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114th Congress, New Members
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- Number of female state legislators has increased from 344 to 1,747; 4.5% - 23.7%, since the early 1970s.

- Number of black state legislators: 198 - 622; 2.6% - 8.4%, since 1970s.

- Number of Latino state legislators: 77 - 251; 2% - 3.4%, since 1970s.

- Data on Asian American and Native American legislators are not as extensive.

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- Fox and Lawless (2001, 2011) find that women are not as politically ambitious as men

- According to survey data of potential candidates (high SES people, occupation, etc.), women are much less likely than men even to consider running for office – even though they are equally qualified in terms of SES and political experience

- Reluctance is due to two reinforcing reasons: 1. Less likely to believe they are qualified to run for office; 2. Less likely to receive encouragement to run for office

- Thus, women are much less likely to be “self-starters” compared to men – need to be pushed and prodded more
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- Some states have “good ol’ boy” networks; some state parties are very strong—and many party leaders underestimate viability of women as competitive candidates
- States that are more liberal and more moralistic tend to be places where women are better represented (greater openness to women in nontraditional gender roles; democratic/participatory values)
- “Citizen” legislatures tend to have more women than do professional legislatures
- The theory: legislatures that meet less frequently, pay less, less powerful, may seem more accessible to women; less desirable to men
- Multi-member district states tend to have more women
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- The Voting Rights Act (VRA) plays a huge role in attempting to open up the system to minorities. There is not an equivalent for women.

- Story here is the long struggle to implement the VRA over the wishes of dominant white majority in the South and Southwest.

- Once most blatant attempts to minimize minority voting rights were done away with (poll taxes, etc.), white legislatures began diluting minority vote.

- Thus, developed the racial gerrymander to actually counter these vote dilution attempts.

- VRA also extended to language minorities (mostly Latino and Asian).
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- VRA also extended to language minorities (mostly Latino and Asian).
### Texas Demographics 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
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<td>NATIVE AM.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Texas State Legislative Diversity

Race and ethnicity in the Texas Legislature, 1937-2013

- 2013: Hispanic 21.1%, African American 11.1%, White 66.1%, Asian 1.7%

Mouse over the graph to see individual data points
Determinants of Diversity: Race

- Creation of majority-minority districts

“The number of blacks elected to office has increased because the number of majority black districts has increased, not because blacks are winning office in majority white districts.” – Grofman and Handley

This is why black representation increased dramatically after decennial redistricting. With respect to Latinos, tends to follow growth in Latino population, especially citizen voting-age population (CVAP). Size of both black and Latino populations tracks very closely with descriptive representation. One reason why minority legislators are still relatively small in number—only so many minority districts one can draw—given size and geographic concentration of minority populations. Majority-white electorates almost always elect white candidates.
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