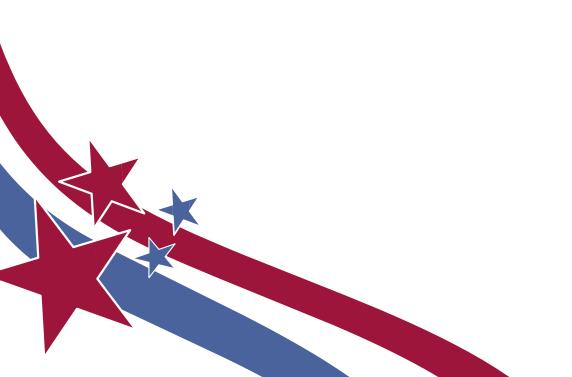
May 2016



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The typical New Jersey legislator is a middle-aged, white, non-veteran, Democratic man who is college-educated (mostly from an out-of-state, private institution), often a lawyer, and who uses Facebook and Twitter.

In the spring of 2015, the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University created a database of a variety of demographic and biographical variables for all 120 members of the 215th state Legislature. This report builds upon that previous research, updating the database to reflect the 216th State Legislature and 12 new Assembly members who assumed office after the previous report was issued. The data now covers newly appointed and elected members as of February 24, 2016. The research aims to create a statistical profile of the Legislature to better understand the makeup of the state Senate and Assembly and to analyze how closely they resemble the population they represent. Hughes Center analysis shows that the Legislature is older, less diverse in terms of race, ethnicity and sex, better educated, and more involved in professional or white-collar occupations than the general state population.

The New Jersey State Constitution provides for balanced geographic representation of the ennial census, boundaries for 40

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person is equally represented in our democracy by the creation of districts that are as equal in

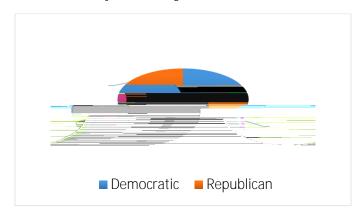
historically a melting pot of races and ethnicities whose residents vary widely in occupations, income and education levels. How closely does the New Jersey Legislature mirror the diversity in **ZMM**

-Strauss Associates, Newark, N.J.) and in interviews with legislative staff. See Appendix A for frequency tables of variables.

Special acknowledgements to Michael Rodriguez, Stockton Associate Professor of Political Science, whose earlier paper with Jenny Zink (Biographical Profiles, Political Ambition, and Legislative Professionalization) included some of the data used in this report.

Chart totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

With Democrats in control of both houses of the Legislature, the party holds 63 percent of seats, while Republicans hold 37 percent. Democratic representation in the Legislature is up three percentage points since the recently elected legislators took office.



Edu ation

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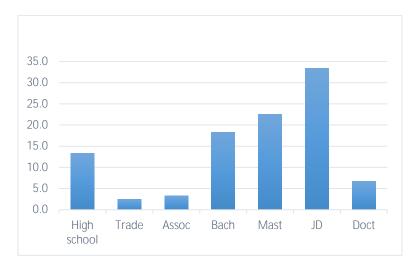
Eighty-one percent have attained at least a

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and 7 percent with a doctoral degree. The Juris Doctor degree is the most common higher education degree pursuit, with one in three legislators earning law degrees. Another 3 percent

trade or high school.

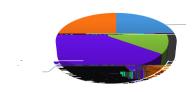


The majority of legislators who completed their baccalaureate degree did so outside of New Jersey. Fifty- MGDP TO The at an out-of-state institution, with 43 percent graduating from New Jersey institutions.

Experien e

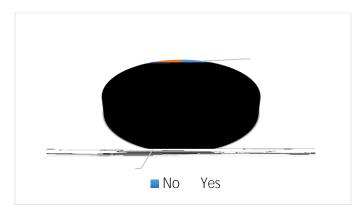
Attorneys account for the largest occupation category of legislators at nearly 27 percent. Another 19 percent list their position as a legislator as their primary occupation, a title which

Service in local government at the municipal level provides an opportunity for legislators to gain government experience. Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of all legislators had previous leadership experience at the municipal level. Thirty-eight percent of legislators also served at the county level before assuming office in the New Jersey state Legislature. Further analysis reveals that 77 percent of the Legislature had some form of county or municipality experience, while 25 percent of the Legislature served on both the county and municipal levels before taking office at the state level.

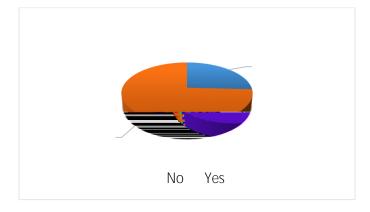


> NP SOP UT MENS Assembly before advancing to the Senate. Nearly 33 percent did not have previous experience in elective office in the lower house.

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Twitter is also an increasingly popular medium for New Jersey legislators to interact with their constituents. Nearly three in four (74 percent) have Twitter accounts. This is a 14-point increase (IDEL) reaffirming that social media presence is on the upswing in the state Legislature.



There is a lot of consistency in race and ethnicity across both sets of Assembly members. Ten out of 12

57.2	39.3	17.9
70.0	48.8	21.2
30.0	51.2	-21.2
83.3	69.2	14.1
15.0	13.6	1.4
1.7	8.6	-6.9
8.3	18.2	-9.9
2.4	21.4	-19.0

diploma. Consistent with high education levels, lawmakers are more than twice as likely to be in a white-collar or professional occupation. According to the American Community Survey, 21 percent of the population work in an occupation classification that includes professional, scientific, management, administrative, finance and real estate. Fifty-seven percent of the Legislature fit that category.

Another significant difference is found in the age distribution of the Legislature and general population. In the Legislature, 75 percent are 50 years old or older, while the general public is younger. The median age for all New Jersey residents is 39, but it is 57 for the Legislature. Only one legislator (1 percent) is younger than 30, but 38 percent of the general population is younger than 30. Twenty-seven percent of legislators are aged 65 and older, compared to 14 percent of the population.

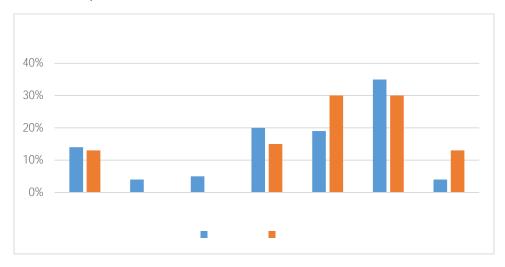
Men are significantly over-represented in the Legislature. The breakdown by sex is fairly even in the general population, with men at 49 percent and women at 51 percent. However, 70 percent of all legislators are men, and 30 percent are women. The over-representation of men in the Legislature could help explain why a higher percentage of legislators are military veterans (13 percent) than the number (WEA) Thirteen percent of adult men in New Jersey are veterans. Among New Jersey veterans, 95 percent are men.

The general population is more racially and ethnically diverse than the Legislature. Whites are over-represented in the Legislature, at 83 percent compared to 69 percent of the population. Asians and Hispanics are under-

While white, non-Hispanics are the most widely represented demographic in the Legislature, the Assembly displays more racial and ethnic diversity than the Senate. Eighty

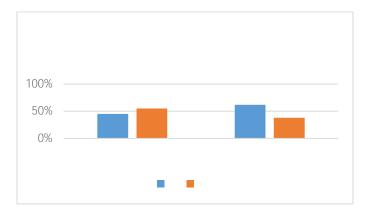
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categories are not represented in the second chart below.

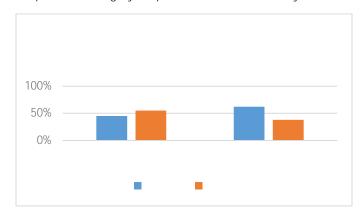


Majorities in both houses attended out-of-state colleges. Sixty-two percent of the Senate Assembly did the same.

The Assembly displayed a higher rate of attendance to New Jersey baccalaureate institutions (45 percent) compared to the Senate (38 percent).

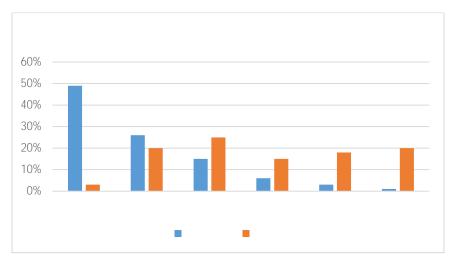


The majority of the Legislature attention (MTD) HEE es. This number is higher in the Assembly, where 62 percent of members attended private colleges and universities compared to 55 percent in the Senate. Forty-five percent of senators attended public institutions, compared to roughly 38 percent in the Assembly.



Experien e

One of the largest areas of variance between the Assembly and Senate is experience in the Legislature. More than 75 percent of the Senate has been in the Legislature for more than 10 years, whereas 25 percent of the Assembly has had the same level of experience. This can be attributed to the fact that 68 percent of senators started out in the Legislature in the Assembly before moving on to the Senate. Twenty percent of senators have served in the Legislature for 26 or more years, whereas only 1 percent of the Assembly have done the same.



A greater percentage of senators has served in branches of the military compared to the Assembly. Fifteen percent of all senators have served, compared to 11 percent in the Assembly.

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