

2-2021

## Undefeated - Updates From 2020 Election Exhibit Panel

Sally Brown

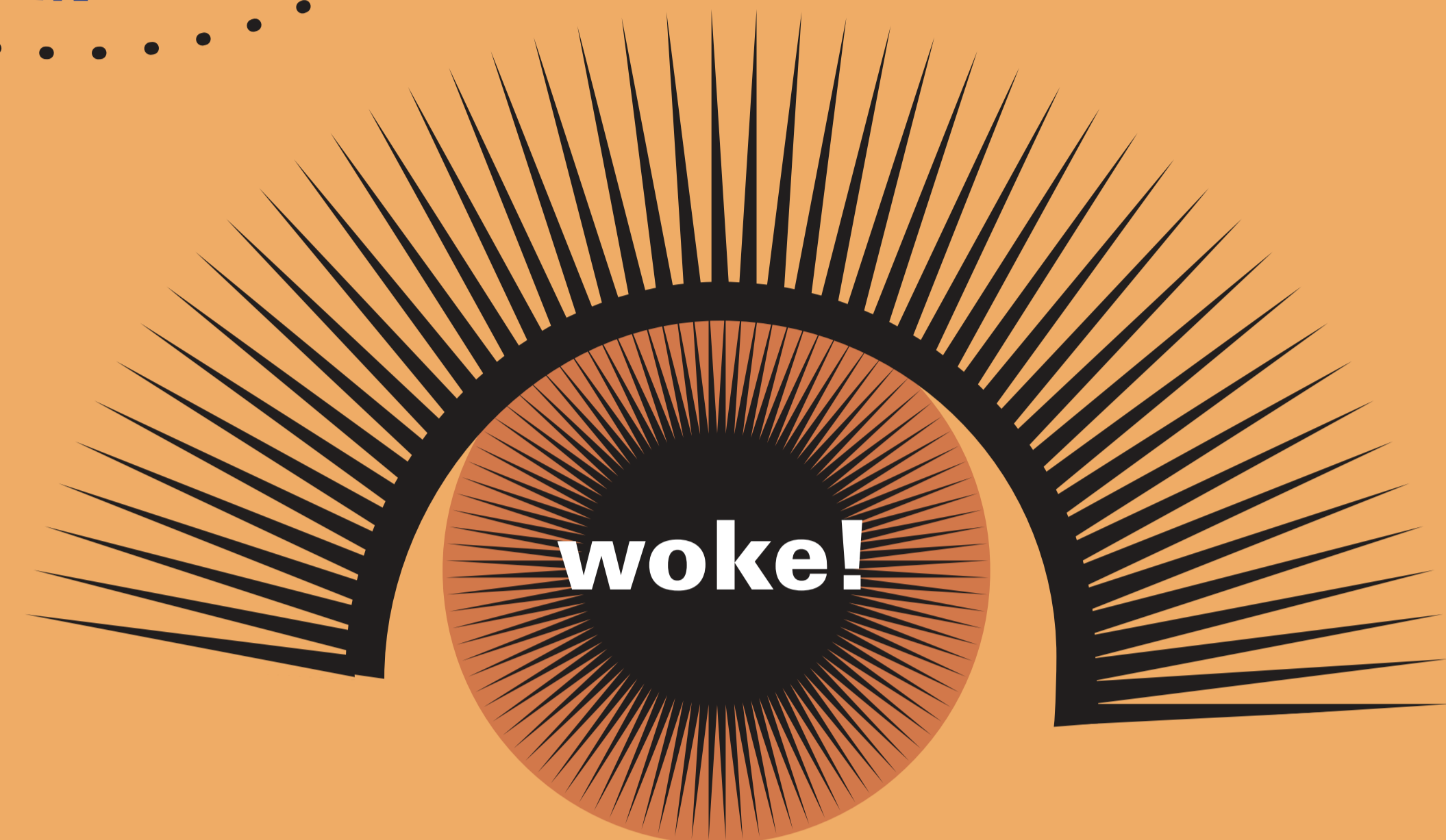
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# Updates from the 2020 Election



66.7% of eligible Americans voted during a pandemic, the most in 120 years  
161 MILLION US TURNOUT

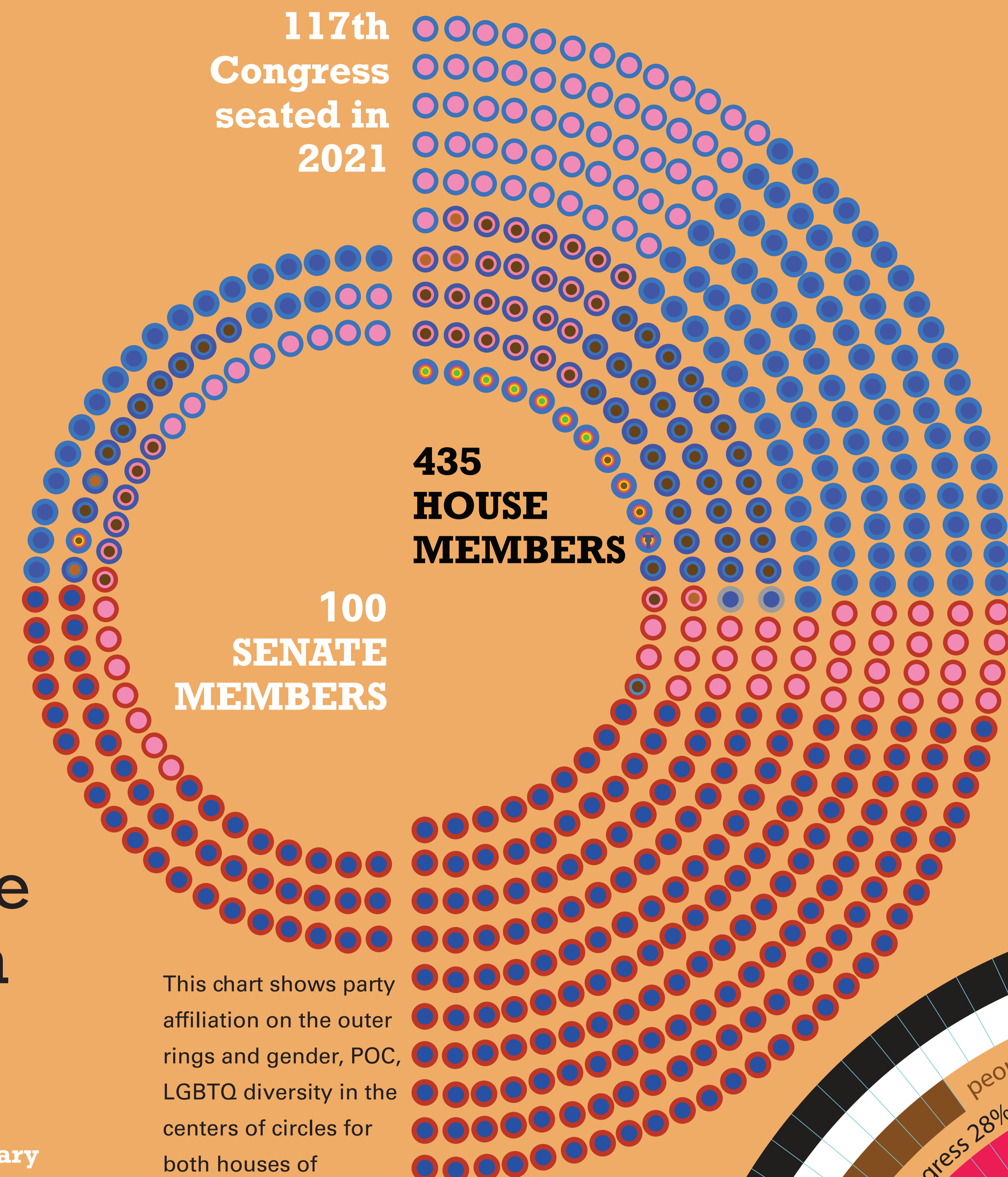
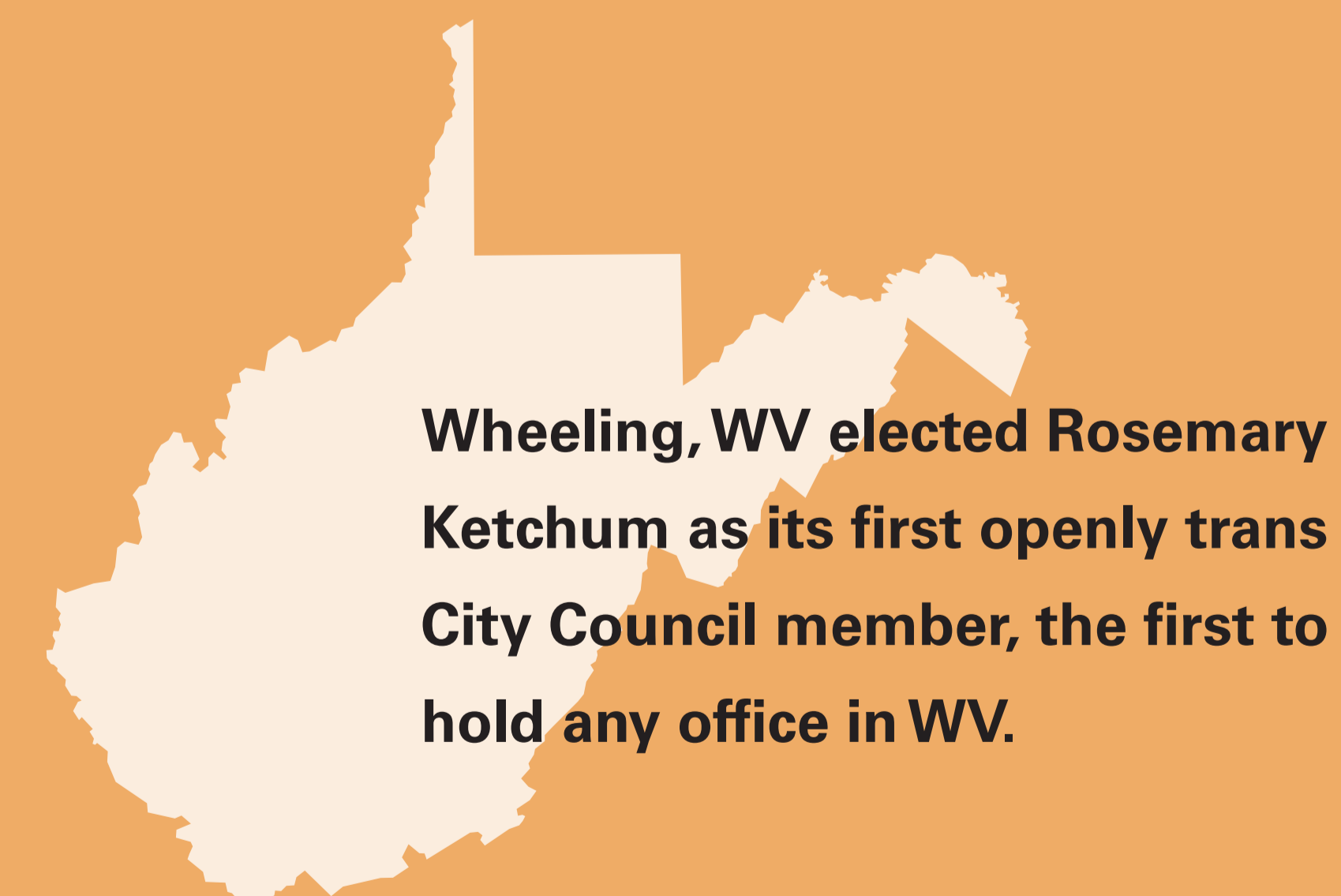
During the 2020 general election, allegations of voter suppression were called out in all of the categories seen before. By March, the COVID 19 pandemic was forcing Americans to lock down and social distance, and it would change the way many Americans would vote in the primaries and general election. As an unprecedented number of Americans prepared to cast mail-in ballots, government officials attempted new means of suppressing votes. These included attempts to hamstring the US Postal Service by withholding needed funding for processing the flood of ballots and challenging the tens of thousands of absentee ballot applications. Calls of voter fraud on the mail-in votes procedure cast doubt, though five states had long incorporated that process without fraud.

While some expected the pandemic would dampen voter turnout, a record number of people voted for both candidates. High levels of partisanship and divisiveness over issues and the candidates catalyzed voters, but expanded early voting, mail-in voting, and grassroots organizing may also explain the increased participation. Following what many experts called the most secure election in American history, President Trump and many of his allies advanced false allegations of voter fraud and claimed the election had been stolen. His attorneys were unable to produce any evidence of fraud, and they lost or withdrew 63 of the post-election court cases.

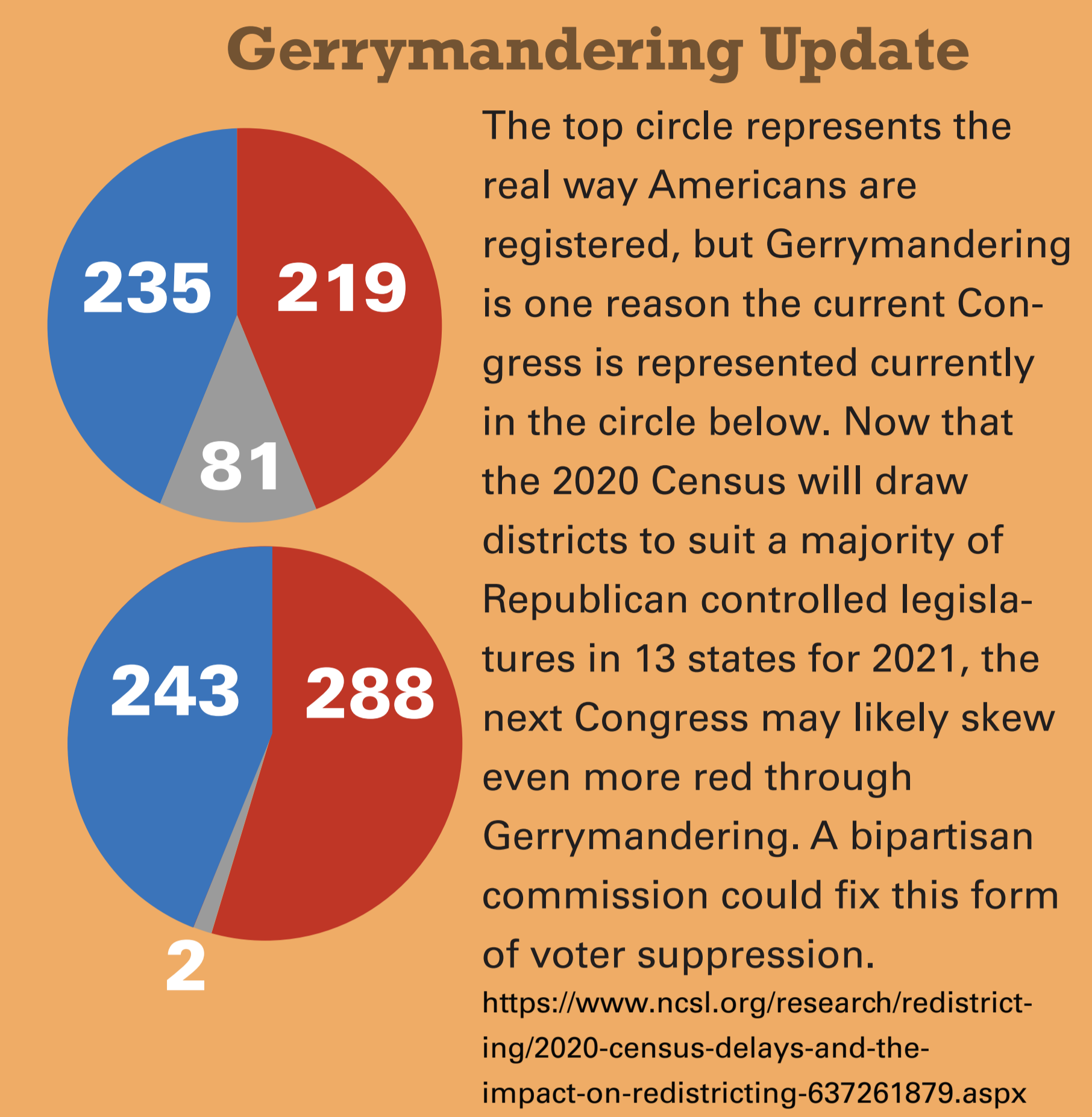
It's still important to understand what is true about voter suppression as we look to 2022.

The lies continued, however, and culminated in the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol in which Trump supporters stormed the building while Congress was in the process of certifying the Electoral College vote. After the Capitol was cleared, Members of Congress regrouped to finalize the certification, an action that in most years is largely ceremonial. The lies about a fraudulent election and the insurrection undermine American democracy and make many Americans question the legitimacy of their most sacred, democratic act — voting.

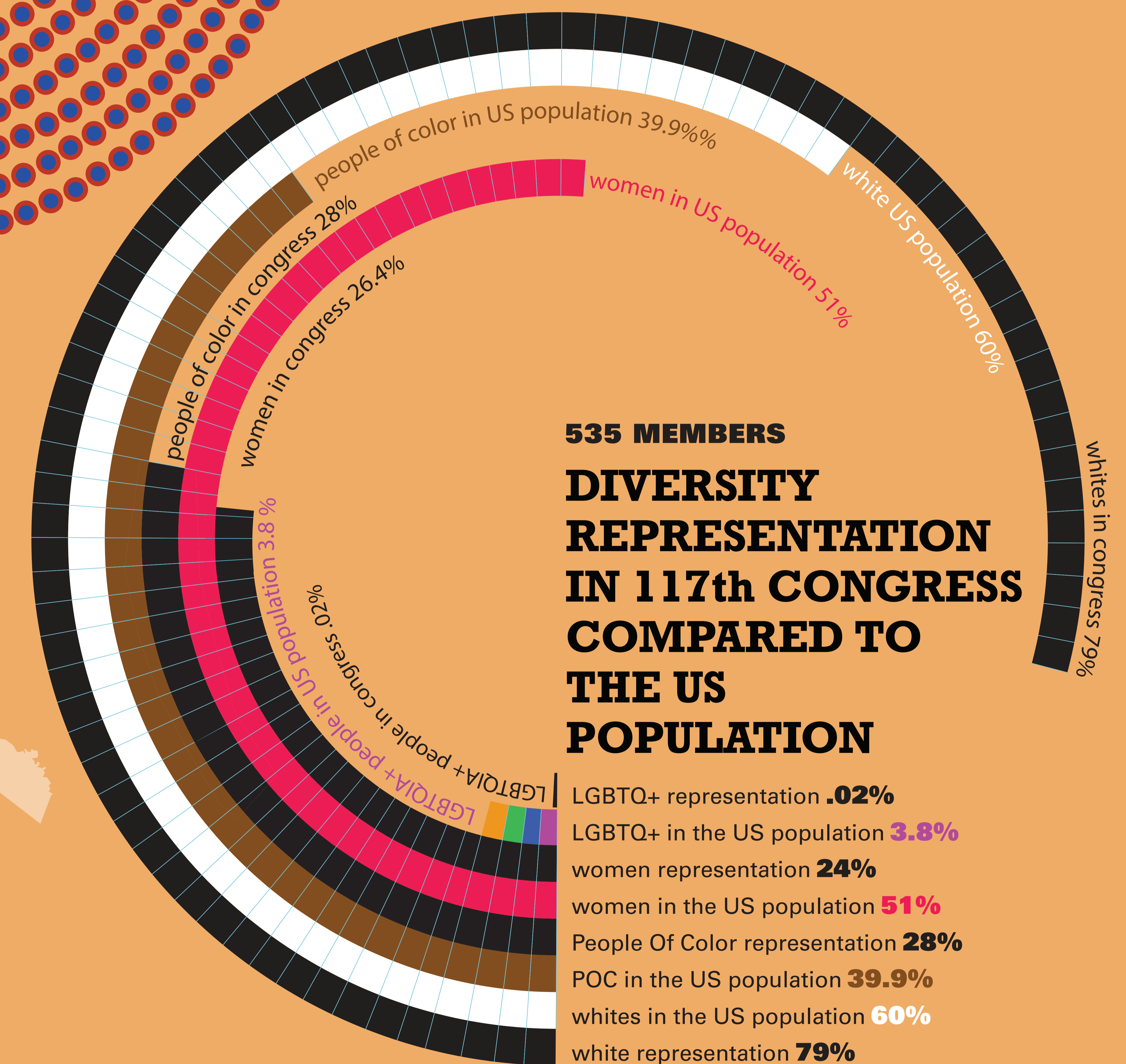
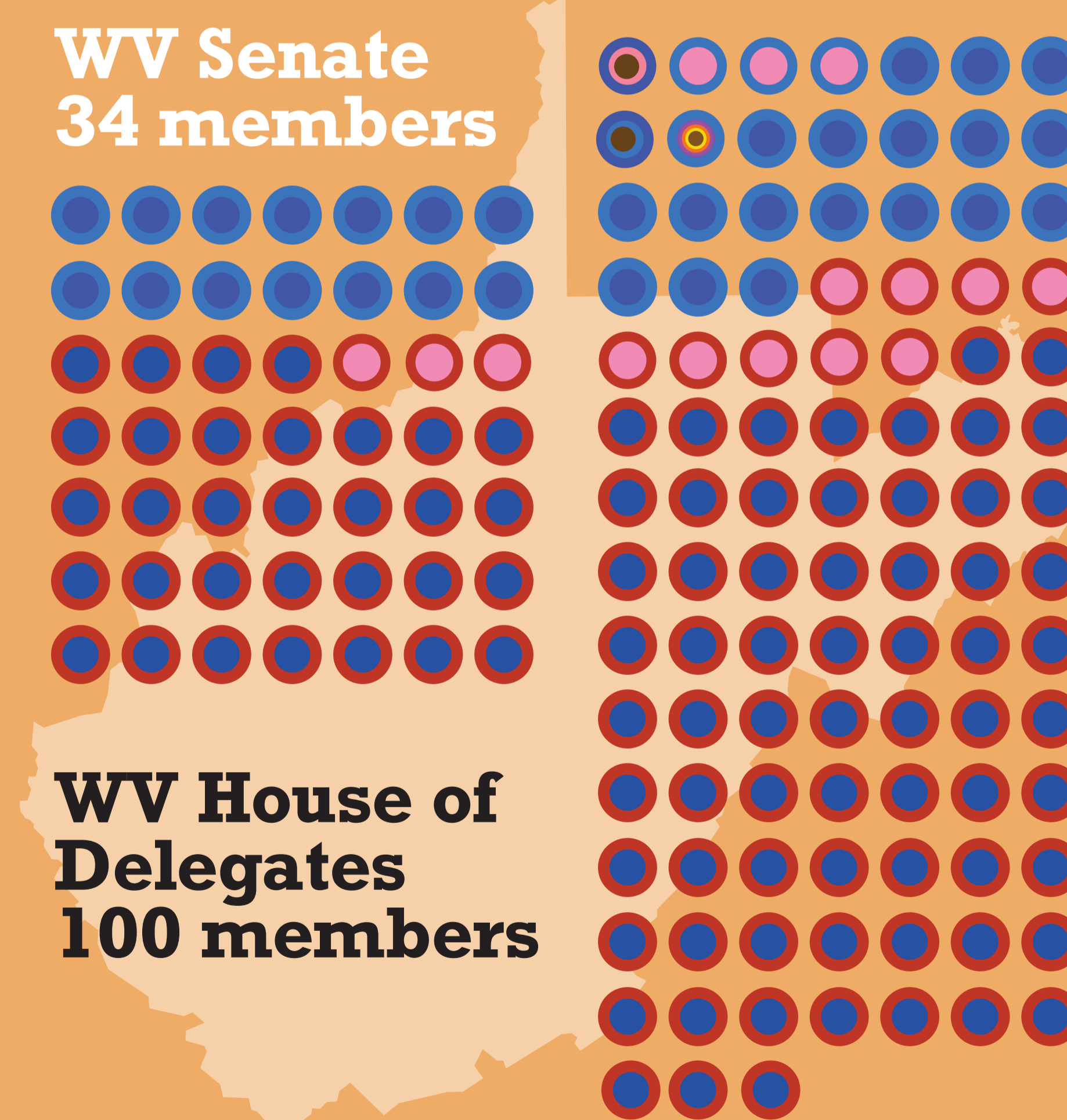
SOURCES: CNN Fact Finder2.gov, Gallup, OpenSecrets.org, Pew, This nation, rollcall.com  
AP News <https://apnews.com/article/14a2ceda724623604cc8d8e5ab9890ed>



This chart shows party affiliation on the outer rings and gender, POC, LGBTQ diversity in the centers of circles for both houses of Congress



## 2020 STATE ELECTION RESULTS



SOURCES: CNN Fact Finder2.gov, Gallup, OpenSecrets.org, Pew, This nation, rollcall.com