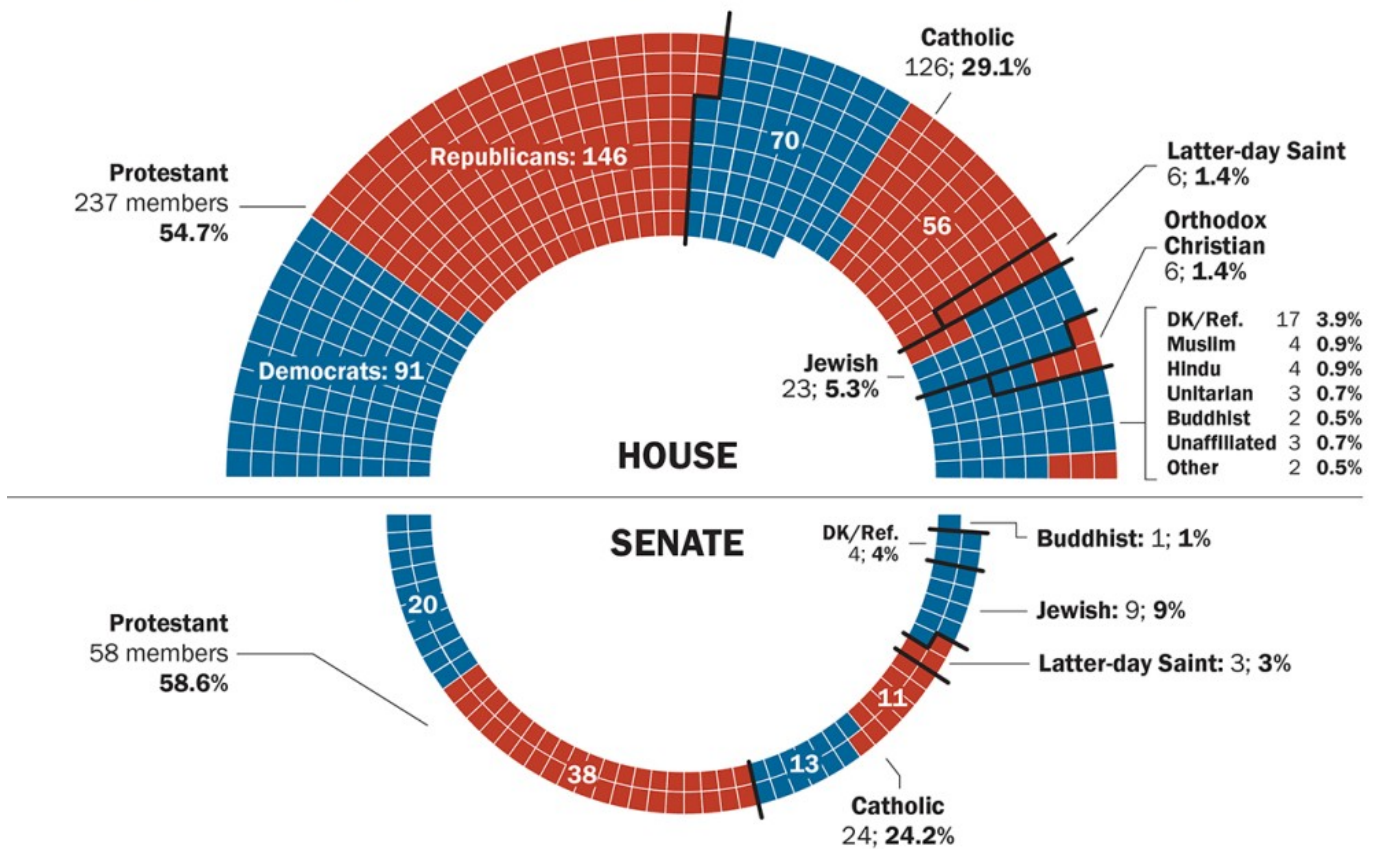


119th Congress adds 2 Hindus, 2 nones, remains mostly Christian

by [Fiona André](#)

January 6, 2025

### The religious makeup of the 119th Congress



Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals due to rounding. Three seats were excluded from the analysis of the 119th Congress: Florida's 1st District seat, due to the resignation of Matt Gaetz; Florida's 6th District seat, due to the announced resignation of Michael Waltz; and the Ohio Senate seat held by JD Vance, who is set to become vice president on Jan. 20, 2025. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are widely known as Mormons.

Source: Figures for Congress based on Pew Research Center analysis of data collected by CQ Roll Call, reflecting voting members of Congress to be sworn in on Jan. 3, 2025.

"Faith on the Hill: The religious composition of the 119th Congress"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

A new Pew Research Center report on the religious composition of the 119th session of Congress reveals that the majority of its members are Christian.

The *Faith on the Hill* report draws on data gathered by *CQ Roll Call*, a publication that compiles congressional data and provides legislative tracking. For every new

session, the website sends questionnaires to new members and follows up with reelected members on their religious affiliation.

“Christians will make up 87% of voting members in the Senate and House of Representatives, combined, in the 2025-27 congressional session,” reads [the report](#).

Though the share of Christian members of Congress slightly decreased since the last session, 88 percent, and from a decade ago, 92 percent, the House and Senate are still significantly more Christian than the US public, which has dropped below two-thirds Christian (62 percent).

Less than 1 percent of Congress members identify as religiously unaffiliated, also called “nones,” though they account for 28 percent of the US population. Three Congress members reported being religiously unaffiliated, two more than in the previous session.

The new session will include 71 non-Christian members—six more than the 118th Congress—including 32 Jews, four Muslims, four Hindus, three Unitarian Universalists, three Buddhists, three unaffiliated, and one Humanist. All but five of the non-Christian members are Democrats.

The new Congress will have a total of 461 Christian members, including 295 members who identify as Protestant. As in previous sessions, Baptists are the most represented denomination, with 75 Baptist members, eight more than in the last session. The report doesn’t specify which Baptist group members affiliate with. The other most represented Protestant denominations are Methodists and Presbyterians, with 26 members each; Episcopalians, with 22 members; and Lutherans, with 19 members.

These four denominations have had dwindling memberships in recent decades and have also seen their share shrink in Congress. The report’s first edition, published in 2011 for the 112th Congress, counted 51 Methodists, 45 Presbyterians, 41 Episcopalians, and 26 Lutherans.

The share of Baptists is slightly higher in the House, 15 percent, than in the Senate, 12 percent. Catholics, too, will be more present in the House than in the Senate, respectively 29 percent and 24 percent; whereas, there is a higher percentage of Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Lutherans in the Senate than the House.

Among the 295 Protestant members, 101 didn't specify which denomination they affiliated with. The report noted that many gave "broad or vague answers" like "Protestant" or "evangelical Protestant." Over the last decade, more members of Congress have given similar answers. In 2015, when the 114th session of Congress started, only 58 members reported being "just Christian" without specifying a denomination.

Of the 218 Republican representatives and senators, 98 percent identified as Christians. Only five Republican members are not Christians—three are Jewish, one is religiously unaffiliated, and one person responded "refused/don't know." While congressional Christians on either side of the aisle are more likely to be Protestant than Catholic, Democrats have a higher percentage of Catholics (32 percent) than Republicans have (25 percent).

Congressional Democrats are significantly more religiously diverse than Republicans. Though three-quarters are Christian, there are also 29 Jews, three Buddhists, four Muslims, four Hindus, three Unitarian Universalists, one Humanist, and two unaffiliated. Twenty congressional Democrats responded "refused/don't know."

The 119th session includes 166 non-Protestant Christians—150 Catholics, nine members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, all Republicans, and six Orthodox Christians. One Congress member, a Republican, identifies as a Messianic Jew.

The religious affiliation of 21 members remains unknown, as they either declined to disclose it or couldn't be reached.

The analysis didn't take into consideration Ohio Senator J.D. Vance, who will become vice president on January 20, Representative Matt Gaetz, who resigned amid sexual misconduct allegations, and Representative Michael Waltz, who announced he would resign on January 20 to serve in the Trump administration as a national security adviser. They all reported being Christians. —Religion News Service