

Warm Up: 3/8-9

WARM UP ACTIVITY

Reflect on your analysis of Black Lives Matter & NAACP:

- What similarities did you find between the organizations?
- What differences did you find between the organizations?
- Reflect on the article you read about Black History in Social studies curriculum:
 - What are 3 take-aways you have from this reading?

****Ch. 13 (Federal Budget) due March 16th**

LESSON ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What are laws and why are they necessary in society?
2. What role does the legislative branch play in policy-making?
3. How is Congress structured?
4. Is Congress truly representative of their constituents?

Critical Thinking Activity

On the notecard, you answered the following:

- **Do you feel that humans can peacefully exist without the authority of laws?**
 - Justify your response with evidence.
- **Pass the notecard to the person to your right.**
- **On the new notecard, write 2-3 sentences agreeing or disagreeing with a point that your partner made.**
 - Pass the notecard to the right & read it carefully
 - Discuss the points that were made on your notecards as a group
 - **As a group, establish a thesis for the following:**
To what extent should government restrict individual behavior? Team coordinator is the recorder/presenter.

February 27-29, 2017

The Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch

TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

- Political scientists will, verbally and in writing, ***evaluate*** the role of law-making in society and ***analyze*** the structure of the legislative branch of the US government.

Relevance: Congress is the supreme law-making body in the US, with power to influence every day individual liberties with their policies.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

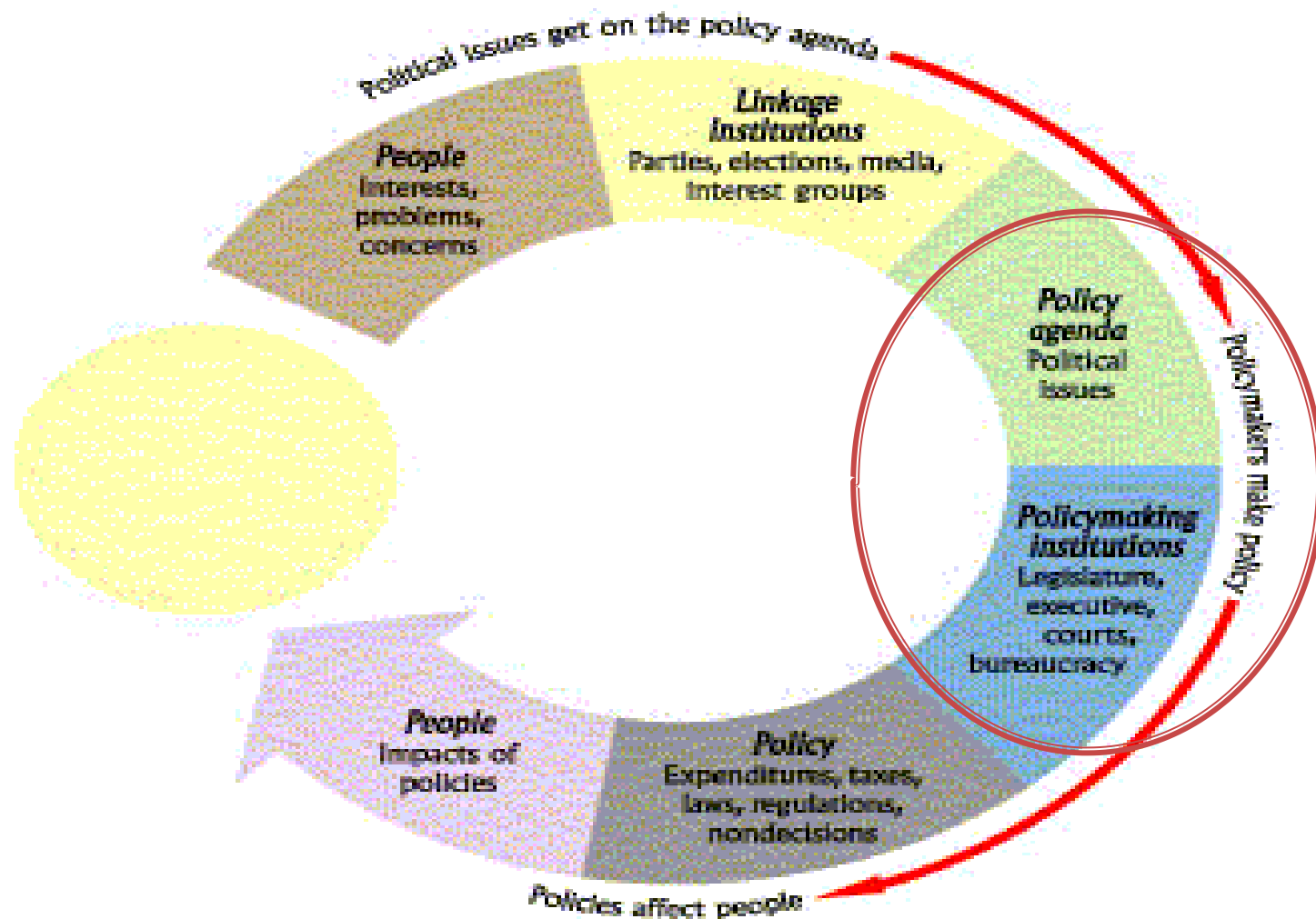
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The Code of Hammurabi

- Babylonian law code
 - Ancient Mesopotamia
 - 1754 BC
- 282 Laws
 - Punishments scaled based upon severity and social status
 - 1/3 pertain to household and family relationships



Where are we on the policy wheel?



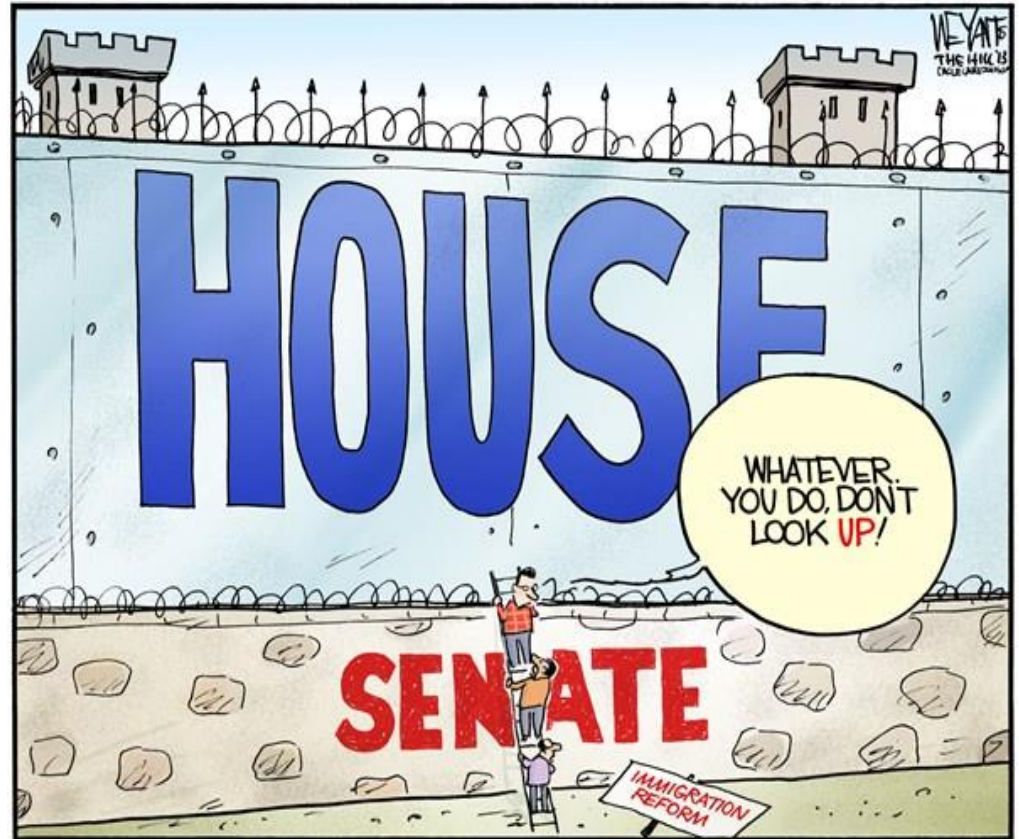
The Legislative Branch: Congress

■ Legislative Branch

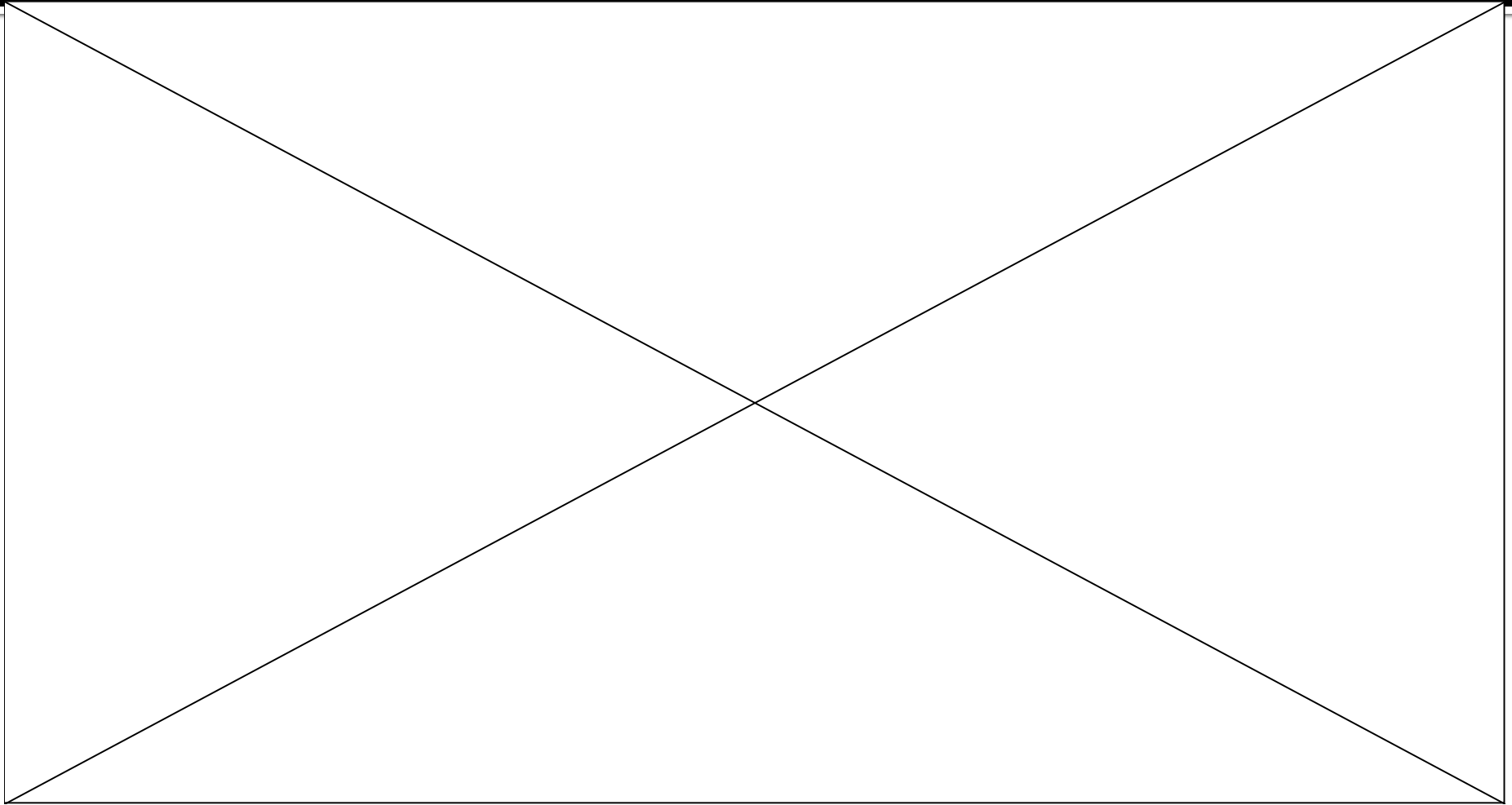
- “law makers”
- Central policy-making institution in American government
- Representative of the American public - constituents

■ Bicameral

- Great (Connecticut) Compromise
- Two Branches
 - House of Representatives
 - Senate



Crash Course Government: Congress



- Take notes on the Constitutional provisions and powers set forth for the Legislative Branch of the federal government.
- <https://www.youtube.com/v/ngdefOwVWS8>

The Job

■ Salary

- Rank-and-file members of the House and Senate is \$174,000 per year
- Leadership positions receive \$193,400-223,500 per year
- Receive retirement and health care benefits

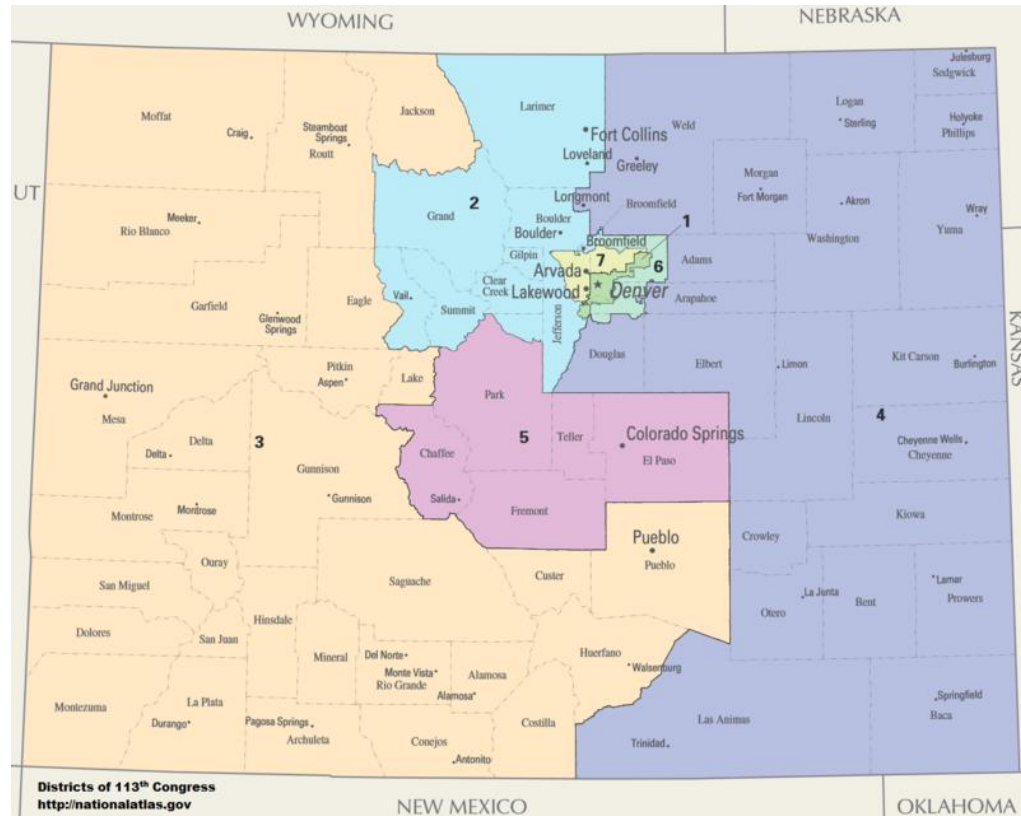
■ Congressional immunity

- prevents a President or other officials of the executive branch coercing Congressional members into voting a certain way



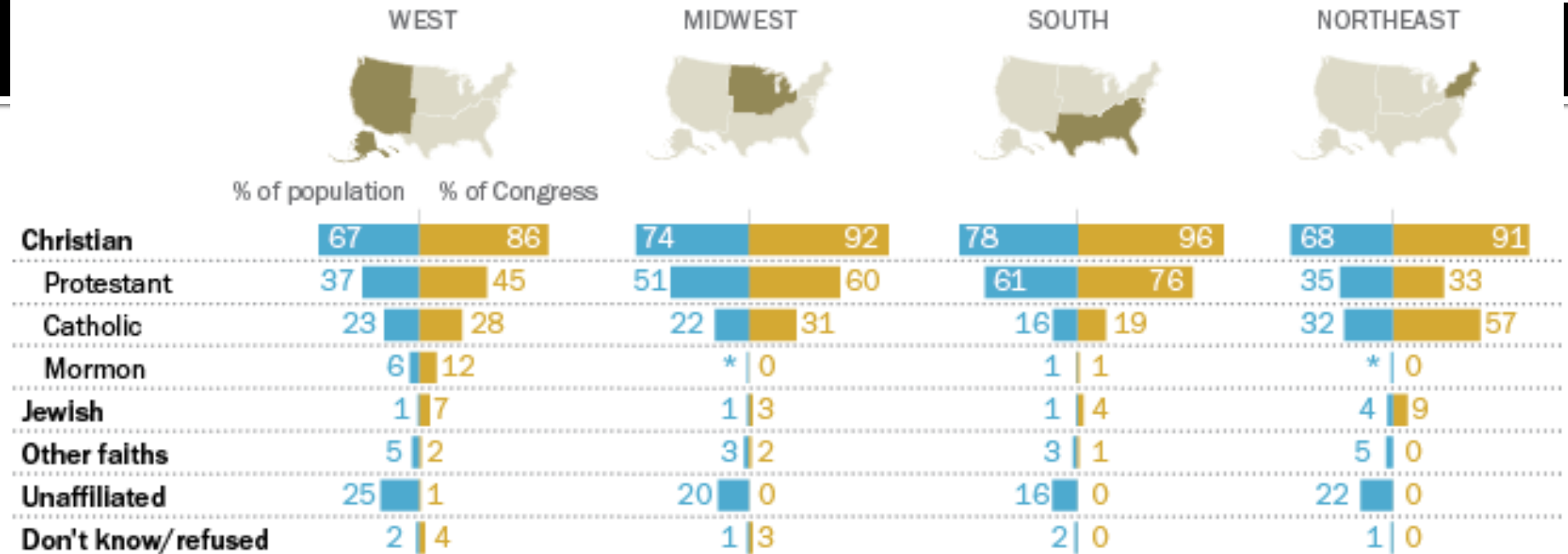
Congressional Elections

- House members represent single-member districts
 - Elections held every two years
- Two Senators serve each state
 - Elections held every two years
 - Only 1/3 of Senators face reelection for each election



Religious Affiliation in the 114th Congress

Religious affiliation of the general population and the 114th Congress, by region



Sources: Figures for Congress based on data collected by CQ Roll Call and the Pew Research Center. General public data comes from aggregated Pew Research Center surveys in 2013.

Note: The "other faiths" category includes (but is not limited to) Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Unitarians. This analysis was completed before Rep. Michael G. Grimm, R-N.Y., announced his intention to resign effective Jan. 5, 2015.

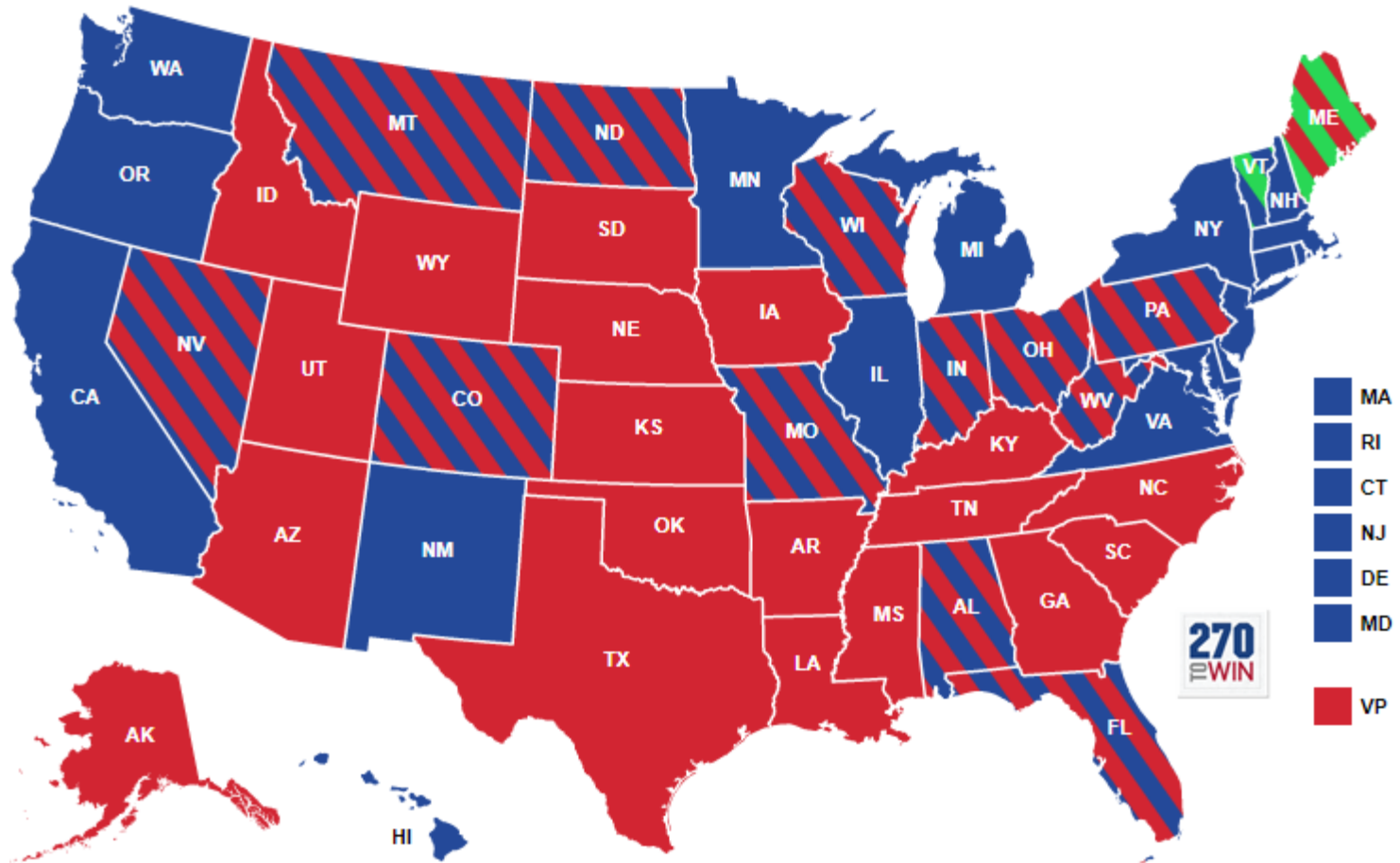
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1. **Cite it:** 1-2 sentences; What is the title/subject of the data & where is it from? (if available) [1 pt]
2. **Explain it:** 3-4 Sentences; What are the general trends & patterns shown? How are the dependent and independent variables correlated through the data? [2 pts]
3. **Elaborate upon it:** 1-2 Sentences; What is the significance of the trends/patterns and how do they relate to the political phenomena/topic we are discussing? What are the broad conclusions that should be taken away from the data about American government & politics? [2 pts]

114th Congressional Religious Affiliation: Data Analysis Exemplar

This data was collected by the Pew Research Center in 2013 and provides a comparison of regional religious demographic data with the religious affiliations of Congressional leaders from those regions. The independent variable in this dataset are the regions (West, Midwest, South & Northeast) and the two dependent variables are the percentage of religious affiliates in the regions' populations AND the affiliations of their Congressional representatives. The most prominent trends show that all regions are mostly Christian with between 67-78% of the regions' populations affiliated with Protestantism or Catholicism and a very small percentage identifying as Mormon. Christian representation in Congress is also overwhelming with between 86-96% of officials in each region affiliating with one of these three branches of Christianity. The Jewish population is between 1-4% among the four regions, but Jewish representation in Congress is actually higher than the population demographics, ranging between 3-9% of representatives in these regions. Other faiths, unaffiliated individuals and those who did not know/refused to answer still makes up a significant portion of the population in each region, ranging between 22-33% of the population in each region. However, the percentage of representatives in these categories only ranges between 4-14% among these regions. Overall, this data shows that Judeo-Christian values are vastly overrepresented in the 114th US Congress, while those who are unaffiliated with a religion, worship other faiths or simply did not know/respond are vastly underrepresented by the current Congressional body. This may indicate that Judeo-Christian values are preferred over those of other faiths or unaffiliated beliefs in the American two-party system.

115th Congress: Senate



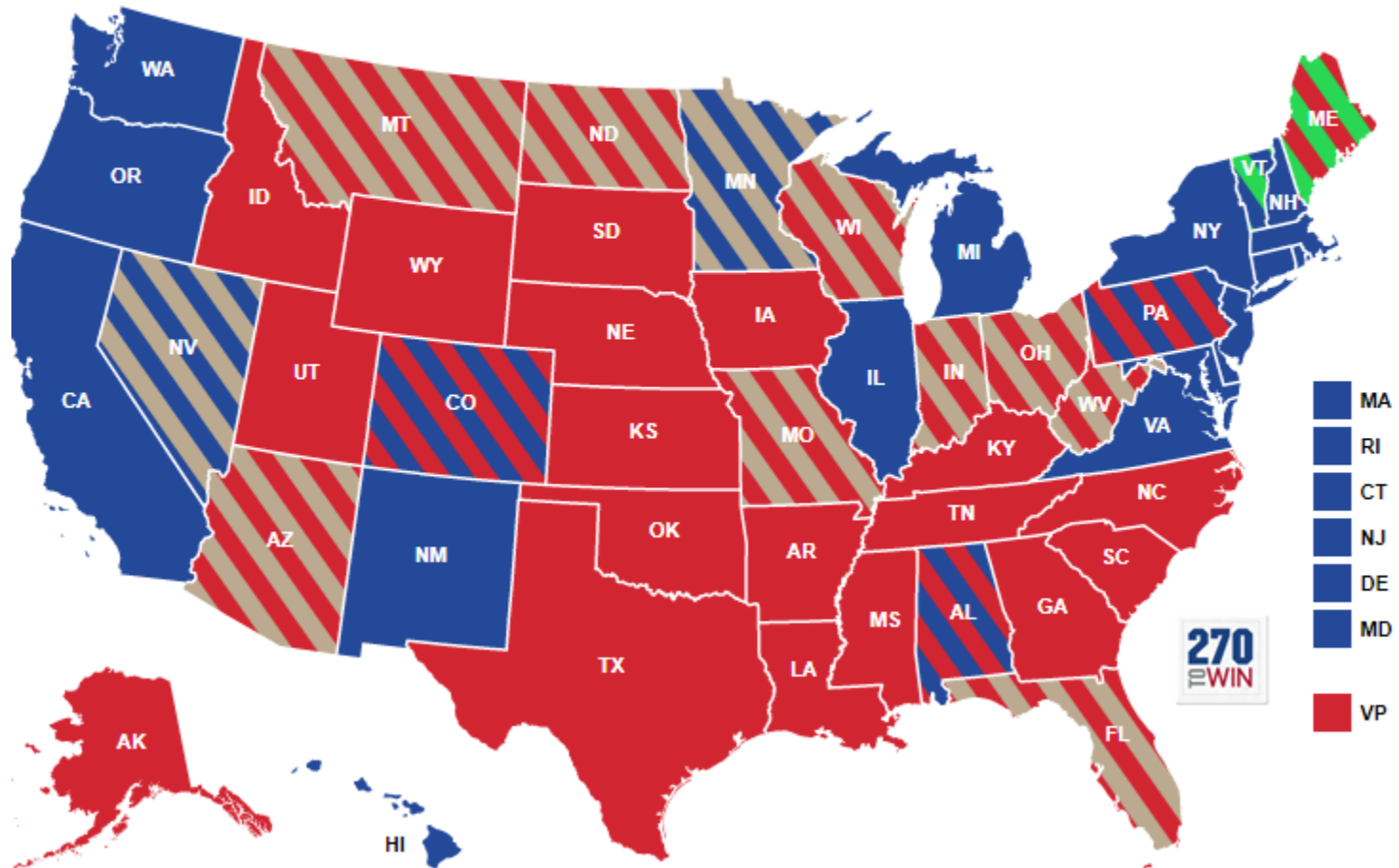
Possible 116th Congress: 2018

Senate Races

Democrats 40

49 Republicans

11



115th Congress: House of Representatives

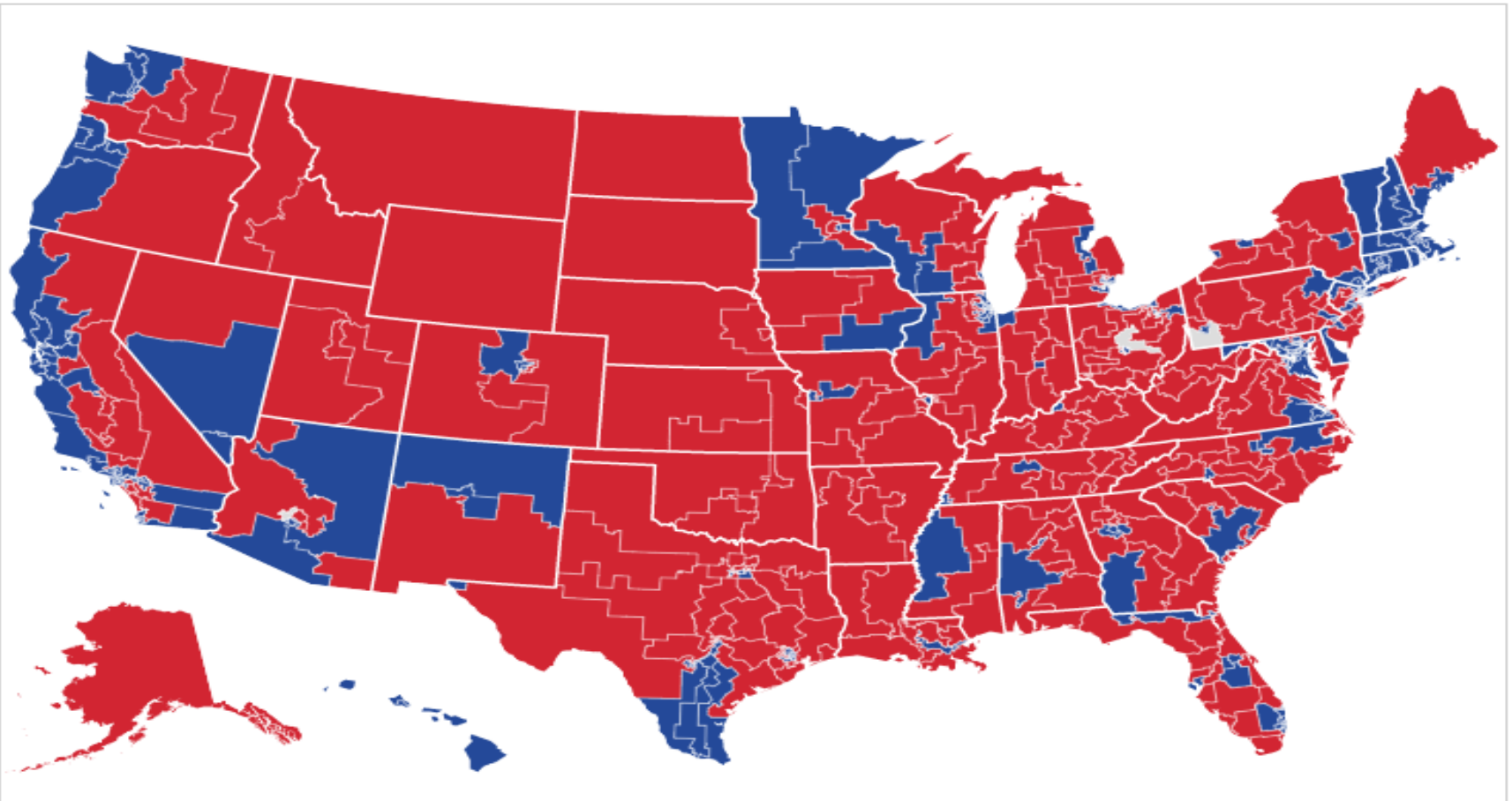
Democrats 193

238 Republicans

United States ▼

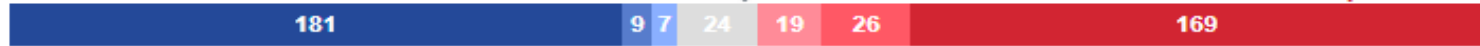


Full Size



Contested 115th Congress: 2018 House of Representatives Races

Democrats 197

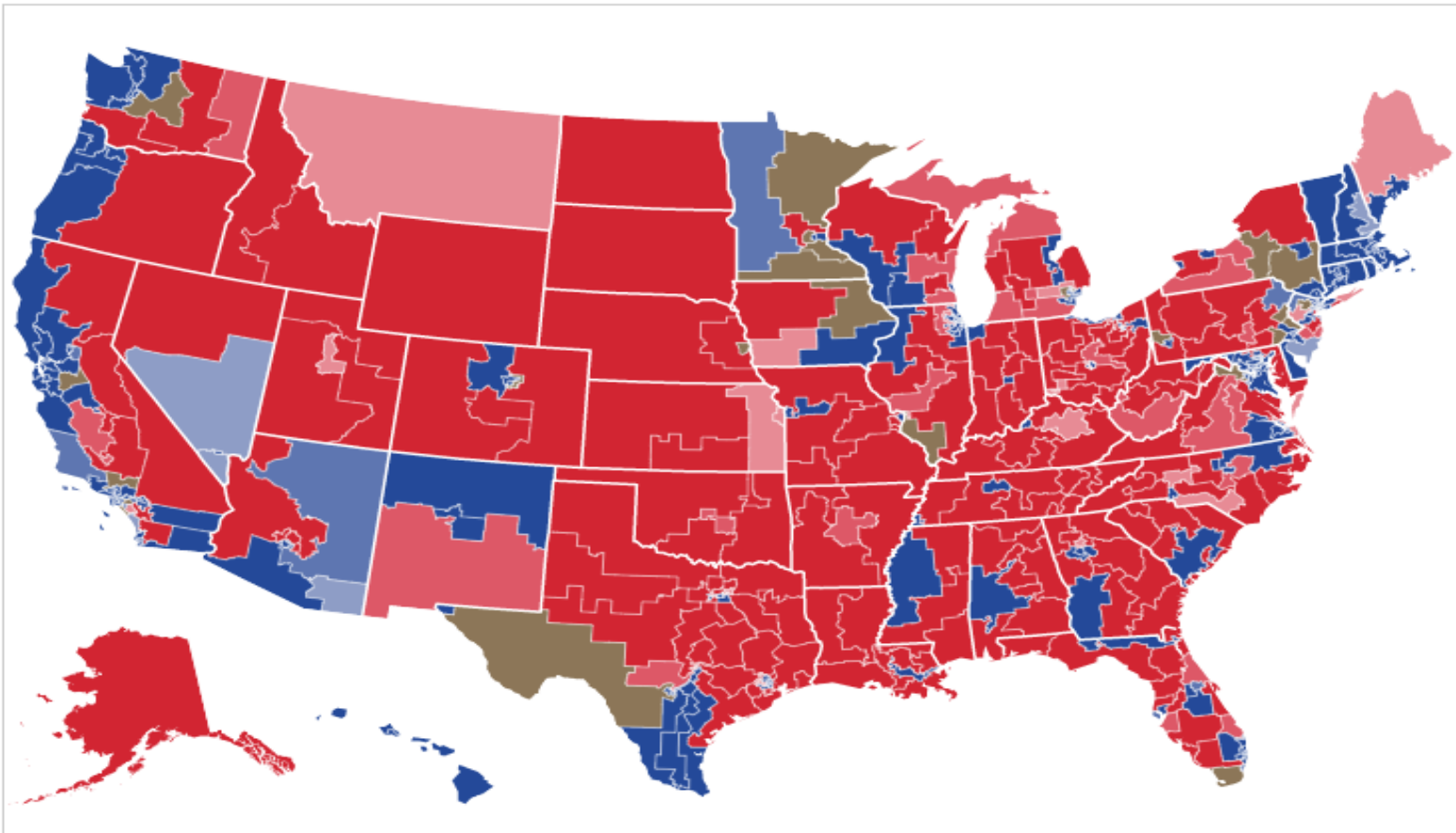


214 Republicans

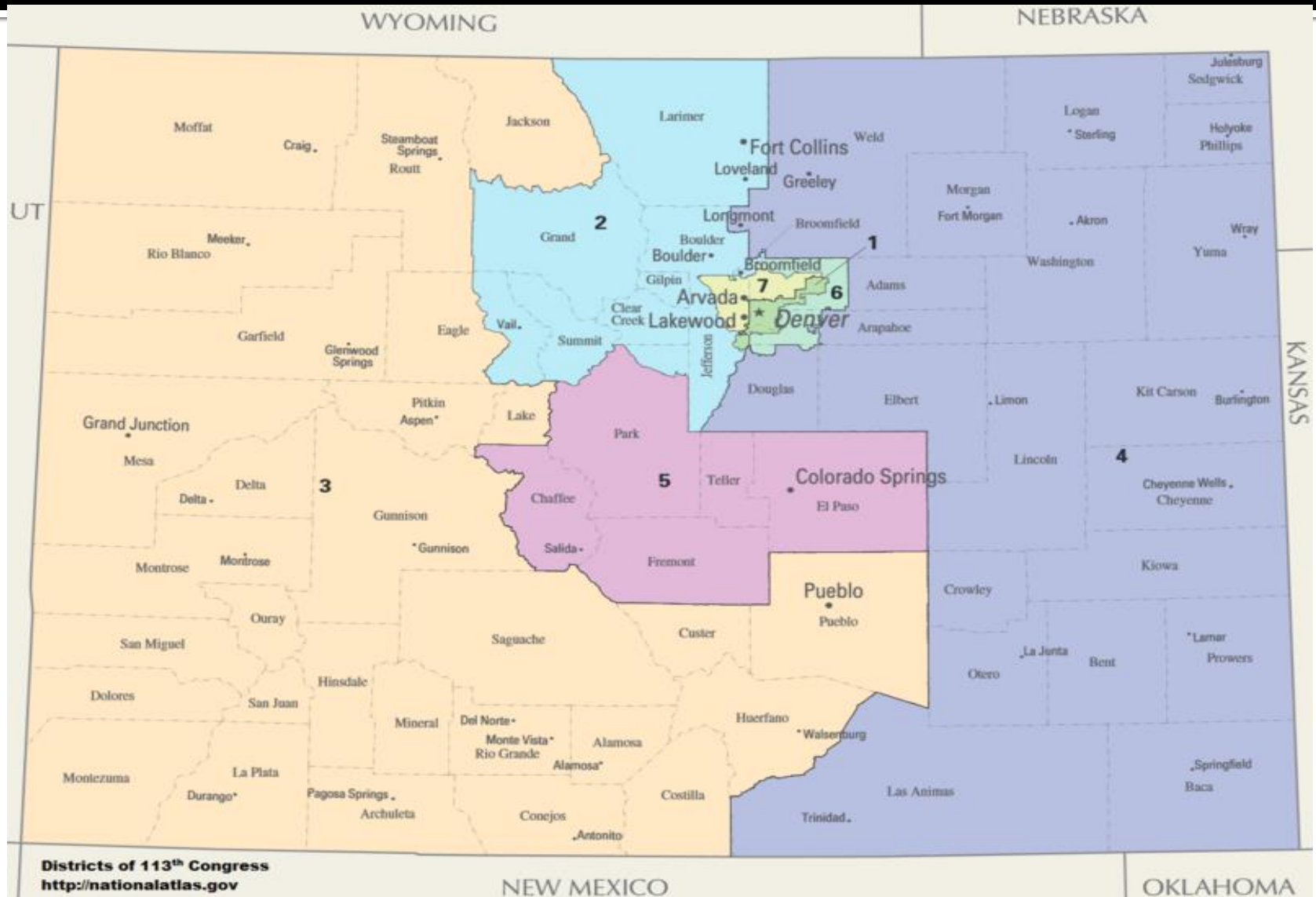
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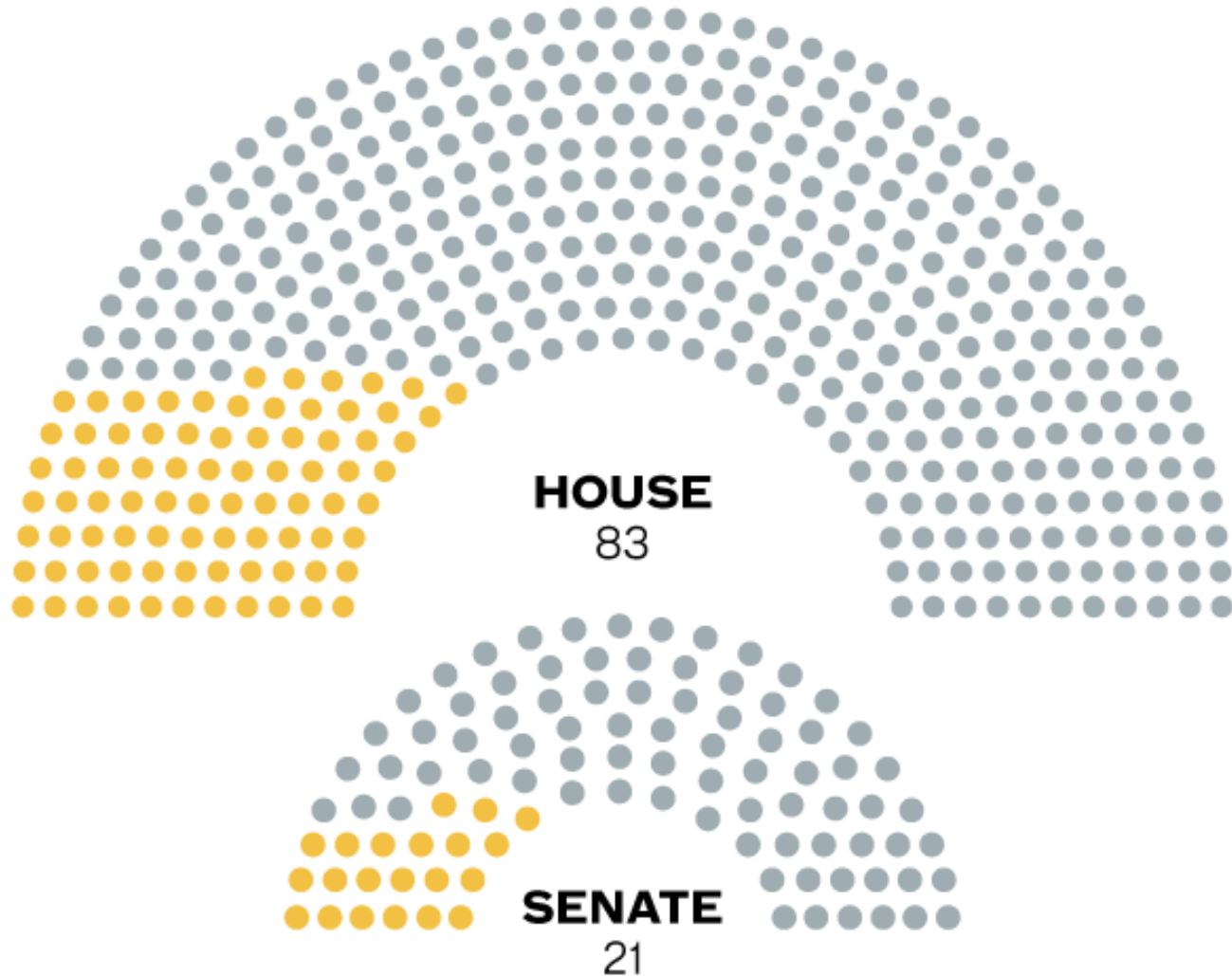


Colorado's US Congressional Districts



115th Congress: Gender

WOMEN: 104 total



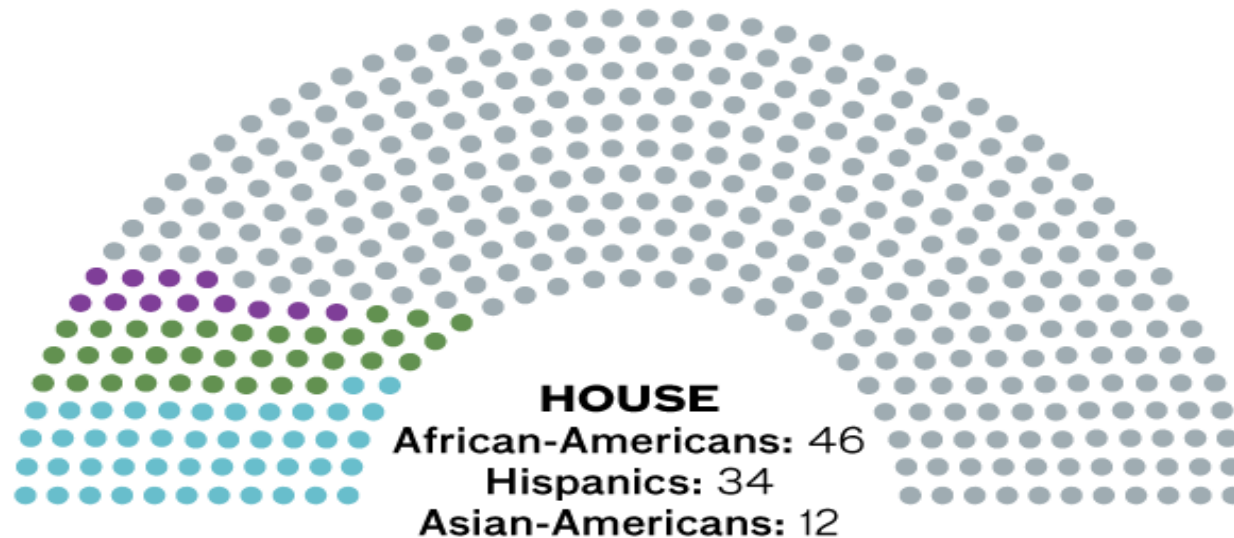
115th Congress: Race/Ethnicity

MINORITIES: 102 total

● African-Americans: 49

● Hispanics: 38

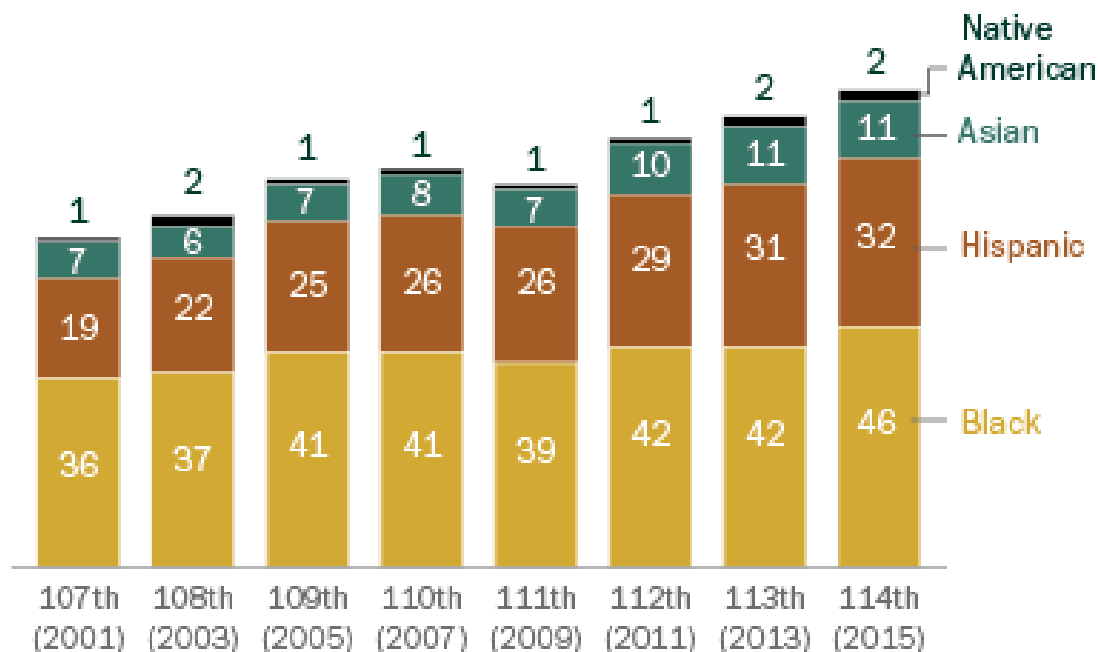
● Asian-Americans: 15



115th Congress: Race/Ethnicity

Growing Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Congress

Number of House and Senate members by race and ethnicity



Note: The data do not include nonvoting delegates or commissioners. Figures represent the makeup of Congress on the first day of the session. Asian includes Pacific Islanders.

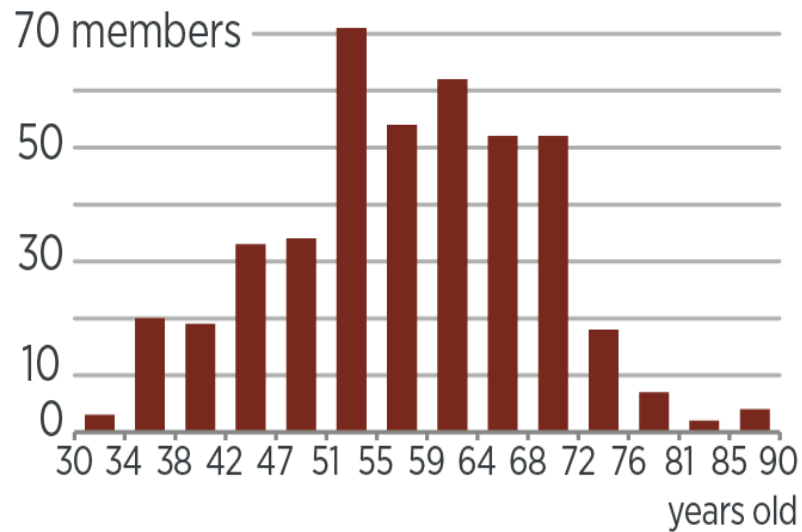
Source: CQ Roll Call, Congressional Research Service, Brookings Institution

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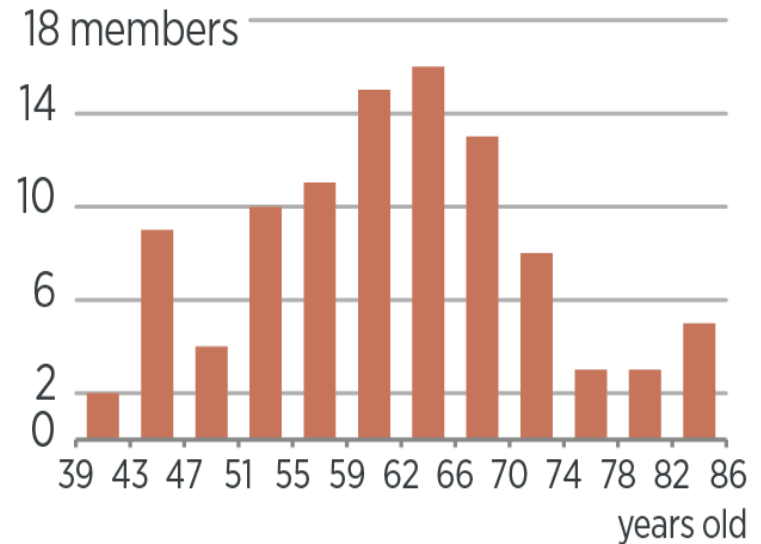
115th Congress: Age

Ages of the 115th Congress

House



Senate



115th Congress: Occupation

Occupation	House	Senate
Public office	191	44
Business	178	29
Law	156	50
Education	77	20
Real estate	30	5
Agriculture	23	5
Labor/blue collar	23	2
Medicine/doctor	17	4
Homemaker	15	5
Secretarial	17	2
Journalism	13	4
Health care	15	
Military	11	1
Technical	7	3
Engineering	9	
Clergy	8	1
Law enforcement	8	
Hospitality	6	
Science	5	
Professional athlete	5	
Artistic/creative	2	3
Actor/artist	1	2
Aeronautics	2	






Note: Members can be counted under more than one occupation

115th Congress: Education

Education

House

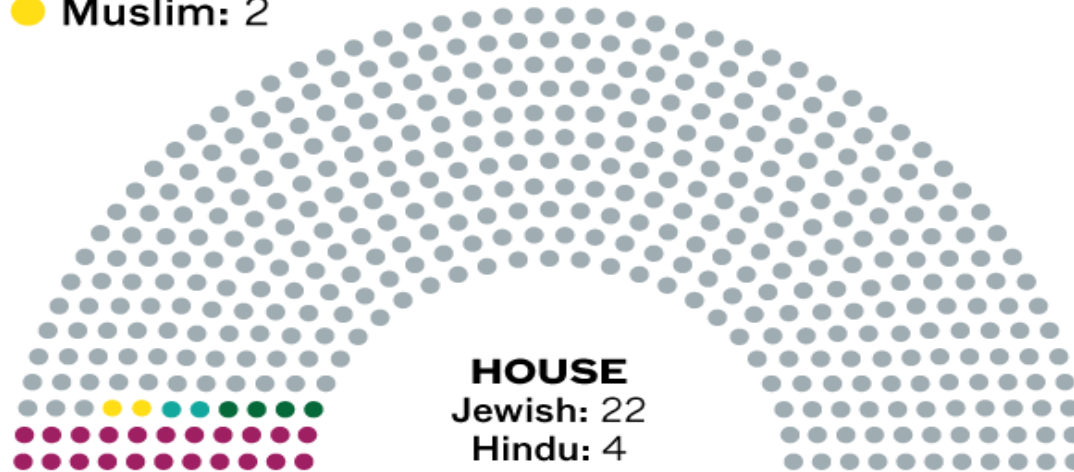
Senate

Advanced degree	 234	 57
Bachelor's or associate degree	 184	 22
No degree	 13	0

115th Congress: Religious Affiliation

NON-CHRISTIAN: 39 total

- Jewish: 30
- Hindu: 4
- Buddhist: 3
- Muslim: 2



HOUSE
Jewish: 22
Hindu: 4
Buddhist: 2
Muslim: 2



SENATE
Jewish: 8
Buddhist: 1

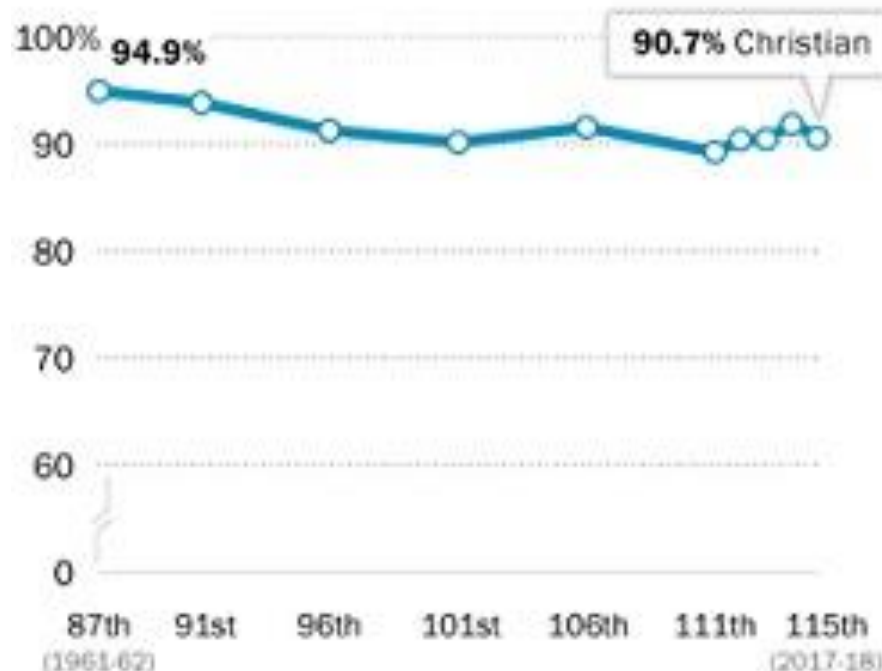
115th Congress: Religious Affiliation

Religion	House	Senate
Roman Catholic	143	24
Protestant -other	80	14
Baptist	50	10
Methodist	31	9
Presbyterian	22	13
Episcopalian	27	5
Jewish	22	8
Lutheran	19	7
Other/unspecified	11	3
Mormon	7	6
Eastern Orthodox	4	
African Methodist Episcopal	4	
Pentecostal	3	
Buddhist	2	1
Seventh-Day Adventist	2	
Muslim	2	
Christian Scientist	2	

115th Congress: Religious Affiliation

Congress remains overwhelmingly Christian

% of members who identify themselves as Christian



Source: Figures for Congress based on Pew Research Center analysis of data collected by CQ Roll Call, reflecting members of Congress to be sworn in on Jan. 3, 2017.

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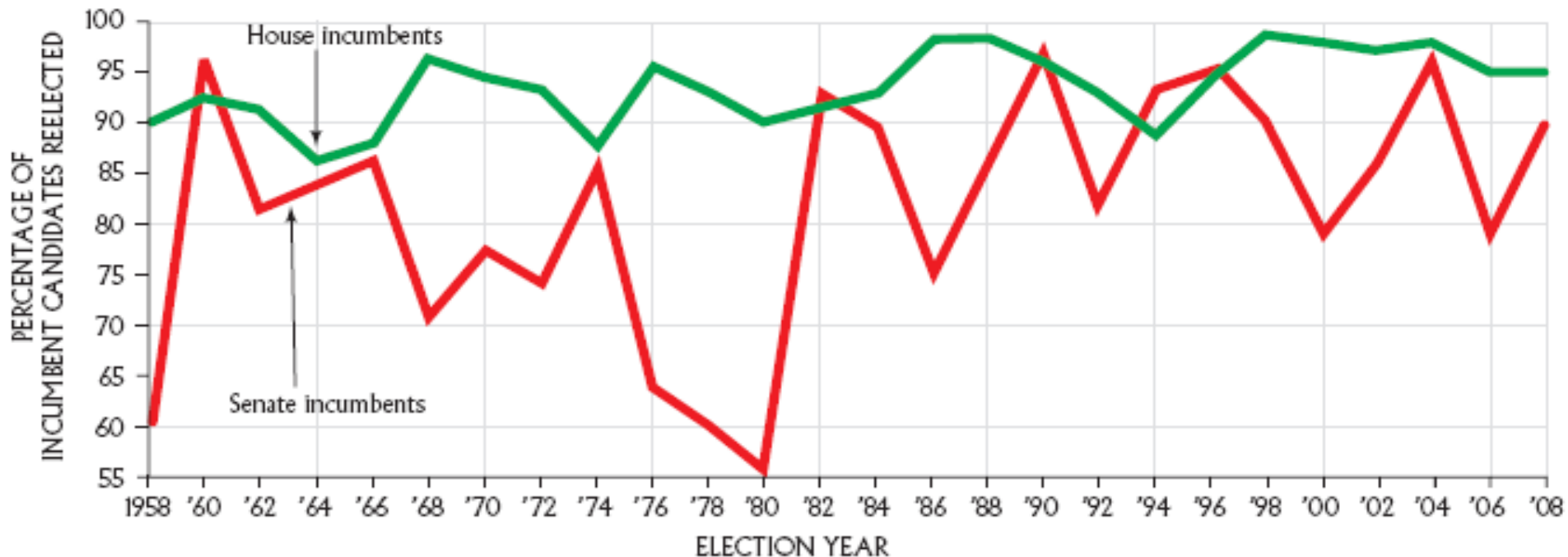
The Incumbent Advantage

Key Terms/Concepts:

- Incumbent- those already holding office
- Challenger- those attempting to defeat the incumbent

FIGURE 12.1

The Incumbency Factor in Congressional Elections



Incumbent Advantage

- **Position Taking:**

- Portray themselves as hard working, dedicated individuals
- Occasionally take a partisan stand on an issue

- **Weak Opponents:**

- Inexperienced in politics, unorganized, and underfunded

- **Campaign Spending:**

- Challengers need to raise large sums to defeat an incumbent
- PACs give most of their money to incumbents
- Does PAC money “buy” votes in Congress?

Incumbent Advantage

■ Advertising:

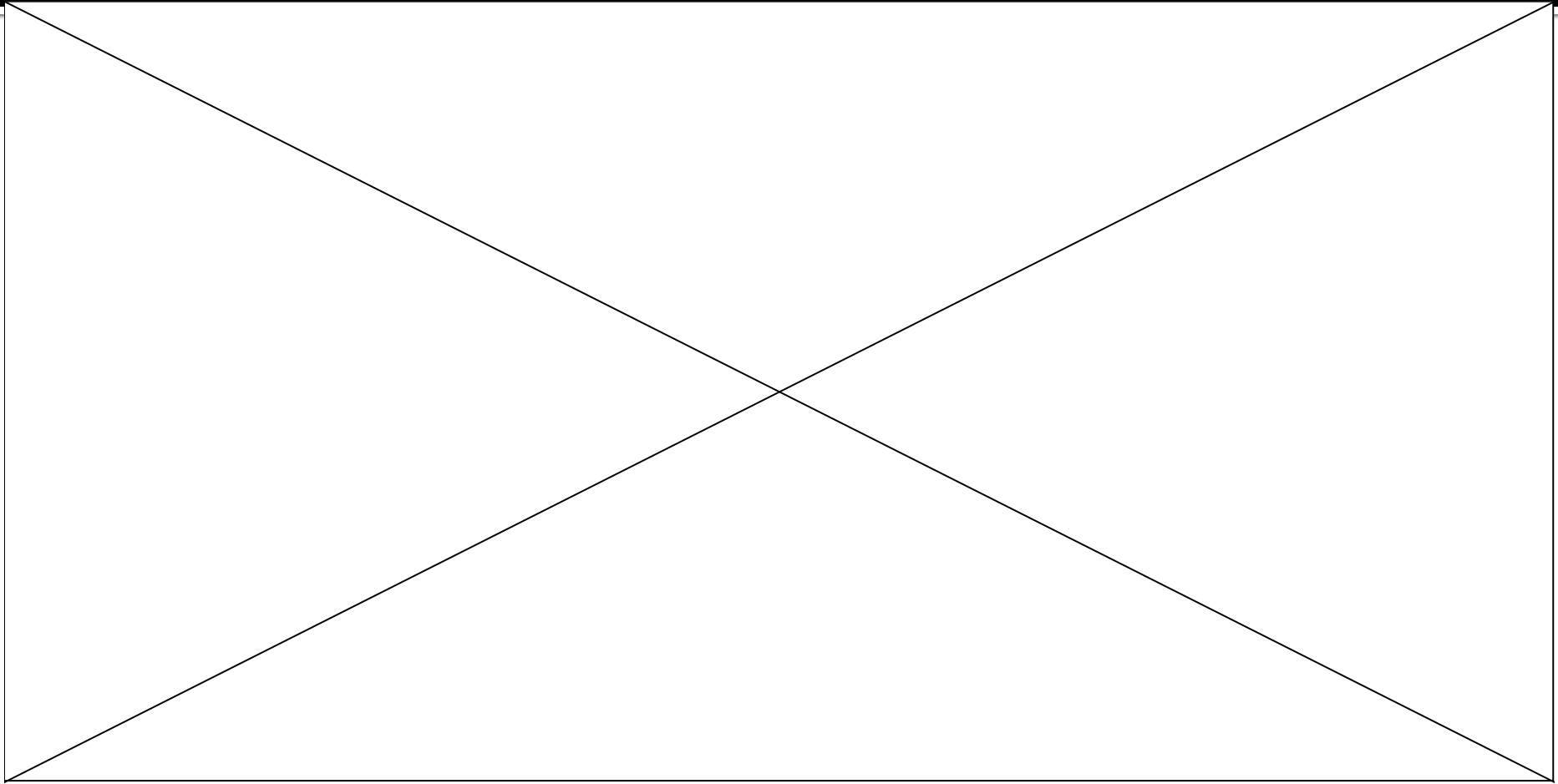
- The goal is to be visible to your constituents
- Frequent trips home, use of newsletters, social media and other technologies

■ Credit Claiming:

- Service to constituents through:
 - **Casework**- activities that help constituents as individuals, particularly by cutting through “red tape” to get people what they think they have the right to get
 - **Earmarks**- direct funding to a specific projects
 - **Pork Barrel**- Federal projects, grants, etc. made available in a congressional district or state



Earmarks & Pork Barrel Spending



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqRxNnjUEtM>

Understanding the 115th Congress

Grab a chrome book from the front of the room and navigate to govtrack.us

Part 1: Congressional Party Demographics

- **Working independently:** Use the website to determine the current partisan breakdown of the 115th Congress
 - Note the # and graph the % of Democrats, Republicans & Independents currently sitting in both the House of Representatives and the Senate

Part 2: Colorado US Senators

- **Working independently:** Use the website and any other ACADEMIC sources to complete the profile information for both Colorado US Senators
 - Note any sources you used to find the required information (especially critiques, praises and approval ratings)
- **With your team:** Compare your findings and come a consensus on any inconsistencies in your research
 - Check sources if information is different than your peers; determine what sources/information is most reputable

Understanding the 114th Congress

Part 3: Colorado US Representatives

(I will split you into new groups of 3-4)

- **Working with your new team:** Use the govtrack.us and any other ACADEMIC sources to complete the profile information for your assigned Colorado member of the 114th US House of Representatives
 - Note any sources you used to find the required information (especially critiques, praises and approval ratings)
 - *If you finish earlier than other teams, begin working on the analysis of the Colorado General Assembly*
- **Group Jigsaw:** Meet with at least 1 member of every other group to share your findings on each Colorado Representative
 - Take notes on each of the representatives to gain a strong understanding of who advocates for our state in the US House of Representatives