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Membership of the 114th Congress: A Profile

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Summary

This report presents a profile of the membership of the 114th Congress (2015-2016). Statistical information is included on selected characteristics of Members, including data on party affiliation, average age, occupation, education, length of congressional service, religious affiliation, gender, ethnicity, foreign births, and military service.

As of December 5, 2016, in the House of Representatives, there are 248 Republicans (including 1 Delegate), 192 Democrats (including 4 Delegates and the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico), and one vacancy. The Senate has 54 Republicans, 44 Democrats, and 2 Independents, who both caucus with the Democrats.

The average age of Members of the House at the beginning of the 114th Congress was 57.0 years; of Senators, 61.0 years. The overwhelming majority of Members of Congress have a college education. The dominant professions of Members are public service/politics, business, and law. Most Members identify as Christians, and Protestants collectively constitute the majority religious affiliation. Roman Catholics account for the largest single religious denomination, and numerous other affiliations are represented.

The average length of service for Representatives at the beginning of the 114th Congress was 8.8 years (4.4 terms); for Senators, 9.7 years (1.6 terms).

One hundred eight women (a record number) serve in the 114th Congress: 88 in the House, including 4 Delegates, and 20 in the Senate. There are 46 African American Members of the House and 2 in the Senate. This House number includes two Delegates. There are 38 Hispanic or Latino Members (a record number) serving: 34 in the House, including 1 Delegate and the Resident Commissioner, and 4 in the Senate. Fourteen Members (11 Representatives, 2 Delegates, and 1 Senator) are Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders. Two American Indians (Native Americans) serve in the House.

The portions of this report covering political party affiliation, gender, ethnicity, and vacant seats will be updated as events warrant. The remainder of the report will not be updated.

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Overview and Total Members in History

Congress is composed of 541 individuals from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico.[1] This count assumes that no seat is temporarily vacant.[2]

Since 1789, 12,179 individuals have served in Congress:[3] 10,886 in the House and 1,963 in the Senate.[4] Of these Members, 669 have served in both chambers. These numbers do not include an additional 176 individuals who have served only as territorial Delegates or as Resident Commissioners from Puerto Rico or the Philippines in the House.

The following is a profile of the 114th Congress (2015-2016).[5]

Party Breakdown

In the 114th Congress, the current party alignments as of December 5, 2016, are as follows:

- House of Representatives: 248 Republicans (including one Delegate), 192 Democrats (including 4 Delegates and the Resident Commissioner) and one vacancy.
- Senate: 54 Republicans, 44 Democrats, and 2 Independents who caucus with the Democrats.

Age

The average age of Members of the 114th Congress is among the highest of any Congress in recent U.S. history.[6]

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[1] This figure includes 100 Senators, 435 Representatives, 5 Delegates (from the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands), and 1 Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico.

[2] As of December 5, 2016, there is one House vacancy and no Senate vacancies.

[3] U.S. Congress, House, Office of the Historian, "Total Members of the House and State Representation," http://history.house.gov/Institution/Total-Members/Total-Members/, updated October 2, 2015, supplemented with CRS research.

Information about all individuals who have served in Congress is available in the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*, a website maintained by the clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate, at http://bioguide.congress.gov.

[4] A cumulative chronological list of all U.S. Senators is available on the Senate website at http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/briefing/senators_chronological.htm.

Information about all House Members is available on the House website at http://history.house.gov/Institution/Total-Members/Total-Members/.

[5] Information on the five Delegates and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico is included where relevant. References to Representatives include information for the 435 Members of the House but not Delegates or the Resident Commissioner. For background information on the previous Congress, refer to CRS Report R42964, *Membership of the 113th Congress: A Profile*, by Jennifer E. Manning. See also CRS Report R42365, *Representatives and Senators: Trends in Member Characteristics Since 1945*, coordinated by R. Eric Petersen; CRS Report RL30261, *Women in Congress, 1917-2016: Biographical and Committee Assignment Information, and Listings by State and Congress*, by Jennifer E. Manning and Ida A. Brudnick; and CRS Report RL30378, *African American Members of the United States Congress: 1870-2012*, by Jennifer E. Manning and Colleen J. Shogan.

[6] For average ages of Members in each Congress from 1949 to 2011, see an online feature of the *Wall Street Journal*, "The Capitol's Age Pyramid: A Graying Congress," at http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/

(continued...)

Table 1 shows the average ages at the beginning of the 114th and three previous Congresses.

Table 1. Average Age of Members, 111th-114th Congresses

Average (mean) age at the beginning of the Congress

Congress	Representatives	Newly Elected Representatives	Senators	Newly Elected Senators
114th	57.0 years	52.3 years	61.0 years	50.7 years
113th	57.0 years	49.2 years	62.0 years	53.0 years
112th	56.7 years	48.2 years	62.2 years	52.1 years
111th	57.2 years	49.8 years	63.1 years	57.1 years

Source: CRS calculations based on *CQ Roll Call Member Profiles*.

Notes: Representatives' age data do not include the Delegates and the Resident Commissioner. Newly elected Members data do not include those returning to the House or Senate for a second time.

The U.S. Constitution requires Representatives to be at least 25 years old when they take office. The youngest Representative at the beginning of the 114th Congress was 30-year-old Elise Stefanik (R-NY), born July 2, 1984. The oldest Representative was John Conyers (D-MI), born May 16, 1929, who was 85 at the beginning of the 114th Congress.

Senators must be at least 30 years old when they take office. The oldest Senator in the 114th Congress is Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), born June 22, 1933, who was 81 at the beginning of the Congress. The youngest Senator is Tom Cotton (R-AR), born May 13, 1977, who was 37.

Occupations

According to the CQ *Roll Call Guide to the New Congress*, in the 114th Congress, public service/politics is the dominantly declared profession of Senators, followed by law, then business; for Representatives, public service/politics is first, followed by business, then law.[7]

Table 2 uses data from the *CQ Roll Call Guide to the New Congress* and the *CQ Roll Call Member Profiles* to show the following occupations most frequently listed for Members at the beginning of the 114th Congress.

Table 2. Most Frequently Listed Occupational Categories by Members, 114th Congress

At the beginning of the 114th Congress

Occupation	Representatives	Senators
Public Service/Politics	271	60
Business	231	42

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[7] "Demographics: Congress by the Numbers," in *CQ Roll Call Guide to the New Congress*, November 6, 2014, p. 58, available on the CQ.com subscription database at http://www.cq.com/graphics/weekly/2014/11/06/wr20141106_CQWeekly.pdf, and also available as a complimentary download at http://info.cqrollcall.com/NewMemberGuide2014.html.

Occupation	Representatives	Senators
Law	151	51
Education	80	25

Source: *CQ Roll Call Guide to the New Congress* and the *CQ Roll Call Member Profiles*.

Notes: Most Members list more than one profession when surveyed by *CQ Roll Call*, and the professions listed are not necessarily the ones Members practice immediately prior to entering Congress.

A closer look at the prior occupations and previously held public offices of Members of the House and Senate at the beginning of the 114th Congress, as listed in their *CQ Roll Call Member Profiles*,[8] also shows the following:

- 53 Senators with previous House service;
- 100 Members who have worked in education, including teachers, professors, instructors, school fundraisers, counselors, administrators, or coaches (85 in the House, 15 in the Senate);
- 3 physicians in the Senate, 15 physicians in the House, plus 3 dentists and 3 veterinarians;[9]
- three psychologists (all in the House), an optometrist (in the Senate), a pharmacist (in the House), and four nurses (all in the House);
- seven ordained ministers, all in the House;
- 41 former mayors (33 in the House, 8 in the Senate);
- 10 former state governors (9 in the Senate, 1 in the House) and 8 lieutenant governors (4 in the Senate, 4 in the House, including 1 Delegate);
- 15 former judges (all but 1 in the House) and 43 prosecutors (11 in the Senate, 32 in the House) who have served in city, county, state, federal, or military capacities;
- one former Cabinet Secretary (in the Senate), and three ambassadors (one in the Senate, two in the House);[10]
- 267 state or territorial legislators (44 in the Senate, 223 in the House);[11]
- at least 102 congressional staffers (21 in the Senate, 81 in the House), as well as 7 congressional pages (3 in the House and 4 in the Senate);[12]

[8] *CQ Roll Call Member Profiles* are available on the CQ.com subscription database at http://www.cq.com/members/home.do. The CQ.com database is available in all House and Senate offices. The profiles are also available in print form in the CQ publication *Politics in America*. The professions listed here are not exhaustive and are not necessarily the ones practiced by Members immediately prior to entering Congress. Most Members list more than one profession in their *CQ Roll Call Member Profiles*.

[9] One of the medical doctors in the Senate is an ophthalmologist, and one of the medical doctors in the House is a psychiatrist. One of the veterinarians is also a physician.

[10] In addition, one Senator previously served as the U.S. Trade Representative, which has Cabinet-rank status as well as the title of Ambassador.

[11] National Conference of State Legislators, "Former State Legislators in the 114th Congress" (as of November 24, 2014), http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/statefed/FSL_114th_11-24.pdf, supplemented by data from the *CQ Roll Call Member Profiles*.

[12] Michael L. Koempel and Judy Schneider, *Congressional Deskbook*, 6th ed. (Washington: TheCapitol.Net, 2012), Figure 5.22, supplemented by data from *CQ Roll Call Member Profiles*.

- two sheriffs and one deputy sheriff (all in the House), two police officers in the House and one in the Senate, one firefighter in the House, and one CIA agent in the House;
- four Peace Corps volunteers, all in the House;
- one physicist, one microbiologist, one chemist, and eight engineers (all in the House, with the exception of one Senator who is an engineer);
- 22 public relations or communications professionals (2 in the Senate, 20 in the House), and 10 accountants (2 in the Senate and 8 in the House);
- five software company executives in the House and two in the Senate;
- 14 management consultants (4 in the Senate, 10 in the House), 6 car dealership owners (all in the House), and 2 venture capitalists (1 in each chamber);
- 18 bankers or bank executives (4 in the Senate, 14 in the House), 36 veterans of the real estate industry (5 in the Senate, 31 in the House), and 16 Members who have worked in the construction industry (2 in the Senate, 14 in the House);
- two social workers in the Senate and six in the House and four union representatives (all in the House);
- six radio talk show hosts (one Senate, five House); eight radio or television broadcasters, managers, or owners (two Senate, six House); nine reporters or journalists (two Senate, seven House); and a public television producer in the House;
- 19 insurance agents or executives (4 Senate, 15 House) and 3 stockbrokers (2 in the Senate, 1 in the House);
- one screenwriter and comedian and one documentary filmmaker (both in the Senate), and an artist in the House;
- 29 farmers, ranchers, or cattle farm owners (4 in the Senate, 25 in the House);
- two almond orchard owners in the House, as well as two vintners; and
- 10 current members of the military reserves (8 House, 2 Senate) and 7 current members of the National Guard (6 House, 1 Senate).[13]

Other occupations listed in the CQ *Roll Call Member Profiles* include emergency dispatcher, letter carrier, urban planner, astronaut, flight attendant, electrician, auto worker, museum director, rodeo announcer, carpenter, computer systems analyst, Foreign Service officer, and software engineer.

Education

As has been true in recent Congresses, the vast majority of Members (94% of House Members and 100% of Senators) at the beginning of the 114th Congress hold bachelor's degrees. Sixty-four percent of House Members and 74% of Senators hold educational degrees beyond a bachelor's. The *CQ Roll Call Member Profiles* at the beginning of the 114th Congress indicate the following:

[13] These numbers include two Senators who retired from the military reserves in 2015, but exclude one House Member who arrived after the beginning of the 114th Congress and is a member of the National Guard. These numbers also include one House Member who was serving in the National Guard at the time of his death in July 2016.

- 20 Members of the House have no educational degree beyond a high school diploma;
- eight Members of the House have associate's degrees as their highest degrees;
- 82 Members of the House and 16 Senators earned a master's degree as their highest attained degrees;
- 159 Members of the House (36% of the House) and 54 Senators (54% of the Senate) hold law degrees;
- 23 Representatives and 1 Senator have doctoral (Ph.D., D.Phil., Ed.D., or D.Min) degrees; and
- 22 Members of the House and 3 Senators have medical degrees.[14]

By comparison, approximately 35 years ago in the 97th Congress (1981-1982), 84% of House Members and 88% of Senators held bachelor's degrees. Approximately 45 years ago, in the 92nd Congress (1971-1972), 77% of House Members and 87% of Senators held bachelor's degrees. Fifty-four years ago, in the 87th Congress (1961-1962), 71% of House Members and 76% of Senators held bachelor's degrees.[15]

Four Representatives and one Senator in the 114th Congress are graduates of the U.S. Military Academy, one Senator and one Representative graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, and one Representative graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy. Two Senators and two Representatives were Rhodes Scholars, two Representatives were Fulbright Scholars, two Representatives were Marshall Scholars, and one Senator and one Representative were Truman Scholars.[16]

Congressional Service

The average length of service for Members of the House at the beginning of the 114th Congress was 8.8 years (4.4 terms) and for Senators 9.7 years (1.6 terms).

Table 3. Average Length of Service for Members of Congress, 110th-114th Congresses

Average (mean) at the beginning of the Congress, in years and numbers of terms

Congress	Representatives	Senators
114th	8.8 years (4.4 terms)	9.7 years (1.6 terms)
113th	9.1 years (4.6 terms)	10.2 years (1.7 terms)
112th	9.8 years (4.9 terms)	11.4 years (1.9 terms)
111th	10.3 years (5.2 terms)	13.4 years (2.2 terms)
110th	10.3 years (5.2 terms)	13.1 years (2.2 terms)

[14] Three Senators and 14 Representatives have M.D. degrees, one Representative has a D.O. (doctor of osteopathic medicine) degree, one Senator has an O.D. (doctor of optometry) degree, three Representatives have D.D.S. (doctor of dental surgery) degrees, three Representatives have D.V.M. (doctor of veterinary medicine) degrees. One of the Representatives has both an M.D. and a D.V.M. degree.

[15] CRS Report R42365, *Representatives and Senators: Trends in Member Characteristics Since 1945*, coordinated by R. Eric Petersen.

[16] Rhodes and Marshall scholarships fund study at British universities; Fulbright scholarships fund international exchange programs; Truman scholarships fund graduate study toward public service.

Source: CRS Report R41545, *Congressional Careers: Service Tenure and Patterns of Member Service, 1789-2015*, by Matthew E. Glassman and Amber Hope Wilhelm.

Notes: Representatives are elected for two-year terms. Senators are elected for six-year terms. Note that 53 Senators in the 114th 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.

At the beginning of the 114th Congress, 61 of the Representatives, including 2 Delegates (13.8% of the total House Membership) had first been elected to the House in November 2014, and 13 of the Senators (13% of the total Senate membership) had first been elected to the Senate in November 2014. These numbers are lower than at the beginning of the 113th Congress, when 17% of the House and 14% of the Senate were newly elected "freshmen."

At the beginning of the 114th Congress, 131 Representatives, including 2 Delegates (30.4% of House Members), had no more than 2 years of House experience, and 27 Senators (27% of Senators) had no more than 2 years of Senate experience.

For more historical information on the tenure of Members of Congress, see CRS Report R41545, *Congressional Careers: Service Tenure and Patterns of Member Service, 1789-2015*, by Matthew E. Glassman and Amber Hope Wilhelm.

Religion

Ninety-eight percent of the Members of the 114th Congress are reported to be affiliated with a specific religion.[17] Of the 98%, the vast majority (92%) are Christian.

Statistics gathered by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, which studies the religious affiliation of Members, and *CQ Roll Call* at the beginning of the 114th Congress showed the following:

- 57% of the Members (251 in the House, 55 in the Senate) are Protestant, with Baptist as the most represented denomination, followed by Methodist;
- 31% of the Members (138 in the House, 26 in the Senate) are Catholic;
- 5.2% of the Members (19 in the House, 9 in the Senate) are Jewish;
- 3% of the Members (9 in the House, 7 in the Senate) are Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints);
- two Members (one in the House, one in the Senate) are Buddhist[18], two House Members are Muslim, and one House Member is Hindu; and
- other religious affiliations represented include Greek Orthodox, Unitarian Universalist, and Christian Science.[19]

[17] Ten Members of the 114th Congress do not specify a religious affiliation. Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life Project, "Faith on the Hill: The Religious Composition of the 114th Congress," http://www.pewforum.org/2015/01/05/faith-on-the-hill/.

[18] Another Buddhist joined the House in November 2016.

[19] Detailed religious affiliation information for the Members of the 114th Congress, and comparisons to the U.S. general public, are available at http://www.pewforum.org/2015/01/05/faith-on-the-hill/.

Gender and Ethnicity

Female Members

A record 108 women (20% of the total membership) serve in the 114th Congress as of November 2016, 7 more than at the beginning of the 113th Congress.[20] Eighty-eight women, including 4 Delegates, serve in the House and 20 in the Senate. Of the 88 women in the House, 65 are Democrats, including 3 of the Delegates, and 23 are Republicans, including 1 Delegate. Of the 20 women in the Senate, 14 are Democrats and 6 are Republicans.

African American Members

There are a record 48 African American Members (8.8% of the total membership) in the 114th Congress, 3 more than at the beginning of the 113th Congress.[21] Forty-six serve in the House, including two Delegates, and two serve in the Senate. This number includes one Member of the House who is of African American and Asian ancestry and is counted in both ethnic categories in this report. Forty-four of the African American House Members, including two Delegates, are Democrats, and two are Republicans. There is a Senator of each party. Twenty African American women, including two Delegates, serve in the House.

Hispanic/Latino American Members

There are 38 Hispanic or Latino Members in the 114th Congress, 7.0% of the total membership and a record number.[22] Thirty-four serve in the House and four in the Senate. Of the Members of the House, 25 are Democrats (including 1 Delegate and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico), 9 are Republicans, and 9 are women.[23] There are four male Hispanic Senators (three Republicans, one Democrat). Two Hispanic Members, Representatives Linda Sánchez and Loretta Sanchez, are sisters.[24]

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[20] The 114th Congress began with 108 female Members. An additional female House Member was sworn in on November 14, 2016, and another female House Member resigned on December 4, 2016. For more information, see CRS Report RL30261, *Women in Congress, 1917-2016: Biographical and Committee Assignment Information, and Listings by State and Congress*, by Jennifer E. Manning and Ida A. Brudnick and the Office of the House Historian's *Women in Congress* website at http://history.house.gov/Exhibition-and-Publications/WIC/Women-in-Congress/.

[21] The 114th Congress began with 48 African American Members. One African American House Member resigned on June 23, 2016, and another was sworn in on November 14, 2016. For more information, see CRS Report RL30378, *African American Members of the United States Congress: 1870-2012*, by Jennifer E. Manning and Colleen J. Shogan; and the Office of the House Historian's Black Americans in Congress website at http://history.house.gov/Exhibitions-and-Publications/BAIC/Black-Americans-in-Congress/.

[22] This number includes three House Members and one Senator who are of Portuguese ancestry and belong to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus or the Congressional Hispanic Conference. For more information, see the Office of the House Historian's *Hispanic Americans in Congress* website at http://history.house.gov/Exhibitions-and-Publications/HAIC/Hispanic-Americans-in-Congress/.

[23] This number includes one Delegate who is of Hispanic and Asian ancestry and is counted in both ethic categories.

[24] Both sisters are Democrats from California. Note that Linda Sánchez uses an accent in her last name; her sister Loretta does not.

Asian/Pacific Islander American Members

Fourteen Members of the 114th Congress (2.5% of the total membership) are of Asian, South Asian, or Pacific Islander ancestry.[25] Thirteen of them (11 Democrats, 1 Republican) serve in the House, and 1 (a Democrat) serves in the Senate. These numbers include one House Member who is also of African American ancestry and another of Hispanic ancestry; these Members are counted in both ethnic categories. Of those serving in the House, two are Delegates. Eight of the Asian Pacific American Members are female: seven in the House and one in the Senate.

American Indian Members

There are two American Indian (Native American) Members of the 114th Congress, both of whom are Republican Members of the House.[26]

Foreign Birth

Thirteen Representatives and three Senators (2.9% of the entire 114th Congress) were born outside the United States. Their places of birth include Canada, Cuba, Guatemala, Japan, Peru, and Thailand. Many of these Members were born to American citizens working or serving abroad. The U.S. Constitution requires that Representatives be citizens for seven years and Senators be citizens for nine years before they take office.

Military Service

At the beginning of the 114th Congress, there were 101 Members (18.7% of the total membership) who had served or were serving in the military, 7 fewer than at the beginning of the 113th Congress (108 Members) and 17 fewer than in the 112th Congress (118 members). According to lists compiled by *CQ Roll Call*, the House currently has 82 veterans (including 3 female Members, as well as 1 Delegate); the Senate has 20 veterans, including 1 woman.[27] These Members served in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo, as well as during times of peace.[28] Many have served in the reserves and the National Guard. Eight House Members and one Senator are still serving in the reserves, and six House Members are still serving in the National Guard.[29] All of the female veterans are combat veterans.

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[25] The 114th Congress began with a record 14 Asian/Pacific Islander American Members. One Asian American House Member died in July 2016, and another was sworn in in November 2016.

[26] This number includes only Members who are enrolled members of federally recognized tribes. For more information, see CRS congressional distribution memorandum, *Members of Congress of American Indian Descent*, by Jennifer Manning, available to congressional offices upon request.

[27] *CQ Roll Call*, "114th Congress: House Military Veterans," http://www.cq.com/members/factfilereport.do?report=mff-house-veterans, and "114th Congress: Senate Military Veterans," http://www.cq.com/members/factfilereport.do?report=mff-senate-veterans. Both lists updated June 2016 and reflect changes since the 114th Congress convened.

A publicly available list of House veterans as of the beginning of the 114th Congress is available on the House Library's website at http://library.clerk.house.gov/documents/Military_Vets.pdf. We have been unable to identify a comparable Senate list on an official Senate website.

[28] No current Members of Congress served in World War II.

[29] These numbers do not include two Senators who retired from the military reserves or Guard in 2015, or one House Member who passed away in July 2016 and was in the National Guard.

The number of veterans in the 114th Congress reflects the trend of steady decline in recent decades in the number of Members who have served in the military. For example, 64% of the Members of the 97th Congress (1981-1982) were veterans, and in the 92nd Congress (1971-1972), 73% of the Members were veterans.

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 R42365, *Representatives and Senators: Trends in Member Characteristics Since 1945*, coordinated by R. Eric Petersen.[30]

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[30] Because of differences in data sources used, some demographic information may differ between CRS Report R42365, *Representatives and Senators: Trends in Member Characteristics Since 1945*, coordinated by R. Eric Petersen, this report, and other demographic studies of Congress.

In addition to the *CQ Roll Call Member Profiles*, other sources of demographic information for the 114th Congress include *The Guardian* newspaper's "Are You Reflected in the New Congress?" at http://gu.com/p/43384/sbl and *Vital Statistics on Congress* at http://www.brookings.edu/vitalstats, a joint project of the American Enterprise Institute and the Brookings Institution. Also, the House of Representatives Library's "Membership Profile" web page at http://library.clerk.house.gov/membership-profile.aspx features many lists of House Members such as "114th Congress—Lawyers" and "114th Congress—MBA Holders."