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AMPLIFY. ADVANCE. EXPAND.

Black Women Candidates in 2024

An SLSV Signature Report on Black Women's Political Leadership

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

I am honored to share *The Political Landscape of Black Women Running in 2024*, a research report that examines both the achievements and ongoing challenges facing Black women candidates in today's political environment. This work is central to our mission at Sisters Lead Sisters Vote (SLSV): to support the political power of Black women by amplifying our voices, advancing our leadership, and expanding our opportunities.

Promoting Black women's political leadership is not only a matter of equity, but also a strategy to strengthen democracy itself. When we invest in and amplify Black women leaders, we help inoculate against the misinformation and disinformation campaigns that disproportionately target Black women candidates, and in doing so, we protect the integrity of our democratic process.

As you review these findings, I also invite you to engage with us directly. Sisters Lead Sisters Vote offers tailored briefings on the state of Black women's political leadership—both on the ballot and in positions of influence beyond elected office. In addition to national-level insights, we also provide state-specific deep dives into the political landscape for Black women, equipping our partners with a nuanced understanding of where progress is being made, where barriers persist, and where strategic investments can make the greatest impact.

With respect and resolve,

Holli L. Holliday

***Donate**: https://bit.ly/SLSVSisterhood*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This research allows us to not only document the current landscape but also to identify the pathways where investment and support are most needed. At SLSV, we believe our strength is not only in our vote and community relationships, but also in the deliberate cultivation of Black women's leadership. By amplifying voices, building infrastructure, and championing opportunities, we can create the conditions where Black women candidates thrive.

Every cycle, Sisters Lead Sisters Vote (SLSV) seeks opportunities to enhance our research and bring more depth to our understanding of how Black women candidates experience politics. This information provides insights to help address disparities, level the playing field, and write the playbook to defend against race and gender-based attacks, which have contributed to heartbreaking losses. The research tracks and captures the following information:

- Political party affiliation
- Position for which each candidate is running
- Incumbent status
- Campaign social media accounts
- Personal contact information
- Current and previous elected office experience

This work is extremely valuable because it allows us to identify:

- The number of Black women running for office in that particular B election cycle
- How the number of Black women running for office compares across election cycles
- Track the evolution of Black women running for federal, state, and local offices
- The success rate of Black women winning local and statewide primary races that do not follow the national election calendar

ABOUT IDENTITY

Sisters Lead Sisters Vote handles candidate identity with great intention. We only report candidates who self-identify as both Black and Women. For SLSV, black women include any straight, cis, trans, gender-expansive, non-binary, and/or any female – or emme-identified person who identifies as racially Black.

ABOUT DATA COLLECTION

Data is collected from each Secretary of State's office, secondary data sources like Ballotbedia, state party (both Democrat and Republican) resources, news articles, and crowdsourced responses, including Black women candidates self-reporting via email or the SLSV Black Woman Candidate Tracker form, social media, or provided to us through our various Black women networks sent in through extensive research and recorded data. For each Black woman candidate identified, we verify with at least 2 sources, including direct contact with their campaign office. Through this process, 1,203 Black women were identified as running for elected office during the 2024 election cycle.

The data presented in this report underscores what we know to be true—Black women remain a critical force in American democracy, yet we continue to encounter disproportionate structural and systemic barriers to political leadership. A few highlights include:

- In 2024, approximately **32,000 people ran for office**, yet Black women represented only 4% (3.7%) of that total.
- Of the approximately 8,000 people elected, just 497 were Black women (6.2%).
- Across the 2024 cycle, **1,204 Black women candidates were identified** nationwide.
- **682 Black women (51%) advanced from their primaries, and of those, 497 (81%) won their general elections.**

Our democracy is stronger when Black women lead—and with your partnership, we can ensure that leadership is both recognized and resourced.

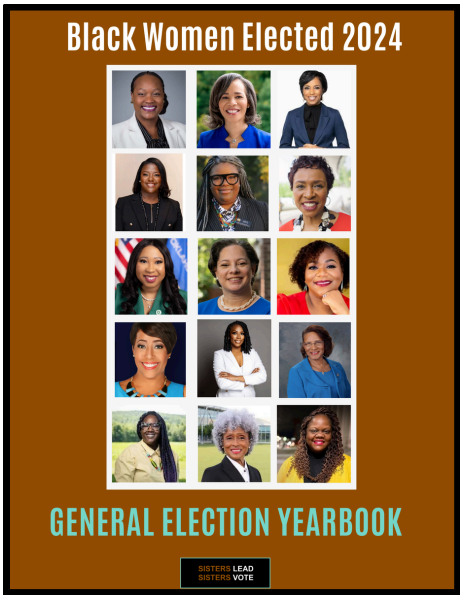
While the 1,203 Black women identified is incredible, a key note to consider is the number of candidates with low visibility in terms of their miniscule use of social media or lack thereof. In fact, of the 1,203 Black women who were identified as running for federal, state, local, non-partisan municipal, and special election offices during the 2024 election cycle, 286 of the candidates lacked an official/ unofficial campaign social media account (website, Facebook account, Twitter/X account, etc.). Below, the report outlines the office in which the candidates ran for and at what level - local, state, or national.

Black Women Candidates

Year	# of Black Women Candidates	White House	Senate	House of Representative
2018	603	0	7	80
2020	130	1	13	117
2022	832	0	22	134
2024	1,203	1	14	104

Check Out our 2024 Black Women Elected Yearbook

Download via SistersLeadSistersVote.org



2024 General Election Yearbook Cover



2024 General Election Yearbook Page, Florida

Key Observations

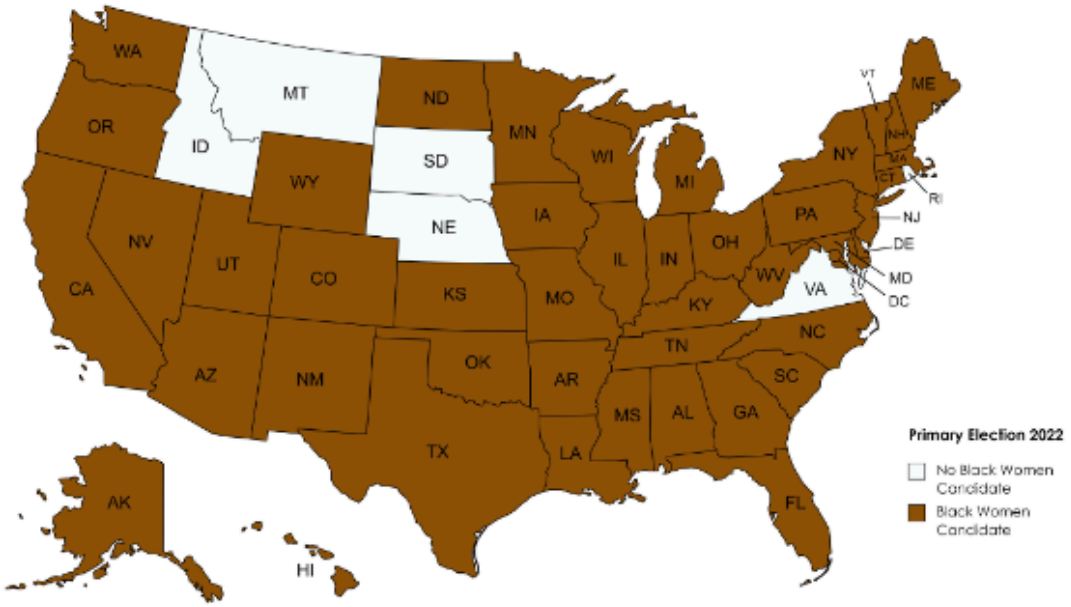
(Through November 5, 2024)

With the conclusion of the 2024 General election, we can highlight some key observations that help us to understand the 2024 election landscape for Black women.

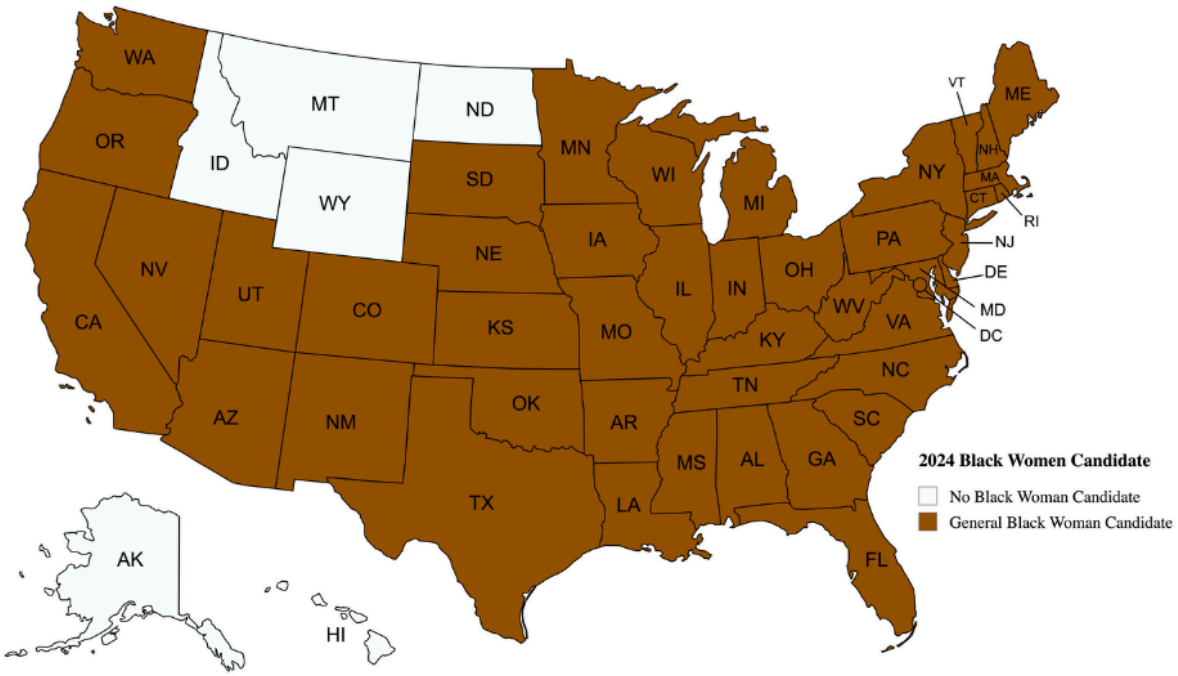
- Of the 1,203 Black women tracked, 669 appeared on the general election ballot, with 545 being elected or re-elected in November.
- Primary election win percentage: approximately 55%
- General election win percentage: approximately 81%
- Black women were candidates in all 48 states in 2024, up from 44 states in 2022.
- The overwhelming majority of Black women who ran for federal, state, local, non-partisan municipal, and special election offices were Democrats (about 818), compared to only 57 Republicans. Another 331 Black women ran in non-partisan elections. (Note: A few states allow candidates to run on more than one party line.)
- Georgia stood out as the state with the most Black women who ran for federal, state, local, non-partisan municipal, and special election offices during the 2024 election cycle, with 197 candidates.
- A total of 27 Black women ran for a statewide position, nearly one-third fewer than the 66 candidates who ran for statewide positions in 2022.
- Most of the candidates who campaigned during the 2024 election cycle were not incumbents. Out of the 1,203 candidates, 435 were incumbents while 771 ran as challengers.
- Of the 435 incumbents who ran for re-election, nearly one-third lacked an official campaign social media presence.

The 2024 Landscape

States where Black Women Ran in 2022
Black Women Ran in 44 States



States where Black Women Ran in 2024
Black Women Ran in 44 States



FEDERAL RACES

The 2024 election cycle saw an incredible 1,203 Black women run for public office. Before the statewide primary elections, a total of 118 Black women announced their candidacy for a seat in the U.S. Congress: 14 for the U.S. Senate and 104 for the U.S. House of Representatives. Following the 2024 Presidential election, Sisters Lead Sisters Vote identified the following: of the 118 Black women who declared their candidacy for Congress, 56 advanced from their primary. Of those 56 candidates, 31 won their general election. Before further analyzing the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives races, two astonishing facts must be highlighted:

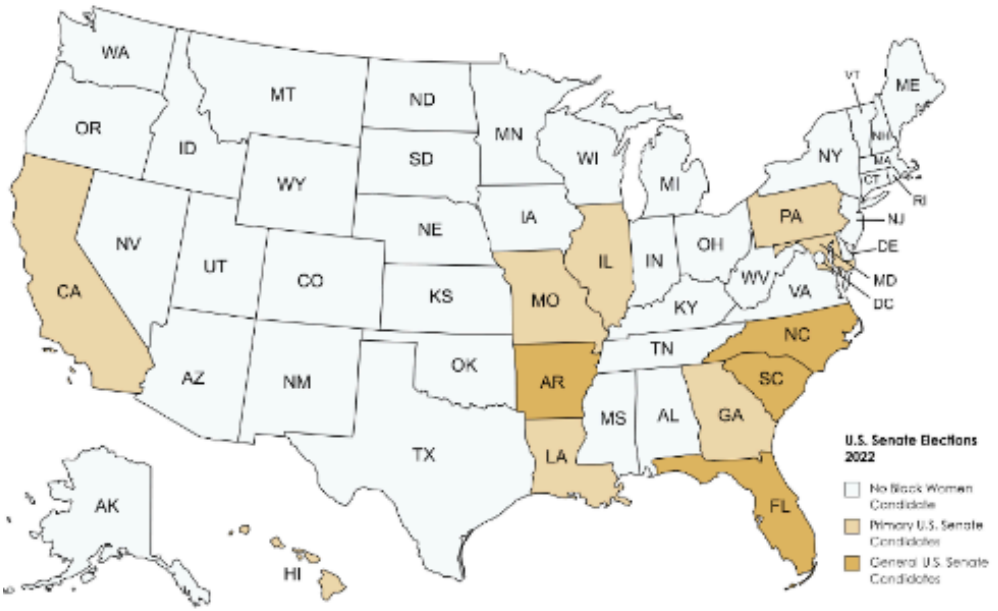
- For the first time in American and U.S. Congressional history, two Black women will serve as U.S. Senators simultaneously: Lisa Blunt Rochester of Delaware and Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland.
- Every incumbent U.S. Representative who advanced from their primary election won their re-election race.
- Following the conclusion of the 2024 general election, the U.S. House of Representatives gained four additional Black women.

US Senate

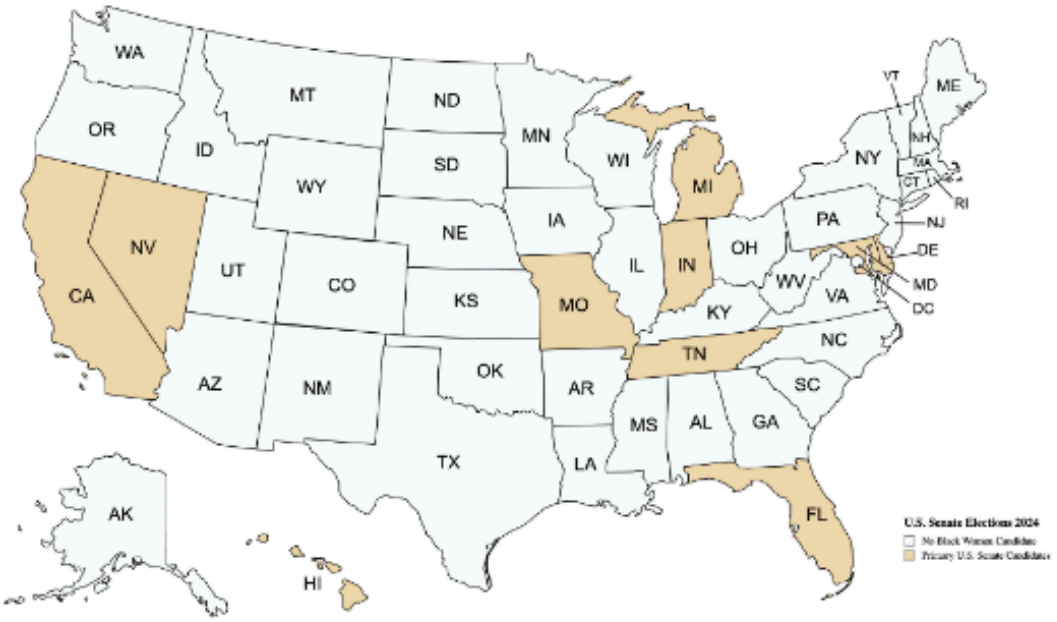
A total of 14 Black women announced their candidacy for the U.S. Senate. Following the primary elections, three Black women advanced: Lisa Blunt Rochester of Delaware, Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland, and Valerie McCray of Indiana. History was made the night of the 2024 general Election when Lisa Blunt Rochester and Angela Alsobrooks won their respective U.S. Senate races. For the first time in history, two Black women will serve in the U.S. Senate simultaneously. SenatorBlunt Rochester has become the first Black Delawarean and the first woman to represent Delaware, while Senator Alsobrooks has become the first Black woman to represent Maryland. The historic election victories of Lisa Blunt Rochester and Angela Alsobrooks challenge the myths that Black women cannot fundraise or appeal to a wide variety of voters.

U.S. Sentate Races

States where Black Women Ran for U.S. Senate in 2022
Black Women Ran for US Senate in 14 States



States where Black Women Ran for U.S. Senate in 2024
Black Women Ran for US Senate in 9 States



FEDERAL RACES

US House

Before the statewide primary elections, a total of 104 Black women announced their candidacy for the U.S. House of Representatives. Following the statewide primary elections,[5] 51 Black women advanced from their primary. On the night of the 2024 Presidential election, and sometime afterward due to extensive vote counting in some states, 31 Black women won their general election. While it can be somewhat discouraging to see only 31 Black women win out of 104, it is essential that we highlight these key facts:

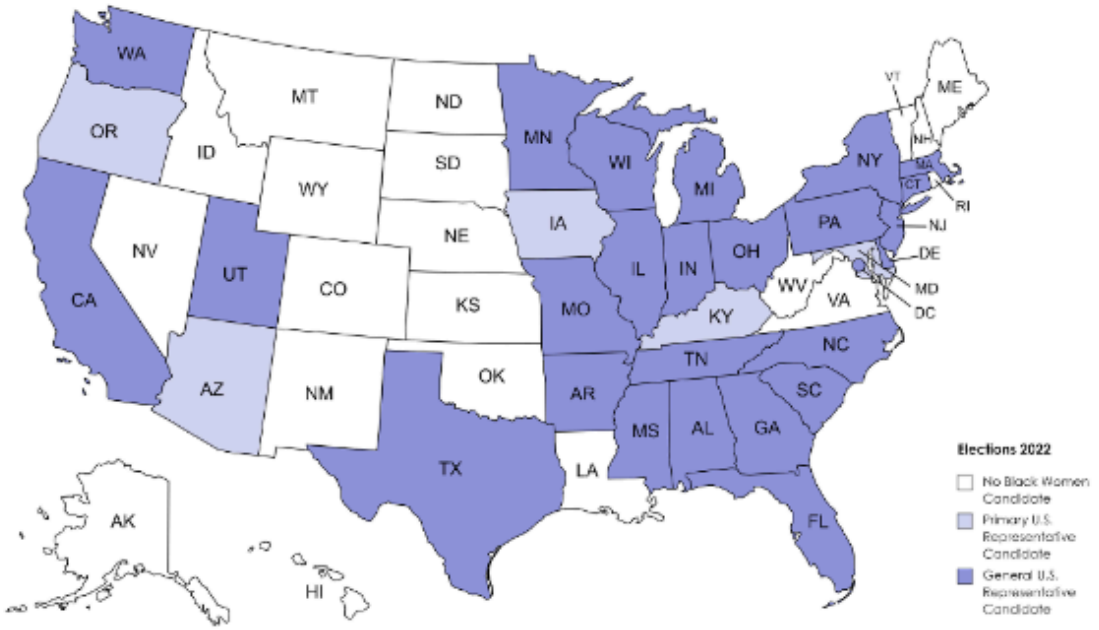
- Every incumbent who advanced from their primary won their re-election bid.
- Following New Jersey's 10th Congressional District special election and the 2024 general election, four Black women have been elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Janelle Bynum, the U.S. Representative-elect for Oregon's 5th Congressional district, has made history by becoming Oregon's first Black person and first Black woman to represent the state in Congress.

The accomplishments and resilience of Black women are truly astounding. All of the House incumbents who advanced from their primary won their re-election race, and a total of four Black women joined the U.S. House following the 2024 general election. Sisters Lead Sisters Vote truly recognizes the polarizing results from the national and federal races across the country. America failed to turn the page on its tired, divisive rhetoric and chose to re-elect Donald Trump as its 47th President. However, SLSV firmly believes that while America may have failed the test to protect its democracy, Black women passed with flying colors. It has never been more vital that Black women continue to work together to advance, amplify, and protect each other and our voices over the next four years.

U.S. House Races

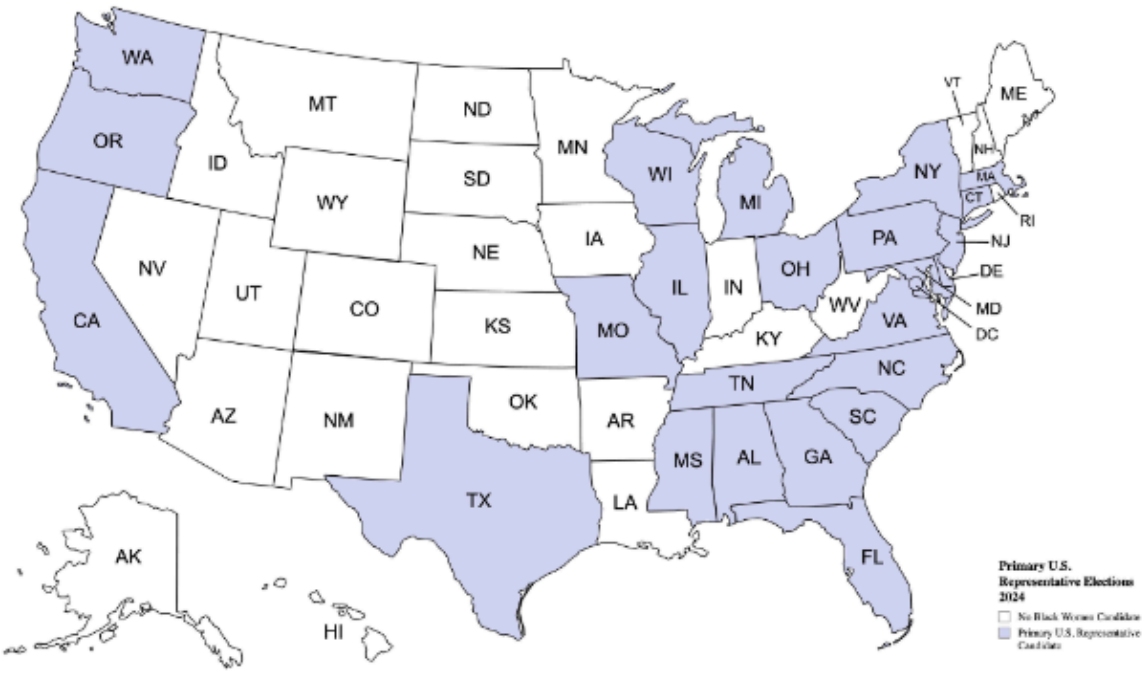
States where Black Women Ran for U.S. Congress Candidates in 2022

Black Women Ran for US Congress in 30 States



States where Black Women Ran for U.S. Congress Candidates in 2024

Black Women Ran for US Congress in 25 States



State Races (Statewide)

Throughout the 2024 election cycle, SLSV has not only identified Black women who ran for statewide positions but also an incredible number of Black women who ran for a seat in their respective state legislature. SLSV has tracked a total of 27 Black women who ran for a statewide position during the 2024 election cycle, which is nearly one-third fewer than the 66 candidates who ran for statewide positions in 2022. The statewide positions that the 27 Black women ran for in 2024 ranged from Governor to Commissioner of Public Lands. Here is the breakdown of the statewide positions for which Black women ran for federal, state, local, non-partisan municipal, and special election offices during the 2024 election cycle, as well as the number of candidates for each position. The candidates highlighted represent those who won their general elections:

- **Governor: 7**
  - Jamie Reitenour (Republican) - Indiana
  - Sheryl Gladney (Democrat) - Missouri
  - Chrelle Booker (Democrat) - North Carolina
  - Esther Charlestin (Democrat) - Vermont
  - EL'ona Kearney (Democrat) - Washington State
  - Rosetta Marshall-Williams (Independent) - Washington State
  - Ambra Mason (Constitutionalist) - Washington State

- **Lieutenant Governor: 4**
  - Sherry Dorsey Walker (Democrat) - Delaware
  - Debbie Harrington (Democrat) - Delaware
  - Anastasia Syes (Democrat) - Missouri
  - Zoraya Hightower (Vermont Progressive Party) - Vermont

- **Executive Council to the Governor (New Hampshire): 2**
  - Melanie Levesque (Democrat)
  - Shoshanna Kelly (Democrat)

- **Massachusetts Governor's Council: 2**
  - Tamisha Civil (Democrat)
  - Eunice Zeigler (Democrat)

State Races

- **Attorney General: 3**
  - Santana Deberry (Democrat) - North Carolina
  - Shaina Maxey Pomerantz (Democrat) - North Carolina
  - Keir Bradford-Grey (Democrat) - Pennsylvania
- **State Auditor: 2**
  - Jessica Holmes (Democrat + Incumbent) - North Carolina
  - Mary Ann Claytor (Democrat) - West Virginia
- **Board of Regents (Nevada): 1**
  - Tonia Holmes-Sutton (Democrat)
- **State Board of Education: 5**
  - Tonya Smith Chestnut (Democrat + Incumbent) - Alabama
  - LeDonna White Griffin (Non-partisan) - Nebraska
  - Tricia Braxton (Non-partisan) - Nevada
  - Staci Childs (Democrat + Incumbent) - Texas
  - Cari Bartholomew (Republican) - Utah
- **Commissioner of Public Land: 1**
  - Mona Das (Democrat) - Washington State

Following the statewide primary elections, only 12 Black women advanced from their respective primaries, including three incumbents: Tonya Smith Chestnut (Alabama), Jessica Holmes (North Carolina), and Staci Childs (Texas). When the 2024 Presidential election concluded, only five Black women won their general election race: incumbent Tonya Smith Chestnut (Alabama), Tamisha Civil (Massachusetts), Eunice Zeigler (Massachusetts), Tricia Braxton (Nevada), and incumbent Staci Childs (Texas). Ms. Dewberry noted in her Facebook Live commentary on electability, "They go with somebody who doesn't even come close to having the experience that you have and the abilities that you have because of some kind of group that thinks that the only people qualified to do anything are men or white men." The decline in Black women running for statewide positions during the 2024 election cycle, as well as the low number of Black women who won statewide positions in the general election, further shows that America's exasperated inability to address its deep-seated racism and sexism is an issue that requires continued work to overcome.

State Races (State Legislature)

SLSV identified 526 Black women who not only declared their candidacy for a seat in their respective state's legislature but also ran for re-election. Below is a breakdown of the state legislature elections:

- The vast majority of Black women who ran for either a state Senate or a state House were not incumbents, with 313 (59%) running as challengers or for open seats, while only 213 (40.5%) ran as incumbents.
- State Senate: 114 Black women ran for a seat.
  - 37 ran as incumbents, while 77 ran as either a challenger or for an open seat.
  - Of the 114 candidates, 71 advanced from their primary race.
- State House of Representatives: 413 Black women ran for a seat.
  - 176 ran as incumbents, while 237 ran as either a challenger or for an open seat.
  - Of the 413 candidates, 290 advanced from their primary race.
- 361 Black women advanced from their primary and were on the ballot for the 2024 general election.
- In the 2024 general election, a total of 257 Black women won their state legislature race.
- In the primary, 70% of Black women running for state legislature won. In the general election, over 71% of Black women running for state legislature won.
- Following the conclusion of the 2024 election cycle, a total of 497 Black women were elected to federal, state, and local offices.

This performance on the state level highlights an understated truth about the 2024 election cycle: Black women are not going backwards. Black women are making gains in elected offices and positions that can shape and improve the quality of life for Black women, families, and Black communities across the country. According to the Six State Innovation Exchange, Black women made up 4.82% of state legislators in 2021. Today, that number is 3.4% (Disclaimer: the 3.4% only includes the 50 states). While this is a decrease compared to 2021, it does not diminish the fact that Black women are more than capable and qualified to represent themselves and their communities in state legislatures.

Mayoral Races

Sisters Lead Sisters Vote has identified 15 Black women who declared their candidacy for a Mayoral seat throughout the 2024 election cycle. After the statewide elections, with the addition of several mayoral races not having a primary election, 11 Black women advanced to the general election. After the 2024 general election, seven Black women were elected mayor of their respective jurisdictions. Below is the breakdown of the five Black women who are now mayor/mayor-elects:

Mayors Elected in 2024

- **Vivian Flowers** (**Democrat**) - Mayor-elect of Pine Bluff, Arkansas
- **Felicia Brunson** (**Democrat**) - Mayor of West Park, Florida
- **Renee Baskerville** (**Non-partisan**) - Mayor of Montclair, New Jersey. Mayor Baskerville made history by becoming the first woman of color and first Black woman to serve as Mayor of Montclair.
- **Miko Pickett** (**Democrat**) - Mayor-elect of Mullins County, South Carolina. Mayor-elect Pickett made history by becoming the first Black woman to lead as mayor for the city of Mullins.
- **Alyia Gaskins** (**Democrat**) - Mayor-elect of Alexandria, Virginia. Mayor-elect Gaskins made history by becoming the first Black woman elected mayor of the city.

The historic wins of **Mayor-elect Renee Baskerville, Mayor-elect Miko Pickett, and Mayor-elect Alyia Gaskins** will undoubtedly inspire a new generation of Black women leaders.

However, unfortunately, incumbent **Mayor London Breed** of San Francisco and **incumbent Mayor Sharon Weston Broome** of Baton Rouge were both defeated by their Republican opponents in the general election. While their time in office has come to an end, their leadership and presence will continue to inspire other Black women to run and fight for those seats.

2024 History Makers

The results of the 2024 Presidential election were unfortunate, to say the least, but what was overwhelmingly proven once again was that Black women are the strongest voting bloc in America and are one of the most resilient groups to exist in this nation. Exit polls from the 2024 Presidential election showed that 93% of Black women voted for the Democratic ticket to elect Vice President Kamala Harris as the 47th President of the United States. SLSV recognizes the valid feelings of grief and fatigue following the 2024 election. However, we cannot overlook the astonishing victories of resilient Black women and the awe-inspiring newly elected leadership and representation that were achieved on Election Day.

Sisters Lead Sisters Vote has tracked several candidates that have not only succeeded against GOP-led attacks but who have also made history by being the first to be elected to their positions.



FANI WILLIS (DEMOCRAT)
District Attorney-elect, Fulton County, Georgia.

- Incumbent Fulton County District Attorney.
- Willis's office indicted Trump and 18 co-defendants in August 2023 on a slate of felony charges related to attempts to flip Georgia's 2020 election results.
- Despite (now) President-elect Trump's previous lies (election interference in 2020) and attacks (insisting that District Attorney Willis "should instead focus on the record number of murders in Atlanta"), the District Attorney of Fulton County, Georgia has won her re-election race in the November 5th 2024 general election.



SHAYLA FAVOR (DEMOCRAT)
Prosecutor-elect for Franklin County, Ohio.

- Prosecutor-elect Favor will not only become Franklin County's first Black Prosecutor but also the first Black woman to hold the position.



KETURAH HERRON (DEMOCRAT)
State Senator-elect, Kentucky.

- Currently serving as a State House Representative.
- State Senator-elect Herran will become Kentucky's first openly LGBTQ+ woman to serve in the State Senate.



PAMELA R. GOODWINE (NON-PARTISAN WITH DEMOCRAT SUPPORT)
Kentucky.

- First made history when she became the first Black woman to serve on the Kentucky Court of Appeals after being elected in 2018.
- She has made history once again as she is now the first elected Black woman to serve on the Kentucky Supreme Court.



MELESA JOHNSON (DEMOCRAT)
Prosecutor-elect of Kansas City, Missouri.

- Prosecutor-elect Johnson has made history by becoming the first Black woman to hold the office.



NATALIA HUDSON (DEMOCRAT)
Supreme Court Chief Justice-elect for Minnesota.

- The Honorable Chief Justice-elect made history when she became the first person of color, first Black woman, and only the third woman to lead as chief justice of Minnesota's Supreme Court.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The 2024 election cycle will go down in history as one of the most consequential periods in America's history. The results of the 2024 general election were polarizing due to their historic nature. It is true that Donald Trump made history by becoming the first felon to win the Presidency. That fact serves as a stark reminder about the reality of this nation: it has deep-seated and unresolved issues with racism, sexism, and mis/disinformation.

However, Sisters Lead Sisters Vote also recognizes a second truth that developed from the 2024 general election results: when Black women organize and lead together, we break boundaries and can make history. Even though Vice President Harris lost the presidential election, Black women across the nation have made historic victories and broken barriers.

- For the first time in the U.S. Senate's history, two Black women served as Senators at the same time, Lisa Blunt Rochester of Delaware and Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland.
- All U.S. House incumbents who advanced from their primary election won their re-election race.
- Over half of the 526 Black women who announced their candidacy for their respective state legislature have won in the general election.
- Despite attacks from the GOP and President-elect Trump, Fani Willis was re-elected as the District Attorney of Fulton County, Georgia.
- U.S. House representation saw a gain with Janelle Bynum (OR-5) elected as the first Black person and first Black woman to represent Oregon in Congress.
- Melesa Johnson was elected as the first Black woman to hold Jackson County's Prosecutor seat in Missouri.

The Sisters Lead Sisters Vote 2024 Black Women Candidates' End-of-Year Report documents the incredible political leadership of 1,203 Black women who ran for various levels of office in the 2024 election cycle, including but not limited to: President of the United States w/ former Vice President Kamala Harris, US Senate w/ Senator Lisa Blunt Rochestor from Delaware and Angela Alsobrooks from Maryland, and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago w/ Precious Brady-Davis to name a few. From the last four election cycles, some noteworthy themes have emerged:

- Black women's political leadership is present in all 50 states, but we must expand the resources to ensure and maintain opportunities.
- Black women are engaged at every level of elected politics, from local administrative offices and school boards to city & county councils, state legislatures, Congress, the White House, and the Supreme Court.
- Gender and racial barriers are negatively impacting the number of Black women running for statewide offices.
- Black women's experience as candidates is impacted by race and gender bias, both systemic and cultural.
- Black women are figuring out ways to overcome tremendous barriers.

Black women are winning elections. While they are more likely to have primary challengers, it has been shown that if they are successful in the primary, their win percentage in the general election is extremely high; in 2024, over 80% of Black women candidates who advanced to the general election won.

Supporting Black women running for office is more than about supporting representative government; it is a smart political decision and investment.

Sisters Lead Sisters Vote would like to thank each and every Black woman who ran for federal, state, local, non-partisan municipal, and special election offices, who has served as their State Party Chair, and who has worked tirelessly to amplify and advance Black women in political spaces. Thank you for selflessly advocating for other marginalized groups and causes while having to carry the main responsibility of being the sole person advancing and advocating for oneself. While Sisters Lead Sisters Vote encourages those who feel exhausted after the election to focus on self-care, we thoroughly implore you not to disengage from the political process. Black women continue to overcome the impossible. This is made more likely when Black women show up and vote, show up and donate, and show up and enthusiastically engage. As Black women and our integral allies support each other, Black women are the model and are unwavering in their mission to advocate for the progression of Black people, Black families, and our Black community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is not only an important documentation of the political contributions and history for Black women, it is truly a labor of love and commitment by our small but mighty team, specifically

- **Jaelen Maxey, Primary Research and Data Consultant**
- **L. Simone Henderson, SLSV Program Consultant**
- **Chantel Mullen, Esq., SLSV Director of Special Projects**
- **Hollye Weekes, SLSV Digital Communications Advisors**
- **Linda Paris, Communication Advisor**

We are especially grateful and thankful for each and every Black woman who has made the decision to travel the tough campaign road and the tremendous sacrifice they make to evalate their leadership in this way.

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Project Manager
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Over 1,200 BLACK WOMEN RAN FOR OFFICE IN 2024

RESOURCES INFORMING THIS REPORT

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3. https://www.essence.com/festival/2018-essence-festival/luvvie-ajayi-black-women-running-office-database/
4. The Black Women Running for Office database was discontinued in 2020, so this number only includes the number of Black women who ran for US Congress from https://cawp.rutgers.edu/blog/black-women-candidates-2020
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