

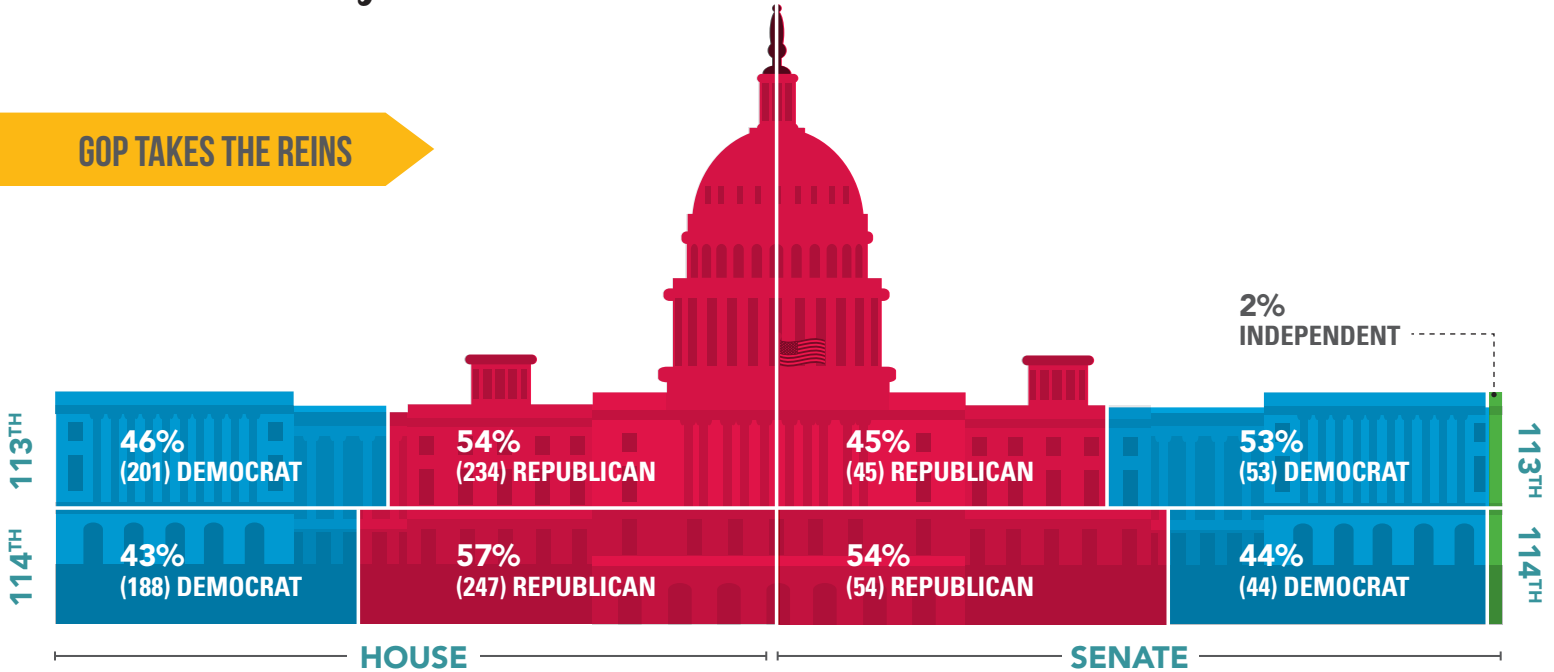


JANUARY 2015

114TH CONGRESS by the Numbers

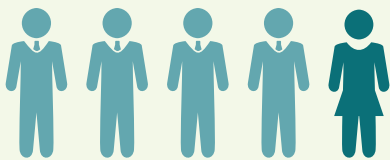
The 114th Congress was sworn in earlier this month, and its members will be determining the direction of our nation's education policies. But who makes up the 114th Congress?

GOP TAKES THE REINS



Republicans gained majority control of the Senate and widened their control in the House after the 2014 midterm elections. Although Republicans now hold 57 percent of the House seats and 54 percent of the Senate seats, they still fall short of reaching the two-thirds of member votes needed to override a presidential veto. This means compromise across the aisle will still be a crucial element of success for the 114th Congress.¹

THE BASICS



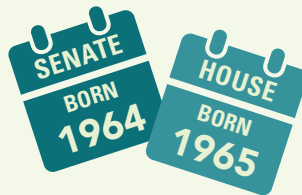
81%

MALE

19%

FEMALE

There are more women—104—in the 114th Congress than ever before; however, women still account for less than 20 percent of the governing body.²



Among the new members of the 114th Congress, the average age is 50 for those in the House and 51 for those in the Senate.³



Of the entire 114th Congress, half of the House and 45 percent of the Senate have held office for four years or fewer.⁴

EDUCATION EXPERIENCE



About a quarter of the 114th Congress—25 percent of the Senate and 24 percent of the House—was serving when No Child Left Behind passed in 2001.



The youngest woman ever elected to Congress, Elise Stefanik (R-NY), was in high school when Congress passed NCLB.⁶



Among the new members of the 114th Congress, 17 percent—12 of 70—have had a career in education. Their roles ranged from school board members to university presidents.⁵

SOURCES

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JOHN KLINE (R-MN)

Chair of the House Education Committee since 2010

- A 25-year veteran of the Marine Corps, Kline served as a helicopter pilot and flew Marine One, the president's personal helicopter.
- Kline was elected to Congress in 2002.
- He sponsored an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) replacement bill—H.R. 5—that passed through the House during the 113th Congress.
- Kline expects upcoming ESEA rewrites to place more education decisions and control in the hands of local decision makers. His legislative priorities include streamlining federal student aid applications and replicating high-quality charter schools.



LAMAR ALEXANDER (R-TN)

New Chair of the Senate Education Committee

- Alexander is the former governor of Tennessee.
- The son of educators, Alexander served as the president of the University of Tennessee from 1989–1991 and the U.S. Secretary of Education under George H. W. Bush from 1991–1993.
- He was elected to the Senate in 2003.
- Alexander intends to reauthorize ESEA this spring with a focus on reducing the federal role in education and expanding state autonomy.