

Women of Color in Congress

- **126** women serve in the 116th U.S. Congress
- **47**, or **37.3%**, are women of color, outperforming their representation
- In addition, a Black woman, a Latina, an Asian Pacific Islander, and a Caribbean American woman serve as Delegates to the House from Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands, respectively. Women of color constitute **8.8%** of the total **535** members of Congress.

1 Republican, 42 Democrats

Black Women in the US Congress

- 25 of the women of color in the US Congress are Black – counting Rashida Tlaib and Delegates Eleanor Holmes Norton, and Stacey Plaskett

Black Women in Congress

Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC)

Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)

Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-OH)

*Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)

Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY)

*Rep. Val Demings (D-FL)

Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH)

*Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT)

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

Rep. Robin L. Kelly (D-IL)

• Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-MI)

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)

Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA)

Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)

*Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN)

*Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA)

Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL)

*Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL)

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)

Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

Latinas in 116th Congress

Latina (11D, 1R)

Rep. Nanette Baragan (D-CA)

Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-TX)

Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-TX)

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA)

Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL)

Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)

Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)

Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA)

Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA)

Rep. Xochitl Torres Small (D-NM)

Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)

Women of Color- Mayors

| Black | Latina |
|---|---|
| Muriel Bowser (D), Washington, DC, 2015-present | Mary Casillas Salas (D*), Chula Vista, CA, 2015-present |
| Sharon Weston Broome (D), Baton Rouge, LA, 2017-present | |
| Vi Alexander Lyles (D), Charlotte, NC, 2017-present | Asian Pacific Islander |
| Keisha Lance Bottoms (D*), Atlanta, GA, 2018-present | Lily Mei (D*), Fremont, CA, 2016-present |
| LaToya Cantrell (D), New Orleans, LA, 2018-present | Karen K. Goh (R*), Bakersfield, CA, 2017-present |
| London Breed (D*), San Francisco, CA, 2018-present | |
| Lori Lightfoot (D*), Chicago, IL, 2019-present | |

Factors Contributing to Rise of Women of Color Holding Political Office

1. Inspiration of Barack Obama
2. Election of Donald Trump
3. Organizations
 - Power Rising
 - Delta Sigma Theta
 - MoveOn
4. Weight of History: MMB and DIH
5. Nonprofit fatigue

BLACK WOMEN'S POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

- Organized in the fall of 1983
- Nonpartisan
- Educate Black women in the workings of the political system
- Increase the number of Black women in elected office,
- Engage black female voters
- Provide financial and other support
- Help qualified women obtain better paying jobs and receive local, state, and national appointments.

BLACK PACS

[The Collective PAC:](#)

Founded in 2016 by Quentin James and Stefanie Brown James, The Collective PAC is “working to fix the challenge of African American underrepresentation in elected seats of power throughout our nation.”

[Higher Heights for America:](#)

Founded by Glynda Carr and Kimberly Peeler-Allen in 2014, Higher Heights for America PAC is “galvanizing the collective political power of our members to help elect more Black women to public office at all levels.”

[The Black Economic Alliance \(BE Alliance\)](#)

Founded by Akunna Cook in 2018, this new PAC was formed by Black executives across the country

[Color of Change PAC](#)

Color Of Change PAC is the political action arm of Color of Change organization.

It was founded by Arisha Michelle-Hatch and Rashad Robinson, the spokesperson for the PAC, in 2016. Color of Change PAC focuses on “building independent Black political power, amplifying Black voices, electing candidates who share our values and holding them accountable to our communities.”