

Chapter 1 : African Americans | House Press Gallery

The first African Americans to serve in the United States Congress were Republicans elected during the Reconstruction
www.nxgvision.com slaves were emancipated and granted citizenship rights, freedmen gained political representation in
the Southern United States for the first time.

CRS summary, based on <http://> Three columns include numbers for the House: Totals are provided for 1 the number of African Americans in the House and Senate, not including non-voting Members; and 2 the number of African Americans in the House and Senate, including non-voting Members. For simplification, Congresses are listed in two-year increments. Pursuant to the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, which was ratified January 23, 1920, "the terms of Senators and Representatives [shall end] at noon on the 3rd day of January. The numbers include Members who served only a portion of the Congress and so may not reflect the number serving at any given time within a Congress. Service for less than the entirety of a Congress is noted below: Includes two House Members who were elected by special election serving from December 12, and January 16, 1913, respectively. Includes one Senator who presented his credentials upon the readmission of Mississippi and served from February 23, 1870. Includes two Representatives who served until their elections were contested. Includes one House Member who resigned. Includes one House Member who served until their election was contested. Includes two Representatives who successfully contested an election and served for a portion of the Congress. Includes one House Member who was elected to fill a vacancy. Includes one Representative who successfully contested an election and served for a portion of the Congress. Includes one Representative excluded from membership in the 90th Congress pursuant to H. This same person was subsequently elected by special election to fill the vacancy caused by his exclusion, though he did not appear to be sworn in. Includes one House Member who died. Includes one House Member who died and one House Member who resigned. Includes one House Member who resigned and one House Member who was elected to fill a vacancy. Includes one House Member who was elected to fill a vacancy and one House Member who died. Includes two House Members who were elected to fill a vacancy. Includes three House Members who resigned and four House Members who were elected to fill a vacancy. Includes two House Members who resigned and two House members who were elected to fill a vacancy. Includes four Members who were elected to fill a vacancy, three Members who died, and one Member who resigned. President Barack Obama served in the Senate in the 111th Congress until his resignation on November 16, 2010. Includes one Senator who was appointed to fill a vacancy. Includes one Member who died, one who was elected to fill a vacancy, one who resigned, and one who was appointed to the Senate and resigned from the House on January 2, 1913. Includes three House Members who were elected to fill a vacancy and one House Member who resigned. Includes one Senator who was appointed to fill a vacancy February 1, 1870, and one Senator who was elected to fill a vacancy October 31, 1870. None of the sources used for this report identified an African American Resident Commissioner. All data in this report on non-voting Members, therefore, refers to Delegates. Delegates are included in the data. The figure also includes Members who served only a portion of the Congress due, for example, to special elections, appointments to the Senate, deaths, and resignations. How African Americans Enter Congress: Constitution requires that all Members of the House of Representatives must be "chosen every second Year by the People of the several States. By contrast, the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution, which was ratified in 1913, gives state legislatures the option to empower governors to fill congressional Senate vacancies by temporary appointment. The Seventeenth Amendment also provides for direct elections of Senators by the "people" of a state. Previously, Senators were elected by legislative selection rather than through the direct elections by which Representatives to Congress were elected. Of these three, one was a candidate for reelection and served in more than one Congress. CMOs do not receive separate funding, and they have not since a change in the Rules of the House adopted for the 111th Congress. As in the House, informal congressional groups or organizations do not receive separate funding.

Chapter 2 : Rooted in Reconstruction: The First Wave of Black Congressmen | The Nation

African Americans in the th Congress A list of the African-Americans currently serving in the th Congress. There are 46 black members in the House of Representatives and 2 in the Senate.

Service Tenure and Patterns of Member Service, , by [author name scrubbed] and [author name scrubbed]. Representatives are elected for two-year terms. Senators are elected for six-year terms. Note that 50 Senators in the th Congress have previously served in the House. Their House service is not included in this average, nor is the House service of Senators included in previous Congresses. These numbers are lower than at the beginning of the th Congress, when Religion Ninety-eight percent of the Members of the th Congress are reported to be affiliated with a specific religion. Statistics gathered by the Pew Research Center on Religion and Public Life, which studies the religious affiliation of Members, and CQ at the beginning of the th Congress showed the following: Of the 89 women in the House, 64 are Democrats, including 3 of the Delegates, and 25 are Republicans, including 1 Delegate as well as the Resident Commissioner. Of the 23 women in the Senate, 17 are Democrats and 6 are Republicans. This number includes one Representative, as well as one Senator, who are of African American and Asian ancestry, and one Representative who is of African American and Hispanic ancestry. In this report, each of these three Members is counted as belonging to two ethnic groups. Two Senators are Democrats and one is Republican. Twenty African American women, including two Delegates, serve in the House, and one serves in the Senate. These numbers include one House Member who is also of Asian descent, and one House Member of African ancestry; these Members are counted in both ethnic categories in this report. Ten are women, including the Resident Commissioner. Of the five Hispanic Senators three Republicans, two Democrats , one is a woman. These numbers include one House Member and one Senator who are also of African American ancestry, and another House Member of Hispanic ancestry; these Members are counted in both ethnic categories in this report. Of those serving in the House, two are Delegates. Some of these Members were born to American citizens working or serving abroad. Constitution requires that Representatives be citizens for seven years and Senators be citizens for nine years before they take office. According to lists compiled by CQ, the House as of September 11, , has 76 veterans including 2 female Members, as well as 1 Delegate ; the Senate has 17 veterans, including 2 women. All of the female veterans are combat veterans. The number of veterans in the th Congress reflects the trend of steady decline in recent decades in the number of Members who have served in the military. For summary information on the demographics of Members in selected past Congresses, including age trends, occupational backgrounds, military veteran status, and educational attainment, see CRS Report R, Representatives and Senators: Trends in Member Characteristics Since , coordinated by [author name scrubbed].

Chapter 3 : African Americans in the United States Congress - Wikipedia

Since , when Senator Hiram Revels of Mississippi and Representative Joseph Rainey of South Carolina became the first African Americans to serve in Congress, a total of African Americans have served as U.S. Representatives, Delegates, or Senators.

Ready to fight back? Sign up for Take Action Now and get three actions in your inbox every week. You can read our Privacy Policy here. Thank you for signing up. For more from The Nation, check out our latest issue. Support Progressive Journalism The Nation is reader supported: Travel With The Nation Be the first to hear about Nation Travels destinations, and explore the world with kindred spirits. Sign up for our Wine Club today. Did you know you can support The Nation by drinking wine? Yet divisions among black politicians are nothing new. Some politicians have defined themselves primarily as representatives of a black community; others have identified with predominantly white, nonracial parties like the Populists, Socialists or Communists. Some have been nationalists who believe that racial advancement comes only through community self-determination; others have worked closely with white allies. These differences go back as far as debates among black abolitionists before the Civil War. Of the thousands of men and women who have served in the Senate or as governors since the ratification of the Constitution, only nine have been African-American. Three of the nine hold office today: Well over a century ago, during the turbulent era of Reconstruction, they were preceded by another three: Pinchback, briefly the governor of Louisiana. The gulf between this trio and Obama, Paterson and Patrick is a striking reminder of the almost insurmountable barriers that have kept African-Americans from the highest offices in the land. It also underscores how remarkable, if temporary, a transformation in American life was wrought by Reconstruction. Revels, Bruce and Pinchback were only the tip of a large iceberg—“an estimated 2, black men served in some kind of elective office during that era. The emergence of these men in the aftermath of the Civil War was living proof of an idea expressed after an earlier period of turmoil and bloodshed: Mythologies about black officeholders formed a central pillar of this outlook. Claude Bowers, in *The Tragic Era*, a bestseller of the s that did much to form popular consciousness about Reconstruction, offered a similar portrait. To Griffith and Bowers, the incapacity of black officials justified the violence of the Ku Klux Klan and the eventual disenfranchisement of Southern black voters. Historians have long since demolished this racist portrait of the era. Today Reconstruction is viewed as a noble if flawed experiment, a forerunner of the modern struggle for racial justice. If the era was tragic, it was not because Reconstruction was attempted but because the effort to construct an interracial democracy on the ruins of slavery failed. Perhaps because it concentrates on the careers of a few individuals, *Capitol Men* is episodic and somewhat unfocused. Still, Dray is an engaging writer with an eye for the dramatic incident and an ability to draw out its broader significance and relevance to our own times. Twelve years earlier, Smalls had piloted the *Planter*, on which he worked as a slave crewman, out of Charleston harbor and delivered it to the Union navy, a deed that made him a national hero. In , while the ship was undergoing repairs in Philadelphia, a conductor evicted Smalls from a streetcar when he refused to give up his seat to a white passenger. Equally riveting is the confrontation between Alexander Stephens, the former vice president of the Confederacy, then representing Georgia in the House of Representatives, and another black South Carolinian, Congressman Robert Elliott. The subject of their exchange was a civil rights bill banning racial discrimination in places of public accommodation. Elliott launched into a learned and impassioned address explaining why the recently enacted Fourteenth Amendment justified the measure which was signed into law by President Grant the following year , then reminded Congress of an infamous speech Stephens had delivered on the eve of the Civil War: Many of the black Congressmen spoke of the abuse they suffered while traveling to the Capitol. Joseph Rainey was removed from a hotel dining room; Robert Elliott was refused service at a restaurant in a railroad station. Even when they reached Washington, hazards remained and insults swirled about them. A number of black Congressmen faced death threats and defended themselves by posting armed guards at their homes. Some had been free before the Civil War, others enslaved. Some favored government action to distribute land to former slaves; others insisted that in a market society the only way to acquire land

was to purchase it. Some ran for office as representatives of their race, others as exemplars of the ideal that, with the end of slavery and the advent of legal equality, race no longer mattered. Blanche Bruce was one of the more conservative black leaders; yet in the Senate he spoke out for more humane treatment of Native Americans and opposed legislation banning immigration from China. Like Obama, many of the sixteen black members of Congress discussed by Dray had enjoyed opportunities and advantages unknown to most African-Americans. Bruce was the slave son of his owner and was educated by the same tutor who taught his white half-siblings. He escaped at the outset of the Civil War, organized a black school in Missouri and was a Mississippi newspaper editor and local officeholder before his election to the Senate. Some Congressmen had enjoyed unique privileges as slaves. Others, however, had experienced slavery in all its brutality. None of these men fit the old stereotype of Reconstruction officials as ignorant, incompetent and corrupt. All were literate, most were seasoned political organizers by the time of their election and nearly all were honest. One who does fit the image of venality was Governor Pinchback of Louisiana, whose career combined staunch advocacy of civil rights with a sharp eye for opportunities to line his pockets. Pinchback grew up and attended school in Cincinnati. In the s he worked as a cabin boy on an Ohio River steamboat. He fell in with a group of riverboat gamblers and learned their trade. Pinchback was undoubtedly corrupt he accumulated a small fortune while in office but also an accomplished politician. Reconstruction ended in , when President Rutherford B. Hayes abandoned the idea of federal intervention to protect the rights of black citizens in the South, essentially leaving their fate in the hands of local whites. But as Dray notes, black political power, while substantially diminished, did not vanish until around , when the Southern states disenfranchised black voters. Six more African-Americans served in Congress before the end of the nineteenth century. Some of their Reconstruction predecessors remained active in politics. Robert Smalls, of Planter fame, served as customs collector at Beaufort until , when he was removed as part of a purge of blacks from the federal bureaucracy by Woodrow Wilson, the first Southern-born president since Reconstruction. Like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in our own time, the bank was a private corporation chartered by Congress that enjoyed the implicit but not statutory backing of the federal government. Its counterparts today are being bailed out with billions of taxpayer dollars, as they have been deemed too big to fail. The last black Congressman of the post-Reconstruction era was George White of North Carolina, whose term ended in . From then until , when Oscar DePriest took his seat representing Chicago, Congress remained lily-white. Today the Congressional Black Caucus numbers forty-two members, seventeen of them from the states of the old Confederacy. But the pioneering black predecessors have been all but forgotten. I know of only two examples of public recognition in their home statesâ€”a school named for Robert Smalls in Beaufort and a Georgetown, South Carolina, park named for Joseph Rainey. To submit a correction for our consideration, [click here](#). For Reprints and Permissions, [click here](#).

Chapter 4 : 15th Amendment - HISTORY

The United States House of Representatives has had elected African-American members, of whom have been Representatives from U.S. states and 6 have been Delegates from U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

Hiram Revels, the first African American to serve in either house of Congress. After slaves were emancipated and granted citizenship rights, freedmen gained political representation in the Southern United States for the first time. White Democrats regained political power in state legislatures across the South and worked to restore white supremacy. By the presidential election of 1876, only three state legislatures were not controlled by white Democrats. The Compromise of 1877 completed the period of Redemption by white Democratic Southerners, with the withdrawal of federal troops from the South. State legislatures began to pass Jim Crow laws to establish racial segregation and restrict labor rights, movement and organizing by blacks. They passed some laws to restrict voter registration, aimed at suppressing the black vote. From 1890, Democratic state legislatures in the South essentially disfranchised most blacks and many poor whites from voting by passing new constitutions or amendments, or other laws related to more restrictive electoral and voter registration and electoral rules. The Democratic Party essentially dominated the "Solid South" until the 1930s. As a result of the Civil Rights Movement, the U. Congress passed laws in the 1950s to end segregation and enforce constitutional civil rights and voting rights. During two waves of massive migration within the United States in the first half of the 20th century, more than 6 million African Americans moved from the South to Northeastern, Midwestern and Western industrial cities, with 5 million migrating from the South to the North. Some were elected to national political office from their new locations. During the Great Depression, many black voters switched allegiances from the Republican Party to the Democratic Party, in support of the New Deal economic, social network, and work policies of Franklin D. Roosevelt. This trend continued in the 1960s when the national Democratic Party supported the civil rights legislation to enforce constitutional rights. At the same time, there was a different movement among whites in the South, who began to vote for Republican candidates for national and then state offices. This includes six non-voting members of the House of Representatives who have represented the District of Columbia and the U. S. Virgin Islands. Pinchback was elected both to the House of Representatives and the Senate in 1875, but neither was seated due to election disputes. Ten African Americans have served in the U. S. Senate, four in the Republican Party. Two African Americans served as Senators from Mississippi during the Reconstruction Era and one from Massachusetts during the 1870s and 1880s. The remaining seven served more recently: History of black representation Reconstruction and Redemption First black Senator and Representatives: The Thirteenth Amendment ratified December 6, 1865, abolished slavery. The Fourteenth Amendment ratified July 9, 1868, made all people born or naturalized in the United States citizens. The Fifteenth Amendment ratified February 3, 1870, forbade the denial or abridgment of the right to vote on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, and gave Congress the power to enforce the law by appropriate legislation. In 1870, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act and the four Reconstruction Acts, which dissolved all governments in the former Confederate states with the exception of Tennessee. The act required that the former Confederate states ratify their constitutions conferring citizenship rights on blacks or forfeit their representation in Congress. As a result of these measures, blacks acquired the right to vote across the Southern states. In several states notably Mississippi and South Carolina, blacks were the majority of the population. By forming coalitions with pro-Union whites, Republicans took control of the state legislatures. At the time, state legislatures elected the members of the US Senate. During Reconstruction, only the state legislature of Mississippi elected any black senators. On February 25, 1870, Hiram Rhodes Revels was seated as the first black member of the Senate, while Blanche Bruce, also of Mississippi, seated in 1875, was the second. Revels was the first black member of the Congress overall. House of Representatives, becoming the first directly elected black member of Congress to be seated. All of these Reconstruction era black senators and representatives were members of the Republican Party. The Republicans represented the party of Abraham Lincoln and of emancipation. The Democrats represented the party of planters, slavery and secession. From 1870, southern elections were accompanied by increasing violence, especially in Louisiana, Mississippi and the Carolinas, in an effort by Democrats to suppress black voting and

regain power. In the mid-1870s, paramilitary groups such as the White League and Red Shirts worked openly to turn Republicans out of office and intimidate blacks from voting. This followed the earlier years of secret vigilante action by the Ku Klux Klan against freedmen and allied whites. After the disputed Presidential election of 1876 between Democratic Samuel J. Hayes, governor of Ohio, and Republican Rutherford B. Hayes, a national agreement between Democratic and Republican factions was negotiated, resulting in the Compromise of 1877. Under the compromise, Democrats conceded the election to Hayes and promised to acknowledge the political rights of blacks; Republicans agreed to withdraw federal troops from the South and promised to appropriate a portion of federal monies toward Southern projects. Disfranchisement With the Southern states "redeemed", Democrats gradually regained control of Southern legislatures. They proceeded to restrict the rights of the majority of blacks and many poor whites to vote by imposing new requirements for poll taxes, subjective literacy tests, more strict residency requirements and other elements difficult for laborers to satisfy. By the 1890s, legislators increased restrictions on black voters through voter registration and election rules. Congress elected the first African American from Virginia and the last for nearly a century after the state passed a disenfranchising constitution at the turn of the century, excluding blacks from politics for decades. These changes effectively prevented most blacks and many poor whites from voting. Southern state and local legislatures also passed Jim Crow laws that segregated transportation, public facilities and daily life. Finally, racial violence in the form of lynchings and race riots increased in frequency, reaching a peak in the last decade of the 19th century. The last black congressman elected from the South in the 19th century was George Henry White of North Carolina, elected in 1871 and re-elected in 1873. His term expired in 1875, the same year that William McKinley, who was the last president to have fought in the Civil War, died. No blacks served in Congress for the next 28 years, and none represented any Southern state for the next 72 years. The modern era Map of congressional districts currently represented by African-Americans. From 1960 to 1990, the Great Migration of blacks from the rural south to northern cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, and Cleveland began to produce black-majority Congressional districts in the North. Blacks could exercise their right to vote. In the two waves of the Great Migration through 1960, more than six and a half million blacks moved north and west and became highly urbanized. DePriest was also the last black Republican elected to the House for 56 years. The election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932, nearly five million blacks moved north and also west, especially to California, in the second wave of the Great Migration. By the 1960s, virtually all black voters were Democrats, and most were voting in states outside the former Confederacy. It was not until after passage by Congress of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the result of years of effort on the part of African Americans and allies in the Civil Rights Movement, that blacks within the Southern states recovered their ability to exercise their rights to vote and to live with full civil rights. Accomplishing voter registration and redistricting to implement the sense of the law took more time. By that time, the only Southern rural area to have a black majority district was the Mississippi Delta area in Mississippi. Until 1960, most black House members were elected from inner-city districts in the North and West: Louis and Los Angeles all elected at least one black member. Following the 1960 census, Congressional districts needed to be redrawn due to the population shifts of the country. Historically, both parties have used gerrymandering to gain political advantage, by drawing districts to favor their own party. In this case, some districts were created to link widely separated black communities. As a result, several black Democratic members of the House were elected from new districts in Alabama, Florida, rural Georgia, rural Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia for the first time since Reconstruction. Additional black-majority districts were also created in this way in California, Maryland and Texas, thus increasing the number of black-majority districts. The creation of black-majority districts was a process supported by both parties. The Democrats saw it as a means of providing social justice, as well as connecting easily to black voters who had been voting Democratic for decades. The Republicans believed they gained by the change, as many of the Democratic voters were moved out of historically Republican-majority districts. Since the 1960s, when decades of the Great Migration resulted in millions of African Americans having migrated from the South, no state has had a majority of African-American residents. Eight African Americans have served in the Senate since the 1960s: In the last several decades, numerous African Americans have created similar multi-racial coalitions to be elected as mayors of cities including those without a black majority. See List of first

African-American mayors. Davis had been a senator from Mississippi until

Chapter 5 : African Americans in the United States Congress | Revolv

This means that African Americans will represent just under 10% of the entire Congress. In the th Congress, which covered the years - and is almost over, there were 48 African Americans in both the House and the Senate, which translates to just under 9%.

History of black representation[edit] Reconstruction and Redemption[edit] First black Senator and Representatives: The Thirteenth Amendment ratified December 6, , abolished slavery. The Fourteenth Amendment ratified July 9, made all people born or naturalized in the United States citizens. The Fifteenth Amendment ratified February 3, forbade the denial or abridgment of the right to vote on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, and gave Congress the power to enforce the law by appropriate legislation. In , Congress passed the Civil Rights Act and the four Reconstruction Acts , which dissolved all governments in the former Confederate states with the exception of Tennessee. The act required that the former Confederate states ratify their constitutions conferring citizenship rights on blacks or forfeit their representation in Congress. As a result of these measures, blacks acquired the right to vote across the Southern states. In several states notably Mississippi and South Carolina , blacks were the majority of the population. By forming coalitions with pro-Union whites, Republicans took control of the state legislatures. At the time, state legislatures elected the members of the US Senate. During Reconstruction, only the state legislature of Mississippi elected any black senators. On February 25, , Hiram Rhodes Revels was seated as the first black member of the Senate , while Blanche Bruce , also of Mississippi, seated in , was the second. Revels was the first black member of the Congress overall. House of Representatives , becoming the first directly elected black member of Congress to be seated. All of these Reconstruction era black senators and representatives were members of the Republican Party. The Republicans represented the party of Abraham Lincoln and of emancipation. The Democrats represented the party of planters, slavery and secession. From , southern elections were accompanied by increasing violence, especially in Louisiana, Mississippi and the Carolinas, in an effort by Democrats to suppress black voting and regain power. In the mids, paramilitary groups such as the White League and Red Shirts worked openly to turn Republicans out of office and intimidate blacks from voting. This followed the earlier years of secret vigilante action by the Ku Klux Klan against freedmen and allied whites. After the disputed Presidential election of between Democratic Samuel J. Hayes , governor of Ohio , a national agreement between Democratic and Republican factions was negotiated, resulting in the Compromise of Under the compromise, Democrats conceded the election to Hayes and promised to acknowledge the political rights of blacks; Republicans agreed to withdraw federal troops from the South and promised to appropriate a portion of federal monies toward Southern projects. Disfranchisement[edit] With the Southern states " redeemed ", Democrats gradually regained control of Southern legislatures. They proceeded to restrict the rights of the majority of blacks and many poor whites to vote by imposing new requirements for poll taxes , subjective literacy tests , more strict residency requirements and other elements difficult for laborers to satisfy. By the s, legislators increased restrictions on black voters through voter registration and election rules. Congress as the first African American from Virginia and the last for nearly a century after the state passed a disenfranchising constitution at the turn of the century, excluding blacks from politics for decades. These changes effectively prevented most blacks and many poor whites from voting. Southern state and local legislatures also passed Jim Crow laws that segregated transportation, public facilities and daily life. Finally, racial violence in the form of lynchings and race riots increased in frequency, reaching a peak in the last decade of the 19th century. The last black congressman elected from the South in the 19th century was George Henry White of North Carolina , elected in and re-elected in His term expired in , the same year that William McKinley , who was the last president to have fought in the Civil War, died. No blacks served in Congress for the next 28 years, and none represented any Southern state for the next 72 years. The modern era[edit] Map of congressional districts currently represented by African-Americans. From to , the Great Migration of blacks from the rural south to northern cities such as New York , Philadelphia , Chicago , Detroit , and Cleveland began to produce black-majority Congressional districts in the North. Blacks

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Chapter 6 : Black Leaders During Reconstruction - HISTORY

African American Members of the United States Congress: Congressional Research Service Summary In total, African Americans have served in Congress.

Black Americans in Congress: The passage and ratification of the Reconstruction Amendments 13th, 14th, and 15th between and catapulted former slaves from chattel to voters and candidates for public office. The institution of Congress, and the careers of the black Members who have served in both its chambers, have undergone extensive changes during this span of nearly years. Which legislative styles did African Americans employ to integrate into the institution? How did they react to the political culture of Capitol Hill and how did they overcome institutional racism? Lastly, how did the experiences of these individuals compare to those of other newly enfranchised Americans? In striking aspects, the history of blacks in Congress mirrors that of other groups that were new to the political system. Surrogate representation was not limited to black Members of Congress; nearly half a century after blacks entered Congress, woman Members, too, grappled with the added burdens of surrogate representation. In , women throughout the country looked to the first woman to serve in Congress, Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana, for legislative support. Indeed, Rankin received so many letters she was forced to hire additional secretaries to handle the workload. Mitchell â€”, the first black Democrat to serve in Congress. Collectively, African Americans in Congress overcame barriers by persevering through three eras of participation that can be classified as pioneering â€”, apprenticeship â€”, and mature integration â€” However, Black Americans were distinct from other groups because they experienced a prolonged period of contraction, decline, and exclusion that resulted from segregation and disfranchisement. After winning the right to participate in the American experiment of self-government, African Americans were systematically and ruthlessly excluded from it: From to , there were no blacks in the federal legislature. While seeking to advance within Congress and adapt to its folkways, each generation of black Members was challenged by racial prejudice, both overt and subtle; exclusion; marginalization; and, because they were so rare, an inability to organize that lasted for many decades. Black Members of Congress also contended with increased expectations from the public and heightened scrutiny by the media. They cultivated legislative strategies that were common on Capitol Hill, but took on an added dimension in their mission to confront institutional racism and represent the interests of the larger black community. Architect of the Capitol, , a report commissioned by the U. House of Representatives and the U. Senate Slave Labor Task Force. Fehrenbacher, *The Slaveholding Republic*: Oxford University Press, Harvard University Press, Government Printing Office, For additional perspective, see William L. Missouri Historical Society Press, *Senators and Their World* Chapel Hill:

Chapter 7 : Membership of the th Congress: A Profile - www.nxgvision.com

Introduction. The th Congress began with 51 African Americans Members, the highest number ever at the beginning of a Congress. Summary statistics on the 50 currently serving African American Members in Congress include the following.

Chapter 8 : th Congress sets new high for racial, ethnic diversity

(Sec. 3) This bill requires the Department of the Interior to establish within the National Park Service (NPS) a U.S. Civil Rights Network that encompasses: (1) all NPS units and programs that relate to the African American civil rights movement from through ; (2) with the property owner's consent, other federal, state, local, and.

Chapter 9 : th Congress is most diverse ever | Pew Research Center

The new Congress set to take office in January is slated to be the most racially diverse in history. Record numbers of Hispanics, African-Americans, Asian-Americans and women of color will serve.