Codebook: Race and Ethnicity of 2020 Senate and House Candidates

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Data Sources and Description

This supplementary data set identifies incumbents in and candidates for the United States Congress (both the House of Representatives and the Senate) belonging to three major racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States: (1) Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, (2) Black/African Americans, and (3) Latino/as during the 2020 General Election.

Asian American and Pacific Islander congressional candidates were identified through the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), a non-partisan non-profit organization that supports Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) running for office at all levels of government. APAICS documents and publishes information regarding congressional candidates every election season. In 2020, APAICS published a list of AAPI candidates running at all levels of office.

Latino/a congressional candidates were identified through the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), a non-partisan non-profit organization that promotes Latino/a participation in the American political process and supports the election of Latino/a candidates. Their 2020 state-by-state summary report on "Races to Watch" lists Latino/a candidates running for Congress, for the House, and for the Senate.

Black congressional candidates were identified through data generously provided by Dr. David Bositis, the U.S. House of Representatives Press Gallery for House incumbents, and the U.S. Senate's page on African American Senators for Senate incumbents.

This data set includes twenty-two (22) variables. Seven (7) variables correspond to CES items for merging, as follows: two (2) identify states and congressional districts; two (2) identify the names of House candidates corresponding to the CES variables HouseCand1Name and HouseCand2Name; one (1) identifies the name of the incumbent House candidate corresponding to the CES variable CurrentHouseName; two (2) identify the names of Senate candidates corresponding to the CES variables SenCand1Name and SenCand2Name.

The remaining fifteen (15) variables include the relevant race and ethnicity data for incumbents and candidates (nine (9) for the House, six (6) for the Senate), as follows: a total of six (6) variables indicate whether HouseCand1Name and HouseCand2Name are Black, Latino, and/or AAPI (three (3) for each candidate); three (3) variables indicate whether a retiring CurrentHouseName is Black, Latino, or AAPI; and a total of six (6) variables indicate whether SenCand1Name and SenCand2Name are Black, Latino, and/or AAPI (three (3) for each candidate).

House Candidate Race and Ethnicity Variables

`blackirh`: Black House Incumbent, Retiring

- Blank = Not Black House Incumbent Retired
- 1 = Black House Incumbent Retired

`h1black`: Black HouseCand1

- Blank = Not Black HouseCand1
- 1 = Black HouseCand1

`h2black1`: Black HouseCand2

- Blank = Not Black HouseCand2
- 1 = Black HouseCand2

`latinoirh`: Latino/a House Incumbent, Retiring

- Blank = Not Latino/a House Incumbent Retired
- 1 = Latino/a House Incumbent Retired

`h1latino`: Latino/a HouseCand1

- Blank = Not Latino/a HouseCand1
- 1 = Latino/a HouseCand1

`h2latino`: Latino/a HouseCand2

- Blank = Not Latino/a HouseCand2
- 1 = Latino/a HouseCand2

`aapiirh` Asian American and Pacific Islander House Incumbent, Retiring

- Blank = Not AAPI House Incumbent Retired
- 1 = AAPI House Incumbent Retired

`h1aapi`: AAPI HouseCand1

- Blank = Not AAPI HouseCand1
- 1 = AAPI HouseCand1

`h2aapi` AAPI HouseCand2

- Blank = Not AAPI HouseCand2
- 1 = AAPI HouseCand2

Senate Candidate Race and Ethnicity Variables

`s2black` Black SenCand2

- Blank = Not Black SenCand2
- 1 = Black SenCand2

`s2latino` Latino/a SenCand1

- Blank = Not Latino/a SenCand1
- 1 = Latino/a SenCand1

`s2aapi`: Asian American and Pacific Islander SenCand2

- Blank = Not AAPI SenCand2
- 1 = AAPI SenCand2

`s1black`: Black SenCand1

- Blank = Not Black SenCand1
- 1 = Black SenCand1

`s2black`: Black SenCand2

- Blank = Not Black SenCand2
- 1 = Black SenCand2

`s1latino`: Latino/a SenCand1

- Blank = Not Latino/a SenCand1
- 1 = Latino/a SenCand1

`s2latino`: Latino/a SenCand2

- Blank = Not Latino/a SenCand2
- 1 = Latino/a SenCand2

`s1aapi`: Asian American and Pacific Islander SenCand1

- Blank = Not AAPI SenCand1
- 1 = AAPI SenCand1

`s2aapi`: Asian American and Pacific Islander SenCand2

- Blank = Not AAPI SenCand2
- 1 = AAPI SenCand2