



ADVOCATING FOR SURVIVORS DURING COVID

April 17, 2020



WELCOME



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JOIN THE CONVERSATION



@allintgether



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@allintgether

TODAY'S AGENDA

About AIT & Why We're "All In"

Survivors Needs & the COVID-19 Crisis

How (and Why) to Contact Your Representatives

Panel Discussion:
Legislative Solutions for Survivors

Q&A

Call To Action

ABOUT AIT

- AIT **encourages, equips, educates,** and **empowers** voting-age American women with action-oriented, nonpartisan **civic education** to realize their full potential as leaders shaping our nation.

- **We do this through...**
 - In-person programs and workshops
 - AIT Fellows and Emerging Leaders Program
 - Webinars and virtual town halls

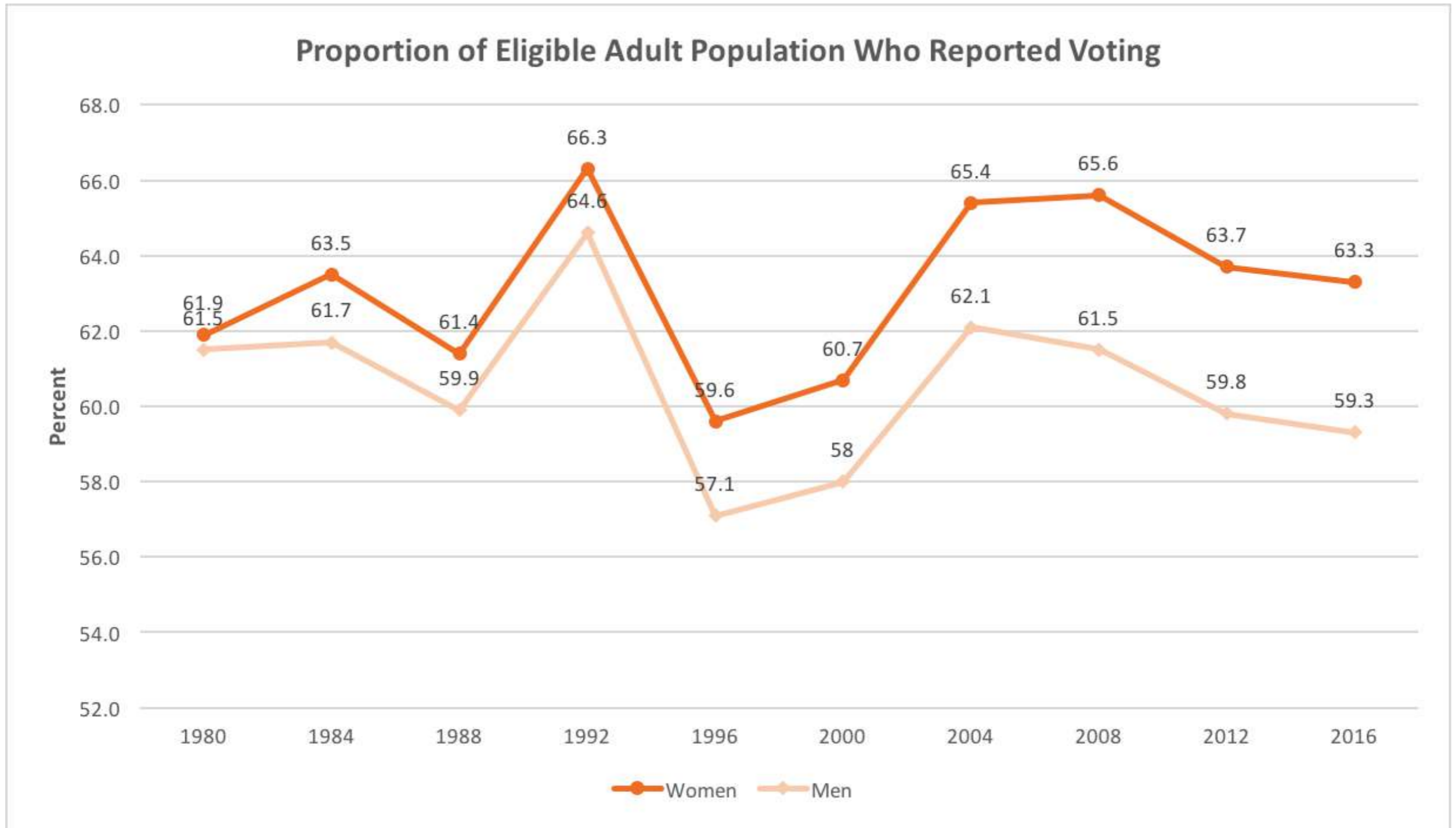
WHY WE'RE "ALL IN"

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN AMERICA

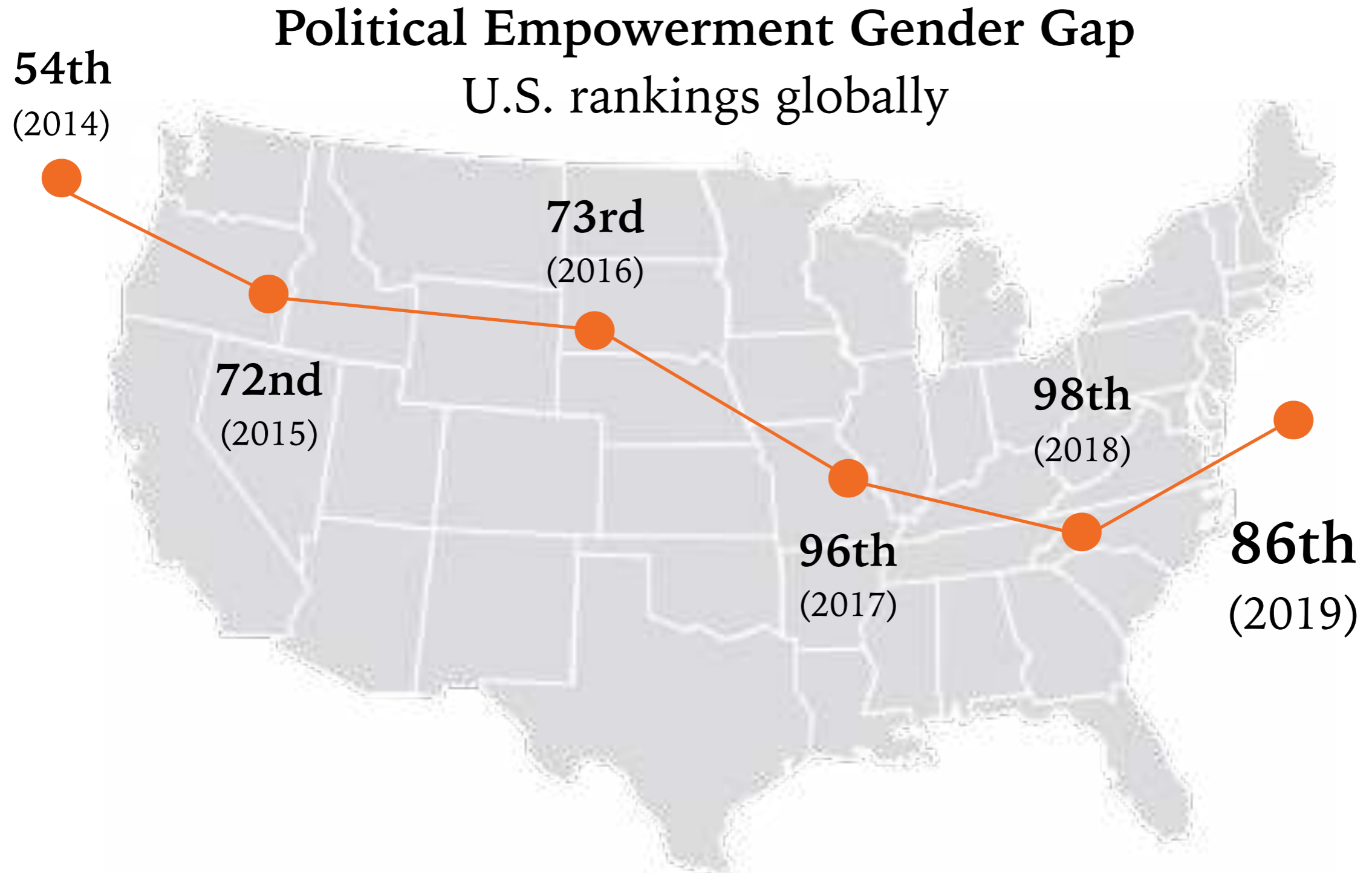


Women are leading in unprecedented ways but leadership must be more than just the job we hold. **To fully lead, we must lead in three spheres.**

WOMEN OUT VOTE MEN IN EVERY ELECTION...



...BUT WE'RE STILL FAR FROM WHERE WE WANT TO BE



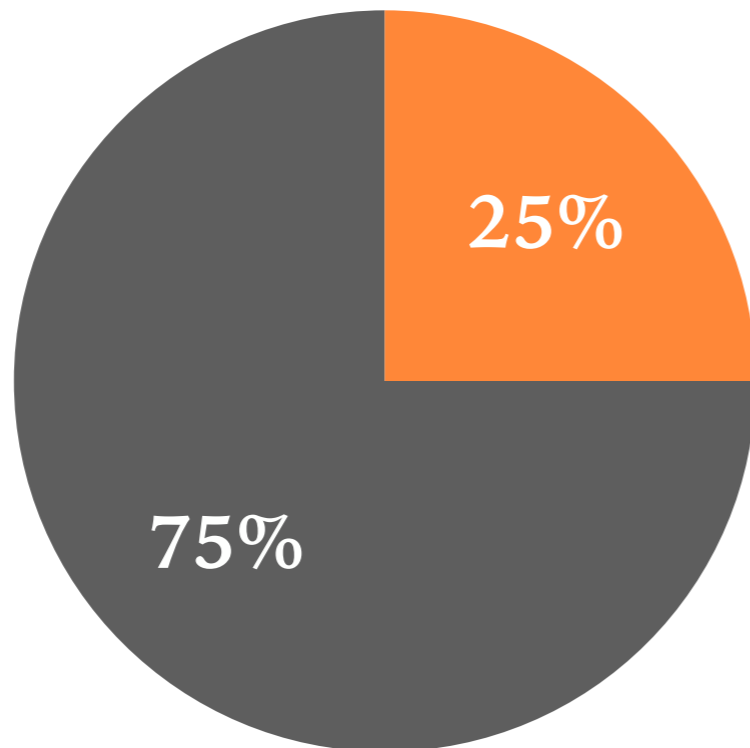
SOURCE: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Index, 2019

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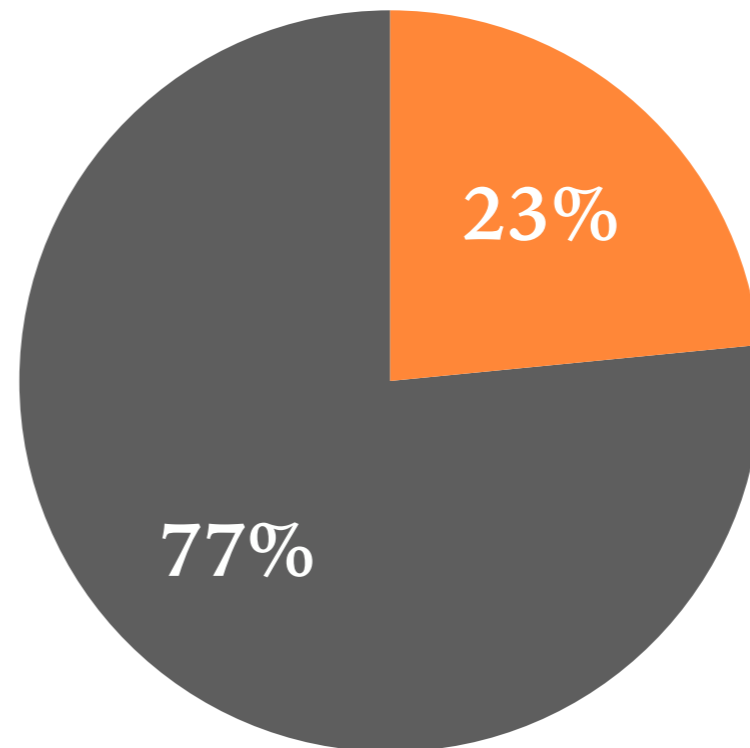
GENDER GAPS IN REPRESENTATION

Federal

Senate



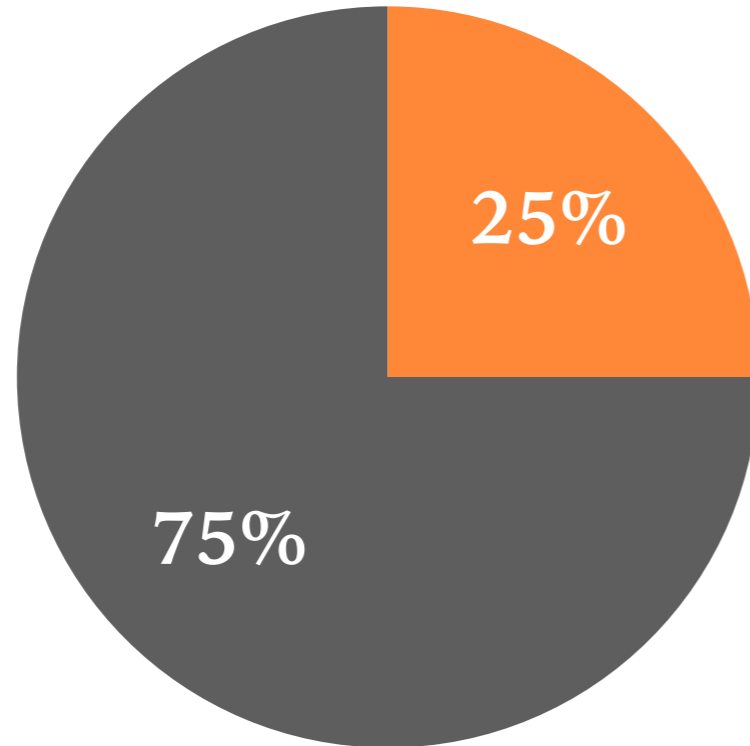
House



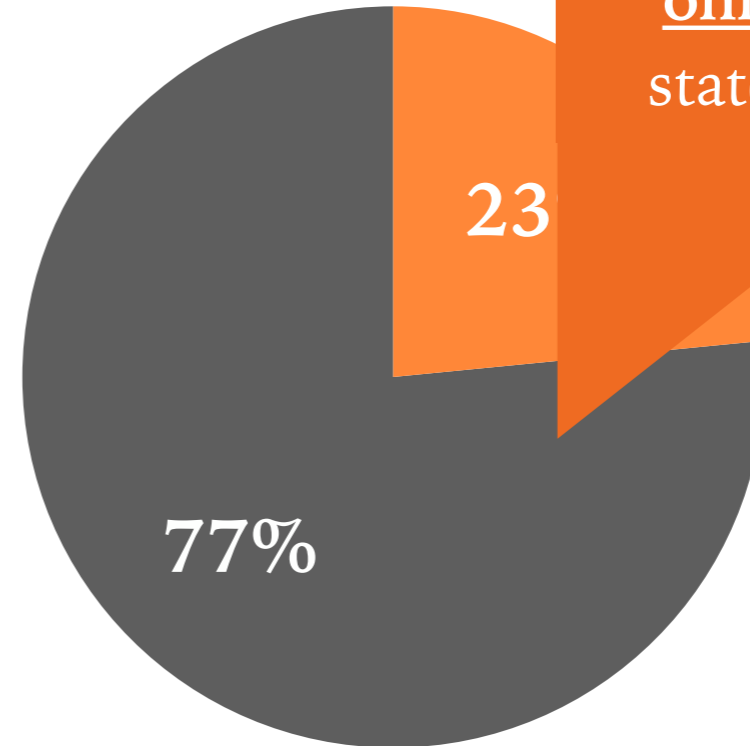
GENDER GAPS IN REPRESENTATION

Federal

Senate



House



Only 2 US states or territories have reached 50% women in state legislatures, Nevada and Guam

Women make up only 29% of all state legislatures

ADVOCATING FOR SURVIVORS



CHALLENGES FOR SURVIVORS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS



9 out of 10 domestic violence cases occur in the home, or in the home of a friend or relative

- Every year 10 million people experience intimate partner violence
- Women experiencing **domestic violence** are at an increased risk¹
 - Safety nets—such as social networks, in-person support systems, and domestic violence crisis centers—are now inaccessible to many survivors
 - Many survivors are isolated in homes with their abuser
 - Social isolation is a common tactic used by abusers to maintain control
- Survivors of all forms of gender-based violence are **experiencing service interruptions**, as hospitals and crisis centers struggle to transfer crucial services to remote platforms

CHALLENGES FOR SURVIVORS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

- A survey of 600 programs conducted by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence on the impact of COVID-19 found:
 - 89% of programs need emergency stimulus funding to respond to current requests from survivors
 - 40% of programs have experienced an increased demand for services

SURVIVORS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Survivor advocates state the #1 thing that can be done to address domestic and sexual violence is to commit to voting
- Yet, survivors face barriers to voting and engaging in the political process such as:
 - Privacy concerns
 - Inability to access important election information
 - Fear of retaliation

SURVIVORS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Reforms that increase voting accessibility can also make it easier for survivors to access political power
 - Early Voting
 - Election Day Registration
 - Automatic Voter Registration
- 39 states offer **Address Confidentiality Programs** for voter registration
 - ACPs give survivors a legal substitute address that can be used for voter registration
 - Check AIT's state **voter guides** to find out if your state has a program

MORE ON THE ISSUES

- Survivor advocacy organizations are advocating for **additional funding measures** beyond what has currently been allocated in the CARES Act
 - \$100 million in emergency funding for the Sexual Assault Services Program
 - Waiving the matching funds requirements for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding
 - Ensuring immigrant survivors and other vulnerable communities are able to seek support and emergency assistance

TAKING ACTION



CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

- By contacting your representatives, you can **ensure that the needs and circumstances of survivors** in your community are taken into account
- **Calls, e-mails, and letters** to your elected officials can substitute for in-person meetings
 - Ask for teleconference or video meetings with legislators or staff

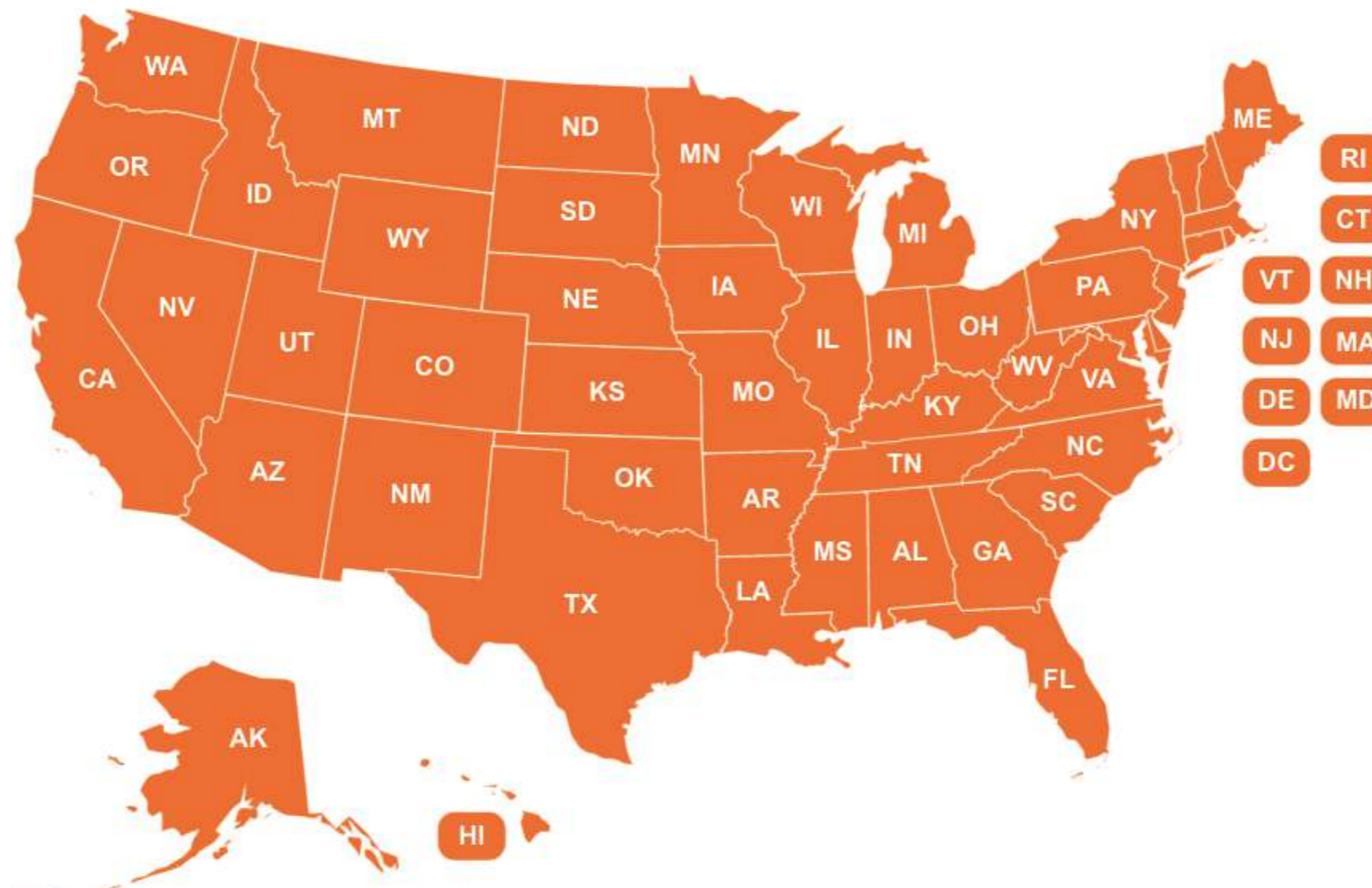
HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Visit the [AIT Action Center](#) to look up your [federal representatives](#), send them [email messages](#), and [access important information](#) about elections

ACTION CENTER

[Home](#) > [Action Center](#)

Click on your state below to contact your Federal or State Representatives:



HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

ACTION CENTER

Home > Action Center

Click on your state below to contact your Federal or State Representatives:



HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

[Home](#) > [Contact Your Federal Representatives](#)

Use the form below to email your federal representatives about the issues that matter most to you.

Prefix	First Name	Last Name
<input type="text" value="Ms."/> ▾	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Email	Phone Number	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Street Address	ZIP Code	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

* By taking action you are agreeing to sign up for future communications.

[Write Your Email](#)

INFLUENCING YOUR LEGISLATORS

- Legislators want to know how the crisis is impacting people
- What **action** do you want your legislator to take?
 - Sponsor an existing bill
 - Vote a certain way
 - Release a statement in support of a bill or issue
 - Draft/introduce a new bill
- Address the following...
 - The impact on the legislator's **district, community organizations, and constituents**
 - **Your personal experience** with this issue, and why it matters to you
- **Tip:** If referencing a specific bill, include the bill number in your ask



DEVELOPING YOUR “ASK”

Draft Template

I am asking (*name of legislator*) to (*requested action*).

(*Issue being addressed*) is important to me as a constituent and (*formal or informal title*) because (*brief summary of your personal connection to this issue*).

This issue is important to the legislator’s district because (*brief summary of the impact on the district*).

This impact is evidenced by (*brief summary of evidence of district impact*).

REMARKS FROM SENATOR TINA SMITH



Senator Tina Smith
D-MN

LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR SURVIVORS



Paige Flink
CEO
The Family Place



Errin Haines
Editor-at-large
The 19th* News



Senator Tina Smith
D-MN



Ebony Tucker
Executive Director
RALIANCE

Q&A

Type your questions in the **Zoom Q&A Box** on your screen

CALL TO ACTION

- 1. Contact your Representatives.** Tell your federal representatives what survivors in your community need. Check out **RALIANCE's District Advocacy Toolkit** for more information.
- 2. Join the AIT Emerging Leaders Program.** AIT Emerging Leaders are part of a national action network of individuals who receive civic leadership training to take civic actions and host advocacy trainings in their community around the issues that matter most to them
- 3. Get Informed.** Sign up for the 19th* Newsletter to get the most updated information and reporting on the intersection of gender, politics and policy. The 19th* aims to empower women with the information, community, and tools they need to be equal participants in our democracy.

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YOUR LIFE. YOUR ISSUES.
YOUR VOICE.®



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