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## New Congress: Minorities gain but still overwhelmingly white

By Matthew Daly

WASHINGTON (AP) - Just like college freshmen, newly elected members of the House descended on Washington Nov. 14 for a week of orientation, a class photo and a lottery to determine their offices for the next two years.

The new Congress includes the first Latina senator, three House members moving across the Capitol to the Senate and a few former lawmakers who seized their old jobs back.

While the 115th Congress will include a record number of minority women, Congress will remain overwhelmingly white, male and middle-aged.

At the first day of orientation, Republicans expressed excitement about winning the White House while Democrats struck a conciliatory tone.

Vicente Gonzalez, a Democrat who will represent a South Texas district, said freshmen members of his party will start the new session in January "having a clear view of the reality we're dealing with and trying to reach across the aisle and finding common ground."

A look at the new Congress:

### MINORITY WOMEN

In the Senate, Democrats Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, Kamala Harris of California and Tammy Duckworth of Illinois are among a record 21 women, up from 20 out of 100 senators.

Cortez Masto will be the first Latina senator, while Harris and Duckworth will join Hawaii Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono to form the Senate's largest ever Asian-American contingent.

Harris, the daughter of immigrants from India and Jamaica, is just the second black woman elected to the Senate and the first with South Asian roots.

The House will welcome its first Vietnamese-American and Indian-American women: Democrats Stephanie Murphy of Florida and Pramila Jayapal of Washington state.

Overall, the number of minority women in Congress will increase to 33 in the House from 27 and stand at four in the Senate.

### NEW SENATORS

Six new senators join the ranks - a seventh will be chosen next month in Louisiana's runoff. Orientation for new senators starts Nov. 15.

Harris, 52, a former prosecutor, currently serves as California's attorney general.

Duckworth, a two-term House member, is a veteran of the Iraq War, where as an Army pilot, she lost both legs when her helicopter was hit by a grenade. Duckworth, 48, was born in Thailand, to an American father and Thai-Chinese mother.

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## New mural in Madison honors legacy of musician Otis Redding

MADISON, Wis. (AP) - A new mural honoring the legacy of musician Otis Redding has popped up in Madison.

Henrique Nardi, a Brazilian-born Madison artist, led the project with artists Cyla Costa and Jackson Alves, The Capital Times (<http://bit.ly/2epigTp>) reported. The mural reads "Try a Little Tenderness," one of Redding's songs, in white letters surrounded by orange flowers.

"It's such a strong sentiment, such a kind message," Nardi said.

Nardi, who is currently teaching graphic design at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Art Department as a lecturer, said he received compliments and positive responses from people on the street who were excited to see the painting.

Nardi earned support and funding for the mural with the help of Madison Arts Commission director Karin Wolf.

Soon after, Marquette Neighborhood Association president Lynn Lee, who has also created murals, helped Nardi find a location for the project.

The artists began their creation on Halloween after Nardi collected approvals from city commissions.

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Redding, who was killed at the age of 26 when his private plane crashed into Lake Monona during a storm.

"When it was 40 years (after) the death they had a celebration, they brought a person from the rock and roll museum in Cleveland," Nardi said. "They brought the only survivor of the crash (musician Ben Cauley) to talk."

After the success of his first mural, Nardi said he would like to create more.

"It was good to learn the procedures," Nardi said. "It's not impossible to interfere with the city, with the surroundings, and that is a great thing."



President Barack Obama greets Sgt. Bill Mohr, a 108-year-old veteran of World War II, during a Veterans Day breakfast receiving line in the Blue Room of the White House, Nov. 11. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

## Outsider Trump wins stunning victory to be 45th president

By Julie Pace

WASHINGTON (AP) - Donald Trump claimed his place Nov. 9 as America's 45th president, an astonishing victory for the celebrity businessman and political novice who capitalized on voters' economic anxieties, took advantage of racial tensions and overcame a string of sexual assault allegations on his way to the White House.

Trump's triumph over Hillary Clinton, not declared until well after midnight, will end eight years of Democratic dominance of the White House. He'll govern with Congress fully under Republican control and lead a country deeply divided by his rancorous campaign against Clinton. He faces fractures within his own party, too, given the numerous Republicans who either tepidly supported his nomination or never backed him at all.

As he claimed victory, Trump urged Americans to "come together as one united people."

Clinton, who had hoped to become the first woman to be elected president, called her Republican rival to concede but did not plan to speak publicly until Nov. 9.

She was leading the nationwide popular vote, though some states were still counting ballots.

Global stock markets and U.S. stock futures plunged early Nov. 9, but later recovered, reflecting investor concern over what a Trump presidency might mean. The Dow Jones industrial average was flat after trading opened Nov. 9.

President Barack Obama called Trump to congratulate him and invited the Republican to a meeting at the White House Nov. 10 to discuss transition. Obama also called Clinton to convey his admiration for the "strong campaign she waged throughout the country," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said.

Obama planned a televised statement Nov. 9 on "what steps we can take as a country to come together after this hard-fought election season," the White House said.

Trump, who spent much of the campaign urging his supporters on as they chanted "lock her up," said the nation owed Clinton "a major debt of gratitude" for her years of public service. Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway said Obama and Trump had "a very nice talk" when the president called him.

The Republican blasted through Democratic strongholds of Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, states that hadn't voted for a GOP presidential candidate since the 1980s. He needed to win nearly all of the competitive battleground states, and he did just that, including Florida, Ohio, North Carolina and others.

A New York real estate developer who lives in a sparkling Manhattan high-rise, Trump forged a striking connection with white, working class Americans who feel left behind in a changing economy and diversifying country. He cast immigration, both from Latin America and the Middle East, as the root of problems plaguing many Americans and tapped into fears of terrorism emanating at home and abroad.

GOP Senate candidates fended off Democratic challengers in key states, including North Carolina, Indiana and Wisconsin. Republicans also maintained their grip on the House.

Senate control means Trump will have great leeway in appointing Supreme Court justices, which could shift the bench to the right for decades.

Trump has pledged to usher in sweeping changes to U.S. foreign policy, including building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and suspending immigration from countries with terrorism ties. He has praised Russian President Vladimir Putin and spoken of building a better relationship with Moscow, worrying some in his own party who fear he'll go easy on Putin's provocations.

Putin sent him a telegram of congratulations.

Trump upended years of political convention on his way to the White House, leveling harshly personal insults against his rivals, deeming Mexican immigrants rapists and murderers, and vowing to temporarily suspend Muslim immigration to the U.S. He never released his tax returns, breaking with decades of campaign tradition, and eschewed the kind of robust data and field efforts that helped Obama win two terms in the White House, relying instead on his large, free-wheeling rallies to energize supporters. His campaign was frequently in chaos, and he cycled through three campaign managers.

## Racist post about Michelle Obama causes backlash

By John Raby

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - The director of a West Virginia development group and a mayor are under scrutiny after a racist post about first lady Michelle Obama caused a backlash and prompted calls on social media for both women to be fired.

Clay County Development Corp. director Pamela Ramsey Taylor made the post following Donald Trump's election as president, saying: "It will be refreshing to have a classy, beautiful, dignified First Lady in the White House. I'm tired of seeing a Ape in heels."

Clay Mayor Beverly Whaling responded: "Just made my day Pam."

The post, first reported by WSAZ-TV, was shared hundreds of times on social media before it was deleted.

The Facebook pages of Taylor and Whaling couldn't be found Nov. 14. A call to the Clay County Development Corp. went unanswered and Whaling didn't immediately return a telephone message.

An online petition seeks to remove Whaling and Taylor. The nonprofit development group provides services to elderly and low-income residents in Clay County. It is funded through state and federal grants and local fees.

It is not affiliated with the town of Clay, which is about 50 miles east of Charleston.

African-Americans make up about 4 percent of West Virginia's 1.8 million residents, according to the U.S. Census.

About 77 percent of Clay County residents supported Trump in the Nov. 8 election. In 2012, President Barack Obama received 31 percent of the county vote when Republican Mitt Romney easily carried the state.

A message left for the West Virginia chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People wasn't immediately returned.

The town council has a previously scheduled meeting Nov. 15.

Last week in Kentucky, Republican Dan Johnson defeated incumbent Democrat Linda Belcher in Bullitt County despite a series of Facebook posts that depicted Barack Obama and his wife as monkeys. Republican officials, including likely new House Speaker Jeff Hoover, had called on Johnson to drop out of the race. But Hoover declared last week that Johnson would be "welcome in our caucus."

## Indiana to dedicate marker to Underground Railroad figure

MADISON, Ind. (AP) - An African-American man who risked his life to help escaped slaves to freedom along the 19th century's Underground Railroad will be honored this week with a historical marker in southern Indiana.

A state historical marker commemorating Chapman Harris will be dedicated Nov. 18 during a public ceremony along State Road 56 near the city of Madison in an area that overlooks a scenic stretch of the Ohio River.

Harris was a free African American who moved in 1839 to the southern Indiana city about 40 miles northeast of Louisville, Kentucky, as the fight over slavery along the Ohio River Valley became more violent.

His hostility toward those hired to capture escaped slaves led to his conviction for causing a riot in Madison, 1847. Harris died in 1890.