Claiming seats at the table Black women's electoral strength in an era of fractured politics

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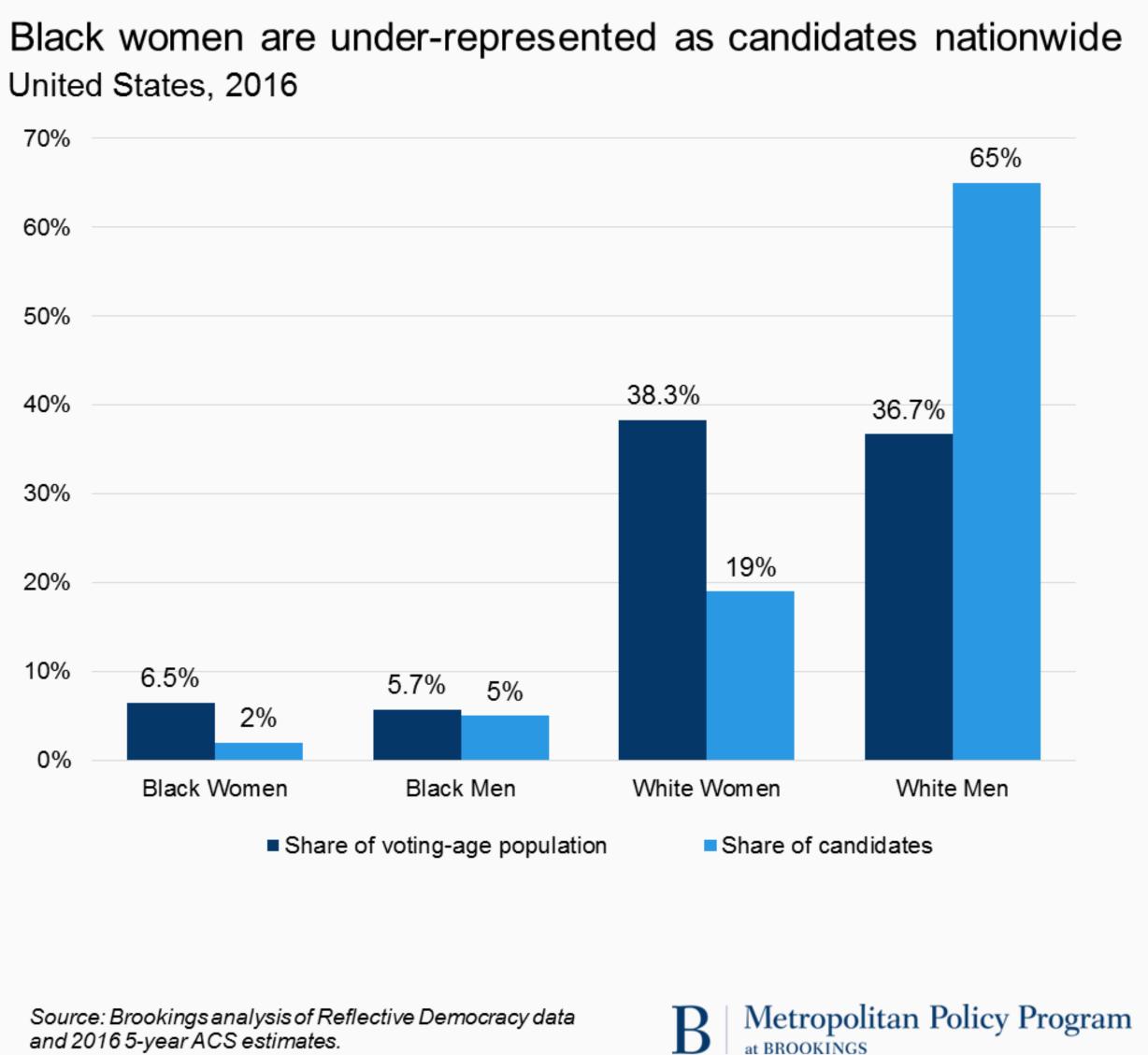


Black women are under-represented in state and federal elections

United States, 2016

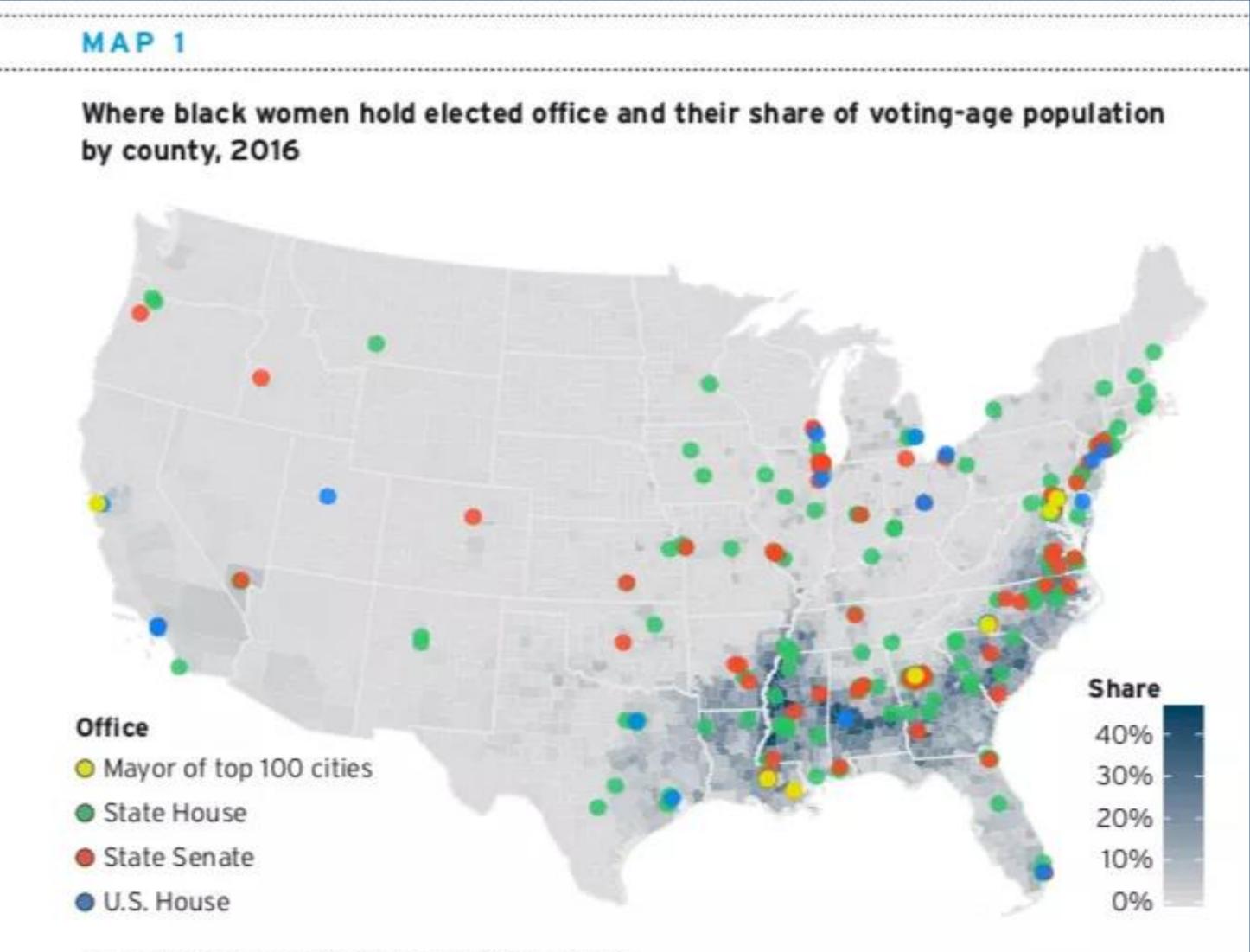
	Share of voting-age po				
0%	Black Women			Black Men	
09/		2%			
10%	6.5%			5.7%	5%
20%					
30%					
40%					
50%					
60%					
70%					

Source: Brookings analysis of Reflective Democracy data and 2016 5-year ACS estimates.



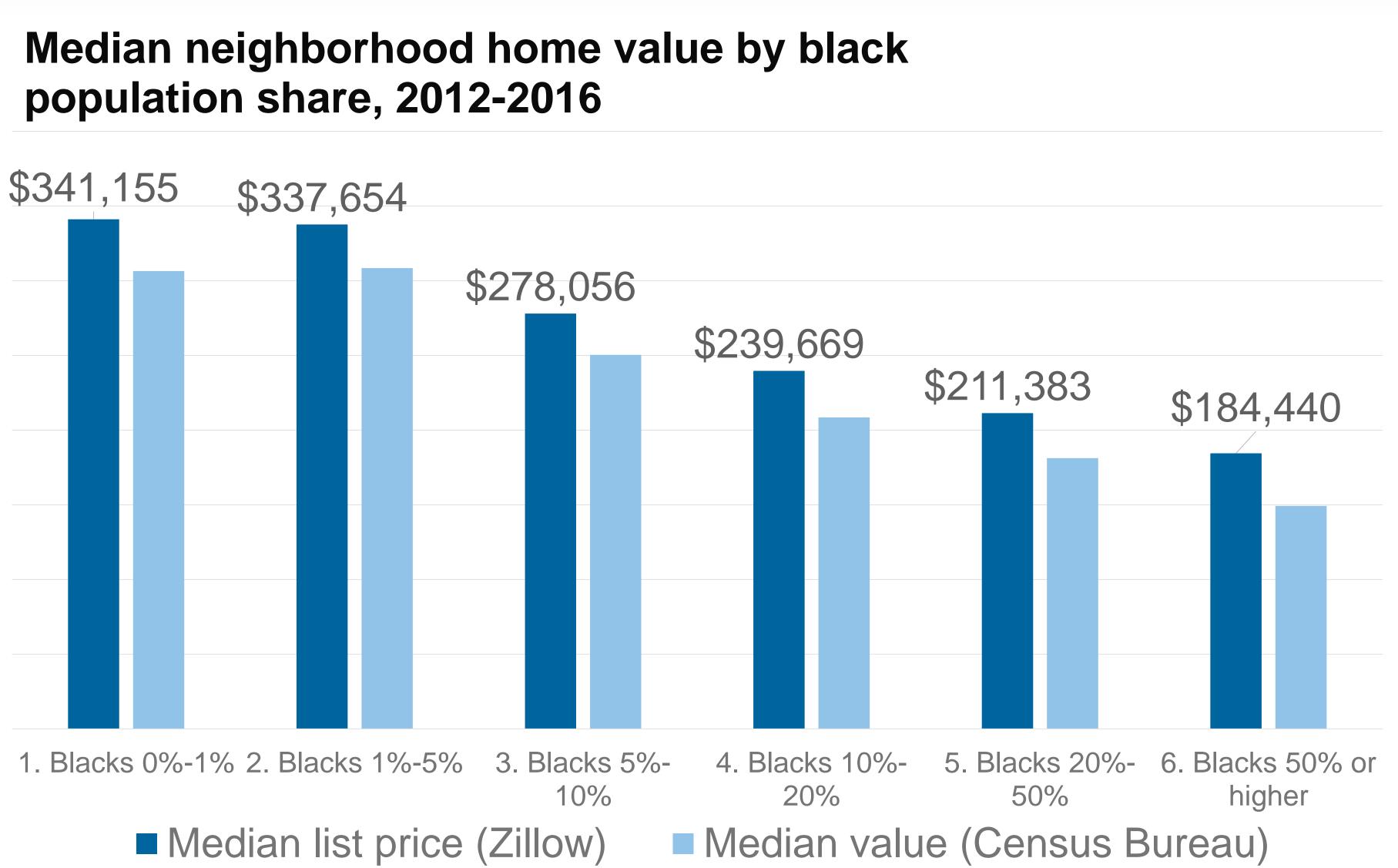


Despite this, black women are breaking through nationwide



Source: Brookings analysis of Reflective Democracy data

Black communities are under-valued





of black female incumbents hold seats in majority-black constituencies





of black female incumbents hold seats in majority-minority constituencies





seats available in majority-black constituencies





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



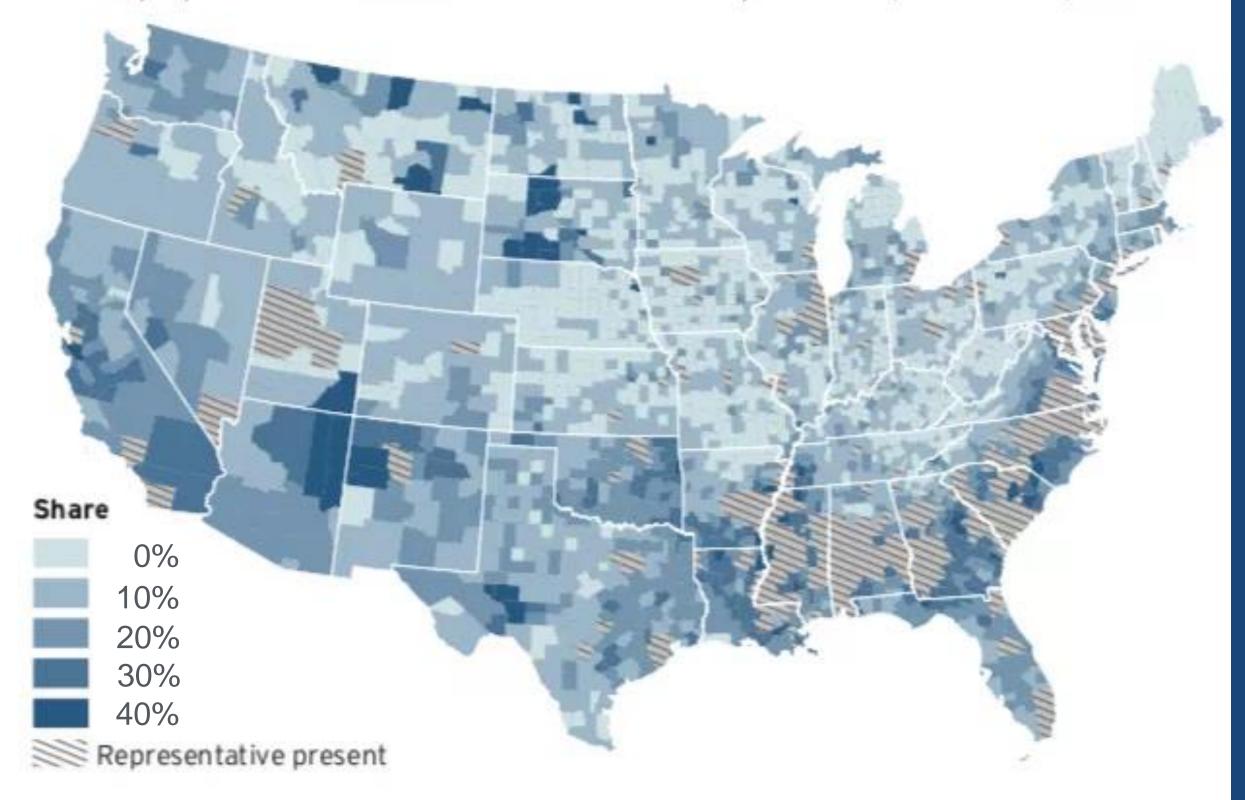




Black women have paths to success across the country

Black women have paths to electoral success across the country

Share of people of color in counties without black female representation, United States, 2016



Notes: "Black female representation" is defined for counties as those in which none of the overlapping state congress and US House of Representatives districts held a black woman as the incumbent in 2016. Source: Brookings analysis of Reflective Democracy data and 2016 5-year ACS estimates

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