

Black Americans in Congress *1870–2022*

Prepared under the Direction of the
Committee on House Administration of the
United States House of Representatives

Zoe Lofgren, Chairperson
Rodney Davis, Ranking Member

By the
Office of the Historian and Office of the Clerk
United States House of Representatives



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On the cover:

Clockwise from upper left: In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first African American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; John Lewis of Georgia was a civil rights leader and lawmaker known as the “conscience of Congress”; Barbara Jordan of Texas rose to national prominence as part of the House Judiciary Committee’s impeachment investigation of President Richard M. Nixon; Ronald V. Dellums of California was a Marine veteran turned community advocate who later served as chair of the House Armed Services Committee.

Joseph Hayne Rainey, Simmie Knox, 2004, Collection of the U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman John Lewis, Michael Shane Neal, 2020, courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; gift of Jeffery and Cindy Loring in memory of Congressman John Lewis © Michael Shane Neal

Barbara Jordan, Edsel M. Cramer, 1973, courtesy of the Texas State Preservation Board, Capitol Historical Artifact Collection, Austin

Ronald V. Dellums, Andre White, 1997, Collection of the U.S. House of Representatives

House Concurrent Resolution No. 82
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

SUBMITTED BY THE HONORABLE ZOE LOFGREN

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. PRINTING OF REVISED VERSION OF “BLACK AMERICANS IN CONGRESS, 1870–1989”. (a) IN GENERAL.—An updated version of House Document 101–117, entitled “Black Americans in Congress, 1870–1989” (as revised by the Library of Congress), shall be printed as a House document by the Director of the Government Publishing Office, with illustrations and suitable binding, under the direction of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives. (b) NUMBER OF COPIES.—In addition to the usual number, there shall be printed such number of copies of the document referred to in subsection (a) as does not exceed a total production and printing cost of \$500,000, of which—(1) 80 percent shall be for the use of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives; and (2) 20 percent shall be for the use of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

Agreed to December 21, 2022

Prepared under the Direction of the

Committee on House Administration of the United States House of Representatives

Zoe Lofgren, Chairperson
Rodney Davis, Ranking Member

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Matthew A. Wasniewski, Historian of the United States House of Representatives

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Foreword

I am proud to commemorate this publication of the fourth edition of *Black Americans in Congress*, which revises and expands upon previous editions and covers the years 1870 to 2022. This update provides a comprehensive history of the contributions of the Black Americans who have served in the United States Congress and includes essays that situate these trailblazing Americans within both congressional and American history.

The makeup of the U.S. Congress has, quite sadly, never reflected the full breadth of our nation's diversity. The history of Black Americans in Congress unfortunately bears the marks of this failing. Despite this, the Black Americans that have walked the halls of Congress have left an indelible mark on the institution and the nation as a whole. Take, for instance, California Representative Augustus F. "Gus" Hawkins, the first Black American from west of the Mississippi River elected to the House. He authored provisions of landmark civil rights legislation, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and chaired the Education and Labor Committee from 1984 until his retirement in 1991. Or Shirley Chisholm of New York, who was not only the first Black American woman to serve in Congress, but the cofounder of the National Women's Political Caucus and the first Black woman and second woman ever to serve on the House Rules Committee. Or my colleague and friend G.K. Butterfield of North Carolina, who serves with me on the Committee on House Administration and as chairman of the Subcommittee on Elections. He brings a wealth of personal experience and leadership in the field of voting rights to his important work in Congress and is a prominent member of the Congressional Black Caucus, having served as its chair from 2015 to 2017.

The story of Black Americans in Congress is also one of tenacity and fortitude in the face of formidable challenges. A prime example is Hiram R. Revels of Mississippi, who in 1870 became the first Black American to serve in either chamber of Congress. His arrival in Washington, DC, was met with intense opposition and two days of debate over whether a Black American man could satisfy the citizenship prerequisite required to serve in the Senate. Despite Revels eventually being seated as Senator and Blanche K. Bruce of Mississippi being seated five years later, these triumphs were followed by a period of disenfranchisement. During this period, Black Americans, who had been guaranteed the right to vote by the Fifteenth Amendment, were denied this right in practice via deliberate barriers to voting. As a result, no Black American served in Congress from 1901 to 1929. Undeterred by the obstacles placed before them, however, Black American voters and public servants persevered. Congress and our country are better for it, and we all continue to benefit from the courage and resolve of these history makers.

Zoe Lofgren, Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
October 18, 2022

Alphabetical List of Black Members of Congress, 1870–2022

Alma S. Adams (2014–Present)
Colin Allred (2019–Present)
Frank W. Ballance Jr. (2003–2004)
Karen Bass (2011–Present)
Joyce Beatty (2013–Present)
Sanford D. Bishop Jr. (1993–Present)
Lucien E. Blackwell (1991–1995)
Lisa Blunt Rochester (2017–Present)
Cory A. Booker (2013–Present)
Jamaal Bowman (2021–Present)
Edward W. Brooke (1967–1979)
Anthony G. Brown (2017–Present)
Corrine Brown (1993–2017)
Shontel M. Brown (2021–Present)
Blanche K. Bruce (1875–1881)
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (1973–1979)
Roland Burris (2009–2010)
Cori Bush (2021–Present)
G.K. Butterfield (2004–Present)
Richard H. Cain (1873–1875; 1877–1879)
André Carson (2008–Present)
Julia May Carson (1997–2007)
Troy A. Carter (2021–Present)
Henry Plummer Cheatham (1889–1893)
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (2022–Present)
Shirley Chisholm (1969–1983)
Donna M. Christensen (1997–2015)
Hansen Clarke (2011–2013)
Yvette D. Clarke (2007–Present)
William Lacy Clay Jr. (2001–2021)
William Lacy “Bill” Clay Sr. (1969–2001)

Eva M. Clayton (1992–2003)
Emanuel Cleaver II (2005–Present)
James E. Clyburn (1993–Present)
Barbara-Rose Collins (1991–1997)
Cardiss Collins (1973–1997)
George W. Collins (1970–1972)
John Conyers Jr. (1965–2017)
William “Mo” Cowan (2013)
George W. Crockett Jr. (1980–1991)
Elijah E. Cummings (1996–2019)
Artur Davis (2003–2011)
Danny K. Davis (1997–Present)
William L. Dawson (1943–1970)
Robert C. De Large (1871–1873)
Oscar De Priest (1929–1935)
Antonio Delgado (2019–2022)
Ronald V. Dellums (1971–1998)
Val Butler Demings (2017–Present)
Charles C. Diggs Jr. (1955–1980)
Julian C. Dixon (1979–2000)
Byron Donalds (2021–Present)
Mervyn M. Dymally (1981–1993)
Donna F. Edwards (2008–2017)
Robert Brown Elliott (1871–1874)
Keith Ellison (2007–2019)
Mike Espy (1987–1993)
Dwight Evans (2016–Present)
Melvin H. Evans (1979–1981)
Chaka Fattah (1995–2016)
Walter E. Fauntroy (1971–1991)
Cleo Fields (1993–1997)

Floyd H. Flake (1987–1997)	Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (1997–2011)
Harold E. Ford (1975–1997)	John M. Langston (1890–1891)
Harold E. Ford Jr. (1997–2007)	Brenda L. Lawrence (2015–Present)
Gary A. Franks (1991–1997)	Al Lawson Jr. (2017–Present)
Victor O. Frazer (1995–1997)	Barbara Lee (1998–Present)
Marcia L. Fudge (2008–2021)	Mickey Leland (1979–1989)
William H. Gray III (1979–1991)	John Lewis (1987–2020)
Al Green (2005–Present)	Jefferson F. Long (1870–1871)
Katie Hall (1982–1985)	Mia B. Love (2015–2019)
Kwanza Hall (2020–2021)	John R. Lynch (1873–1877; 1882–1883)
Jeremiah Haralson (1875–1877)	Denise L. Majette (2003–2005)
Kamala D. Harris (2017–2021)	Lucy McBath (2019–Present)
Alcee L. Hastings (1993–2021)	A. Donald McEachin (2017–Present)
Augustus F. “Gus” Hawkins (1963–1991)	Cynthia A. McKinney (1993–2003; 2005–2007)
Charles A. Hayes (1983–1993)	Carrie P. Meek (1993–2003)
Jahana Hayes (2019–Present)	Kendrick B. Meek (2003–2011)
Earl F. Hilliard (1993–2003)	Gregory W. Meeks (1998–Present)
Steven A. Horsford (2013–2015; 2019–Present)	Ralph H. Metcalfe (1971–1978)
Will Hurd (2015–2021)	Kweisi Mfume (1987–1996; 2020–Present)
John Adams Hyman (1875–1877)	Juanita Millender-McDonald (1996–2007)
Jesse L. Jackson Jr. (1995–2012)	Thomas E. Miller (1890–1891)
Sheila Jackson Lee (1995–Present)	Arthur W. Mitchell (1935–1943)
William J. Jefferson (1991–2009)	Parren J. Mitchell (1971–1987)
Hakeem S. Jeffries (2013–Present)	Gwen Moore (2005–Present)
Eddie Bernice Johnson (1993–Present)	Carol Moseley Braun (1993–1999)
Henry C. “Hank” Johnson Jr. (2007–Present)	George Washington Murray (1893–1895; 1896–1897)
Brenda Jones (2018–2019)	Charles E. Nash (1875–1877)
Mondaire Jones (2021–Present)	Joe Neguse (2019–Present)
Stephanie Tubbs Jones (1999–2008)	Robert N.C. Nix Sr. (1958–1979)
Barbara Jordan (1973–1979)	Eleanor Holmes Norton (1991–Present)
Robin L. Kelly (2013–Present)	Barack Obama (2005–2008)

James E. O'Hara (1883–1887)
Ilhan Omar (2019–Present)
Burgess Owens (2021–Present)
Major R. Owens (1983–2007)
Donald M. Payne (1989–2012)
Donald M. Payne Jr. (2012–Present)
Stacey E. Plaskett (2015–Present)
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. (1945–1967; 1969–1971)
Ayanna Pressley (2019–Present)
Joseph H. Rainey (1870–1879)
Charles B. Rangel (1971–2017)
Alonzo J. Ransier (1873–1875)
James T. Rapier (1873–1875)
Hiram R. Revels (1870–1871)
Mel Reynolds (1993–1995)
Laura Richardson (2007–2013)
Cedric L. Richmond (2011–2021)
Bobby L. Rush (1993–Present)
Gus Savage (1981–1993)
David Scott (2003–Present)
Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (1993–Present)
Tim Scott (2011–Present)
Terri A. Sewell (2011–Present)
Robert Smalls (1875–1879; 1882–1883; 1884–1887)
Bennett M. Stewart (1979–1981)
Louis Stokes (1969–1999)
Marilyn Strickland (2021–Present)
Bennie G. Thompson (1993–Present)
Ritchie Torres (2021–Present)
Edolphus Towns (1983–2013)
Walter R. Tucker III (1993–1995)

Benjamin Sterling Turner (1871–1873)
Lauren Underwood (2019–Present)
Marc A. Veasey (2013–Present)
Alton R. Waldon Jr. (1986–1987)
Josiah T. Walls (1871–1873; 1873–1876)
Raphael Warnock (2021–Present)
Craig A. Washington (1989–1995)
Harold Washington (1981–1983)
Maxine Waters (1991–Present)
Diane E. Watson (2001–2011)
Bonnie Watson Coleman (2015–Present)
Melvin L. Watt (1993–2014)
J.C. Watts Jr. (1995–2003)
Allen West (2011–2013)
Alan Wheat (1983–1995)
George Henry White (1897–1901)
Nikema Williams (2021–Present)
Frederica S. Wilson (2011–Present)
Albert Russell Wynn (1993–2008)
Andrew Young (1973–1977)

The closing date for this volume was June 1, 2022.

