

The Young Elected Leaders Project

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RUTGERS

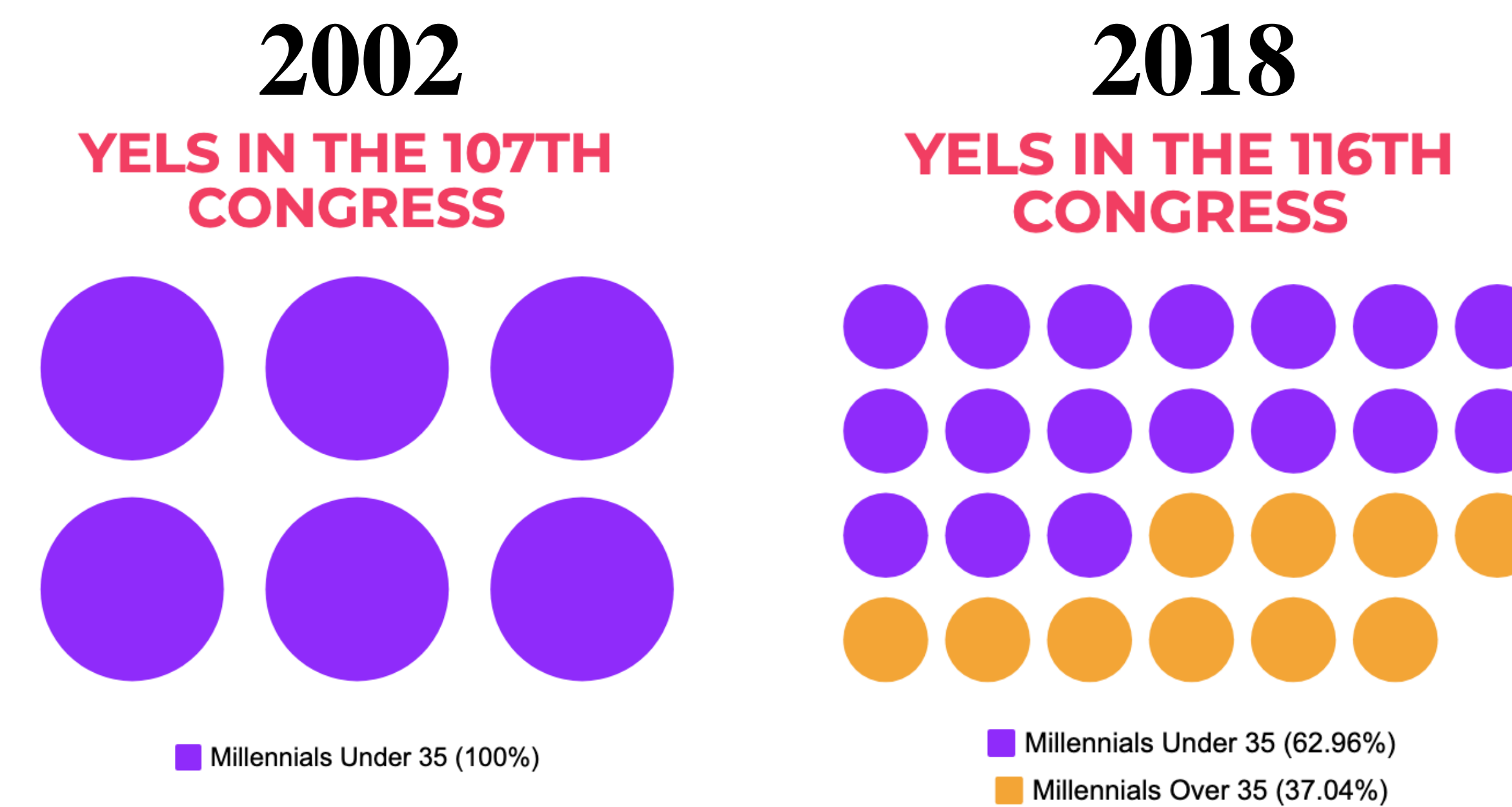
Aresty Research Center
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Abstract

This research examined the differences between the results of the original Young Elected Leaders Project (YELP), a cohort study launched in 2002 to analyze elected leaders of *Generation X*, and the results of an analysis of elected leaders of the *Millennial Generation* in 2018. As the *Millennial Generation* is the largest and most diverse generation in American history, we specifically investigated the extent to which these demographics are reflected among YELs currently holding office and the extent to which these trends differ from YELs of *Generation X*. To conduct this demographic analysis, we created a database of YELs serving in state legislatures across the country. Additionally, we compiled data of all candidates in the 2018 congressional midterm elections. In terms of qualitative research, we are conducting interviews with YELs, an ongoing effort, and will further code these interviews to examine their personal backgrounds and leadership qualities and understand how these relate to the *Millennial Generation* in terms of attitudes, preferences, and demographics. Ultimately, our findings show that the *Millennial Generation* is generally underrepresented in elected office, though significantly more present, especially in Congress, than in previous years.

Congressional Analysis: 2002 vs. 2018

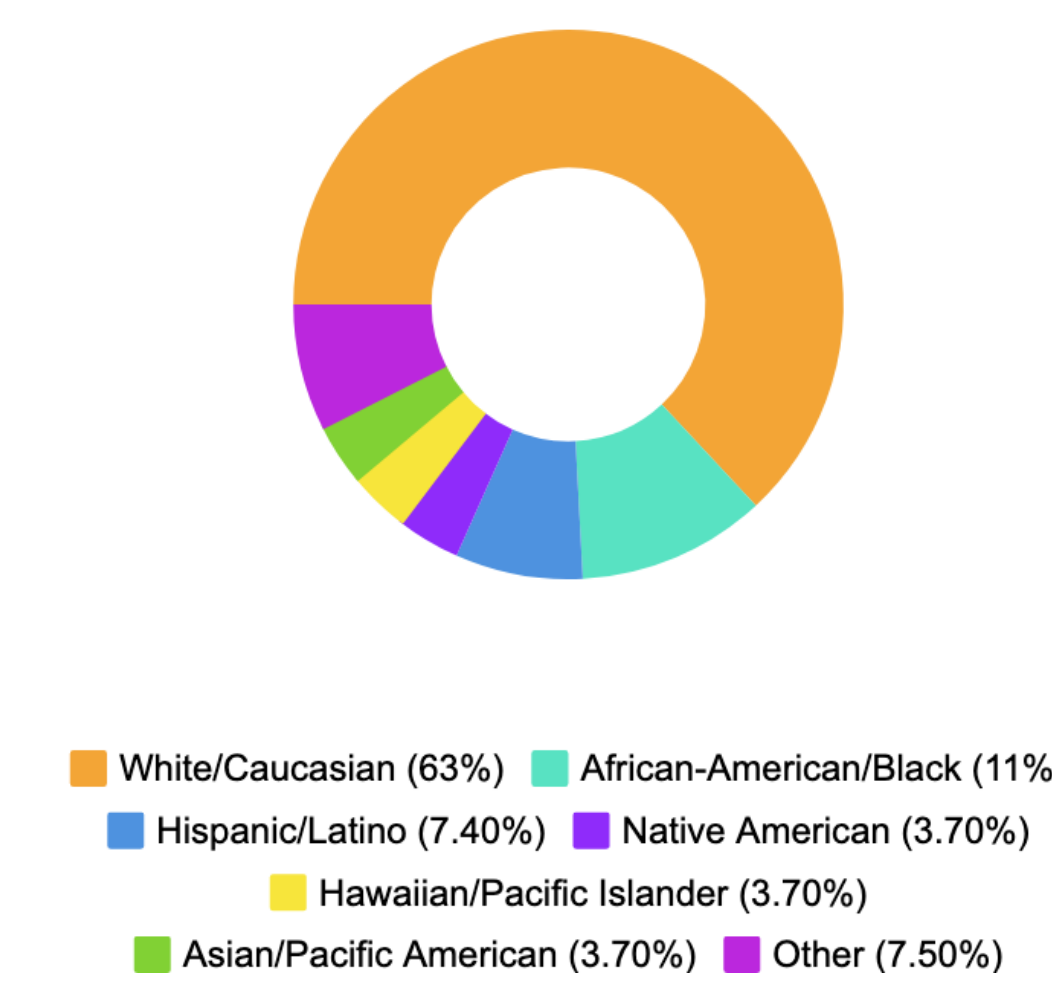
The 116th Congress has a record breaking number of *Young Elected Leaders*. Despite a sustained lack of *Millennial* representation in Congress as it relates to nationwide demographics, young people are significantly more present in the 116th Congress than they were in the 107th Congress when YELP was first launched.



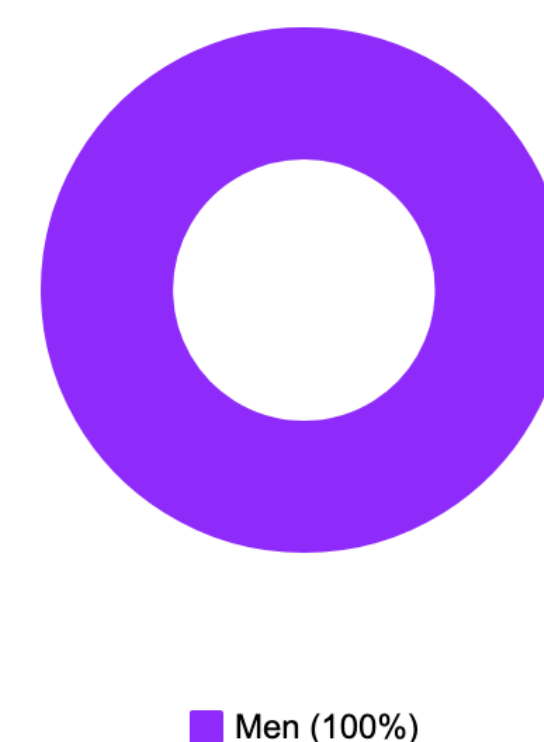
ETHNICITY OF YELS IN 107TH CONGRESS



ETHNICITY OF MILLENNIALS IN 116TH CONGRESS



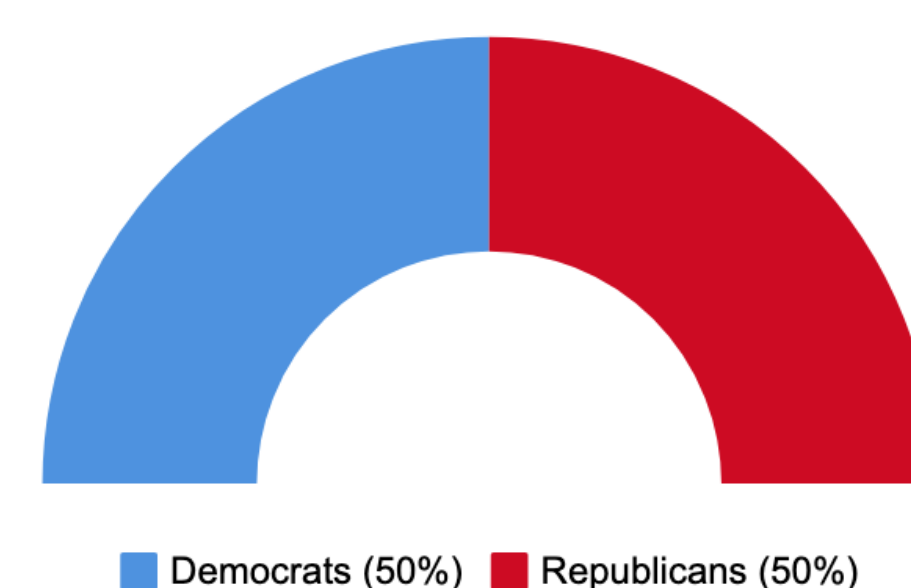
GENDER OF YELS IN 107TH CONGRESS



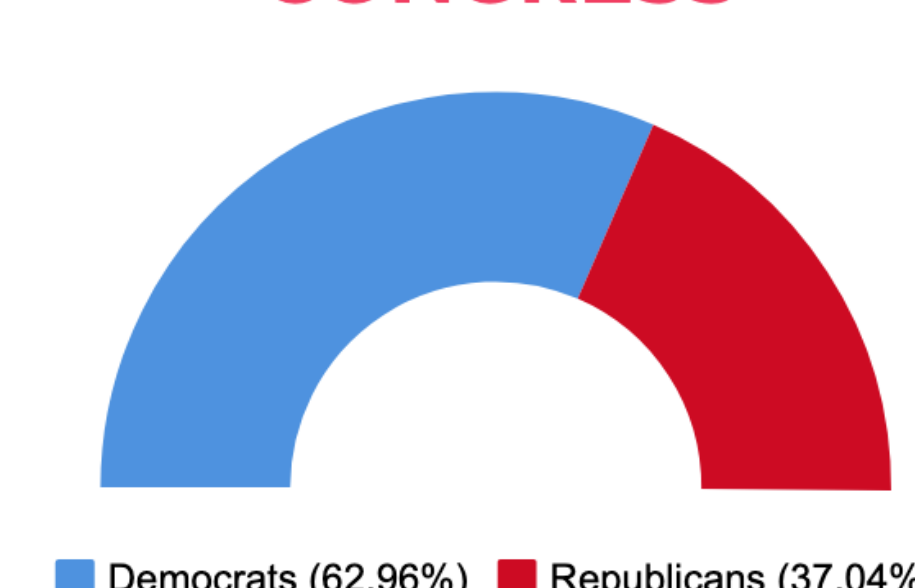
GENDER OF MILLENNIALS IN 116TH CONGRESS



PARTISAN MAKEUP OF YELS IN 107TH CONGRESS

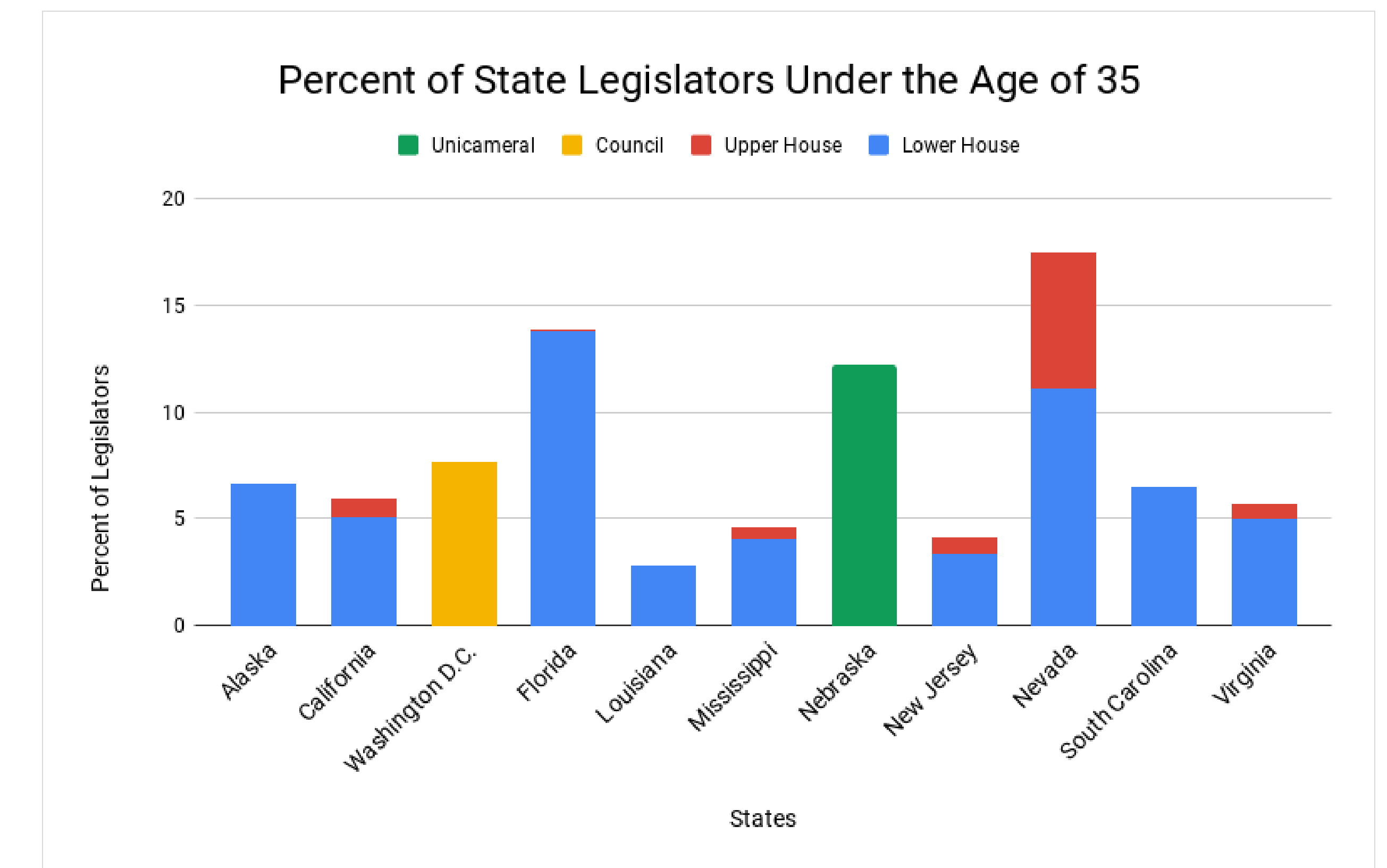


PARTISAN MAKEUP OF MILLENNIALS IN 116TH CONGRESS



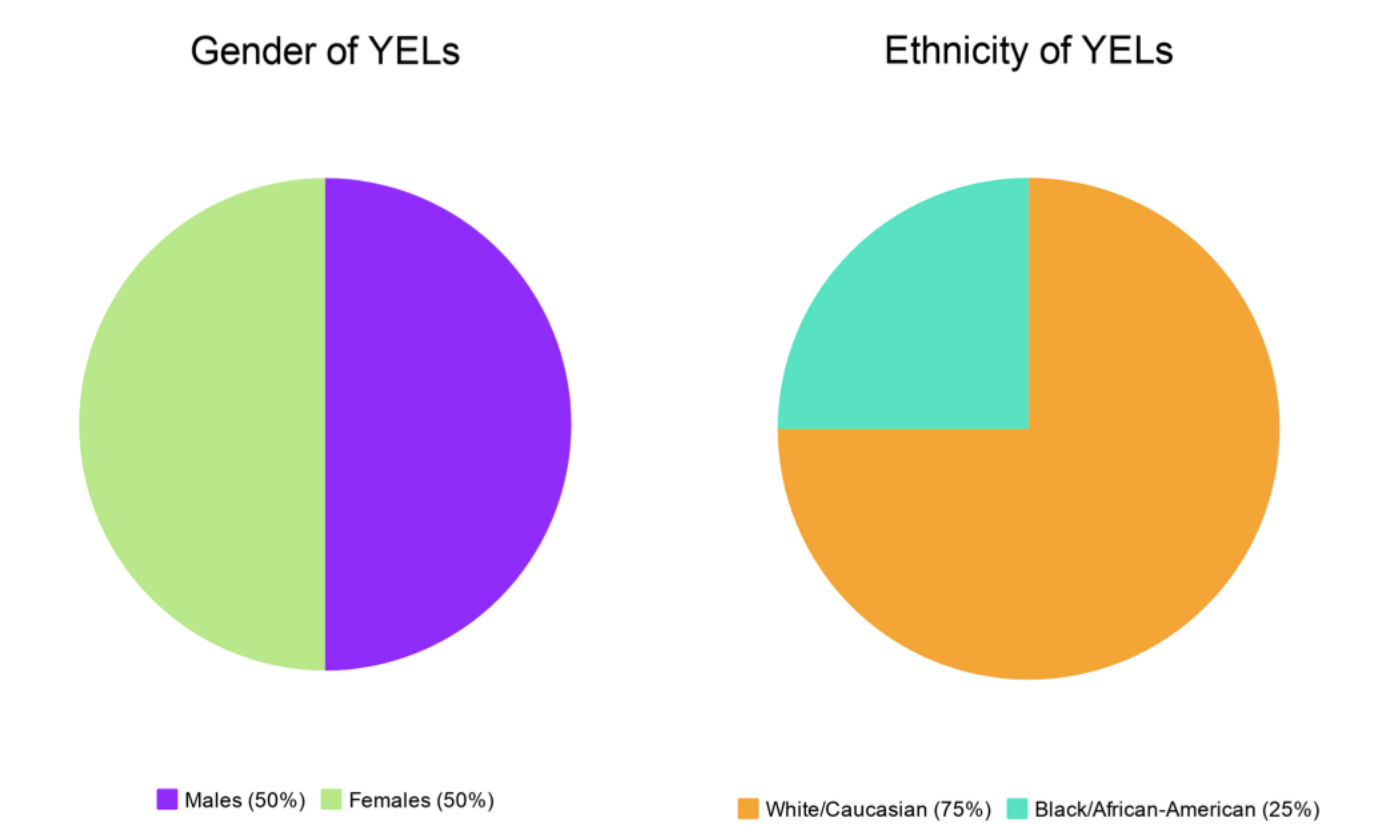
State Legislature Analysis

One of the main components of our research consisted of collecting data on state legislatures around the country and analyzing trends in gender, ethnicity, and partisanship of Young Elected Leaders.



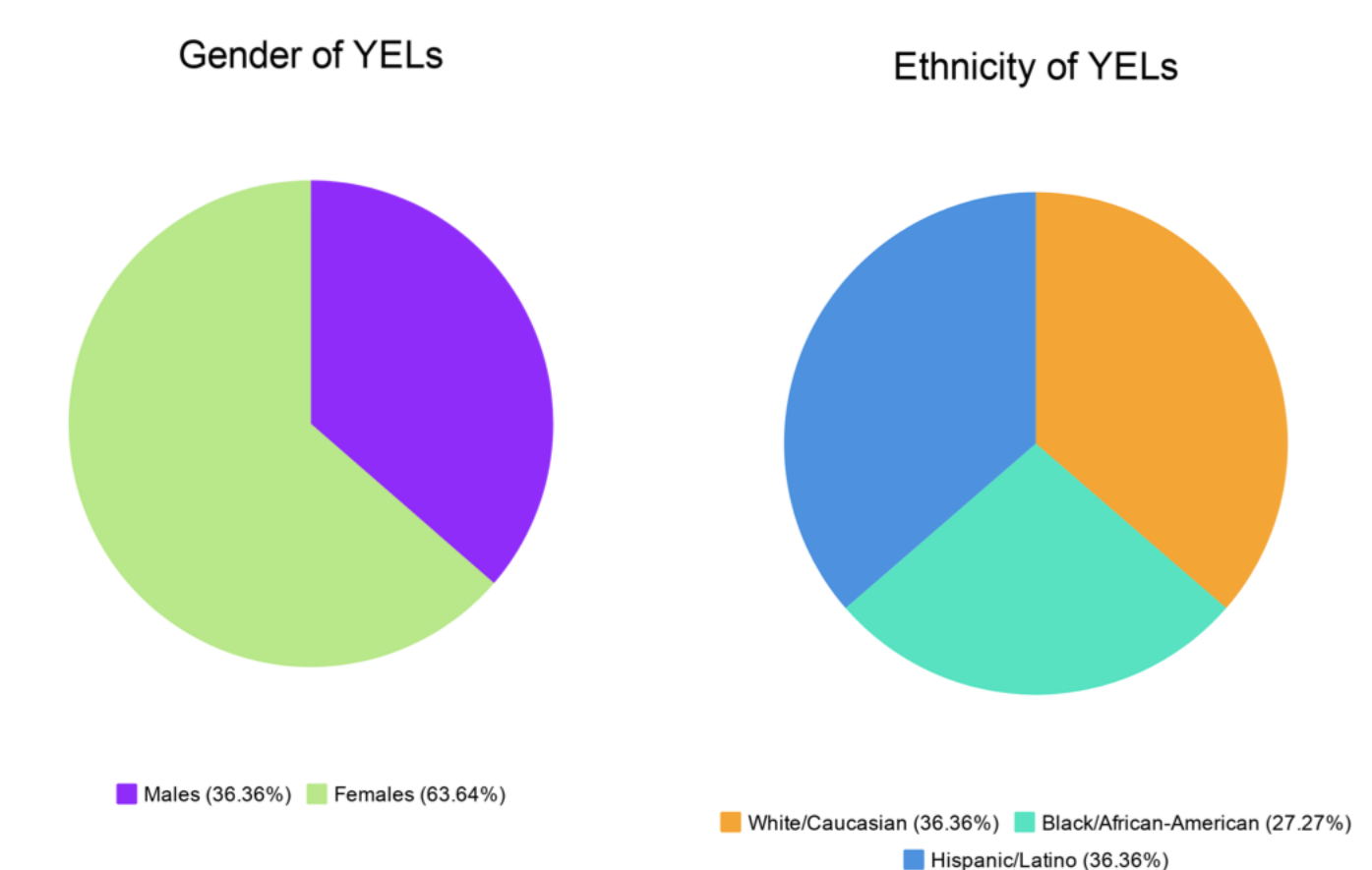
LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE

Louisiana has the lowest percentage of YELs of all the states we studied. There are 4 Young Elected Leaders in the Louisiana House of Representatives. Three are Republican and one is a Democrat.



NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE

Nevada has the highest percentage of YELs of all the states we studied. There are 7 Young Elected Leaders in the Nevada State Assembly, and 4 Young Elected Leaders in the Nevada State Senate. Four are Republicans and seven are Democrats.



Implications for Future Research

The results of our analysis on the national level suggest a significant increase in Millennial representation, especially among those categorized as YELs. This age-related demographic shift could lead to major changes in agenda-setting and policy, and are also likely reflective of demographic shifts among the electorate, especially given how ideologically liberal and diverse many YELs are. On a state-level, our research indicates an increase in Millennials elected into office, however, this generation remains largely underrepresented in state legislatures. This research allows us to track the Millennial Generation and learn how different generations engage in our elections.

