Claiming seats at the table
Black women’s electoral strength in an era of fractured politics
Black women are under-represented in state and federal elections

Black women are under-represented as candidates nationwide
United States, 2016

Source: Brookings analysis of Reflective Democracy data and 2016 5-year ACS estimates.
Despite this, black women are breaking through nationwide.
Black communities are under-valued

Median neighborhood home value by black population share, 2012-2016

- Median list price (Zillow)
- Median value (Census Bureau)
Concentration of people of color is positively correlated with black women’s electoral success.

62% of black female incumbents hold seats in majority-black constituencies.

Source: Brookings analysis of 2015 5-year ACS estimates.
Concentration of people of color is positively correlated with black women’s electoral success.

77% of black female incumbents hold seats in majority-minority constituencies.

Source: Brookings analysis of 2015 5-year ACS estimates.
Concentration of people of color is positively correlated with black women’s electoral success

500+
seats available in majority-black constituencies

Source: Brookings analysis of 2015 5-year ACS estimates
Concentration of people of color is positively correlated with black women’s electoral success

of seats in majority-black constituencies are contested by black women

Source: Brookings analysis of 2015 5-year ACS estimates
Black women have paths to success across the country

Source: Brookings analysis of 2015 5-year ACS estimates
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