

Shattering the Glass Ceiling: A record number of women and women of color are victorious in the 2020 Election

The 2020 election cycle has proven that the future for women in politics is brighter than ever before.

Kamala Harris made history as the first female, Black, and South Asian elected Vice President. This is an enormously significant moment in the story of women's participation in American politics. During the centennial of the 19th Amendment, young girls and women across America will now see themselves reflected at the highest level of government for the first time.

"While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last...Because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities, and to the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: Dream with ambition, lead with conviction and see yourselves in a way that others may not, simply because they've never seen it before." - VP-elect Kamala Harris



So far (as of 11/10) in Congress, a record-breaking 141 womenⁱ will be sworn into the 117th Congress, demonstrating that the then record-breaking 131 women sworn into the 116th Congress was not a one-time surge. The count below includes non-voting delegates in the House.

- At least 117 women (89 D and 28 R) will serve in the House, plus four non-voting delegates.
- At least 24 women (16 D and 8 R) will serve in the Senate.

The 117th Congress will more equitably represent women, women of color, and the LGBTQIA. At least 52 women of color (including non-voting delegates) will serve in the 117th Congress. For the first time, the House will have three Native American women. Reps. Sharice Davids (D-Kan.) and Deb Haaland (D-N.M.) were both re-elected, and they will be joined by Yvette Herrell, a Republican who won in New Mexico's Second Congressional District.

An unprecedented 36 Republican women, including 2 Republican non-voting delegates, will serve in the 117th Congress. House Republican women defied expectations and reached a historic level of representation in the House - almost doubling the number of female Republicans in the chamber. The surge of non-incumbent GOP female winners also tops the [previous record](#) of nine, set in 2010, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

A Few Historic Firsts -

- New Mexico elected the largest all women of color Congressional delegation -- Deb Haaland (D), Yvette Herrell (R), and Teresa Leger Fernandez (D).
- Cori Bush (D) is Missouri's first Black congresswoman.
- Marilyn Strickland (D) is the first Korean American woman elected to Congress and the first Black member of Congress from Washington State.
- Wyoming is sending their first woman to the Senate. By electing Cynthia Lummis, Wyoming brings the number of states that have never had a woman senator down to 17.
- Republican Diana Harshbarger's (TN) win broke into the nine-member all-male delegation in that state.

While there is much to celebrate, women remain underrepresented in politics. 131 & Counting is committed to directing attention to the work needed to achieve gender parity across both parties. To do so, we will continue to hold educational and social forums in 2021 to build networks that support women leaders in Congress and public policy.

ⁱ This number could increase as election results are finalized.