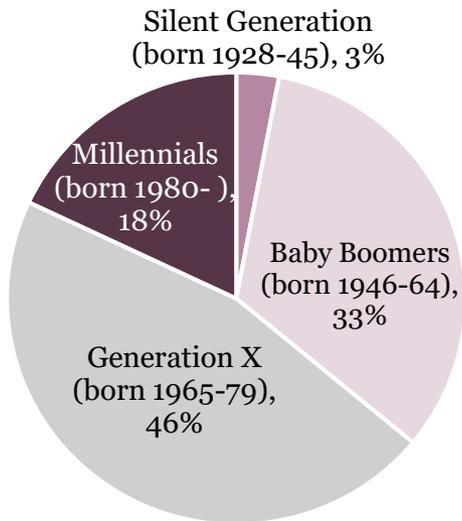
Gender



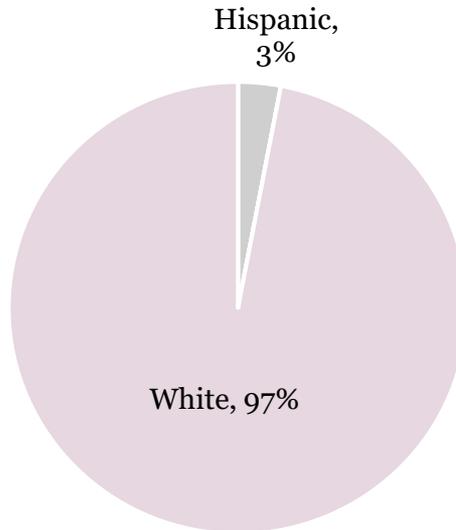
The incoming House Republican class is less racially diverse than the previous House Republican class

Proportion of House Republican freshmen with selected characteristics

Age



Race/Ethnicity



Gender

