

**(Less) Male, (Even Less) Educated,
(Even Less) Experienced &
(Even more) White**

A Statistical Breakdown of Canada's 40th
Parliament, with Comparisons to the 39th
Parliament

April 2009

*With Additional Comparisons to the 111th and 110th US Congresses and the 54th
British Parliament*



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Some of the Basics - Age

- Average Age: 51.39 years (-1.59 years)*
 - 51.25 (-1.43) for Men; 52.00 (-2.18) for Women
 - 24.3% over the age of 60 (-2.9%)
 - Youngest MP: Nicolas Dufour, BQ (21)
 - Oldest MP: Christian Oullet, BQ (74)
- Average US Representatives Age: 57.0 years (+1.1)
 - Oldest House of Representatives in History
 - 187 (42.5%) over the age of 60
 - 48 (10.9%) members over the age of 70
- Average UK MP Age: 50.6 years
 - 17.6% over the age of 60



Some of the Basics - Gender

- 69 Women in Parliament – 22.4% of MPs (+1.7%)
 - Highest in Canadian history
 - 64 women in previous Parliament
 - 42 (61%) from Ontario and Quebec
 - Compares with 46 (71%) in previous Parliament
 - Has been more than 20% since 1997
- 78 (17.8%) Women in the US House of Representatives
 - Highest in US history
 - 61 (78%) are Democrats
- 127 Women MPs (19.7%) in the UK
 - Compares with 120 (18.2%) women in 1997 & 19 (3.0%) women in 1979
 - Highest percentage of women in UK history



Some of the Basics - Ethnicity

- 24 (7.8%) of MPs are “non-white”* (– 1.1%)
 - 9 (11.7%) MPs in the Liberal Caucus
 - vs. 13 MPs last Parliament – decrease of 1.8%
 - 12 (8.4%) MPs in the Conservative Caucus
 - vs. 9 MPs – increase of 1.3%
 - 2 (4.1%) MPs in the Bloc Caucus
 - vs. 3 MPs – decrease of 2.2%
 - 1 (2.7%) MP in the NDP Caucus
 - no change; increase in caucus size – decrease of 0.6%
- 76 Representatives (17.3%) are “non-white”†
 - vs. 75 in previous Congress
- 15 British MPs (2.3%) are “non-white”‡

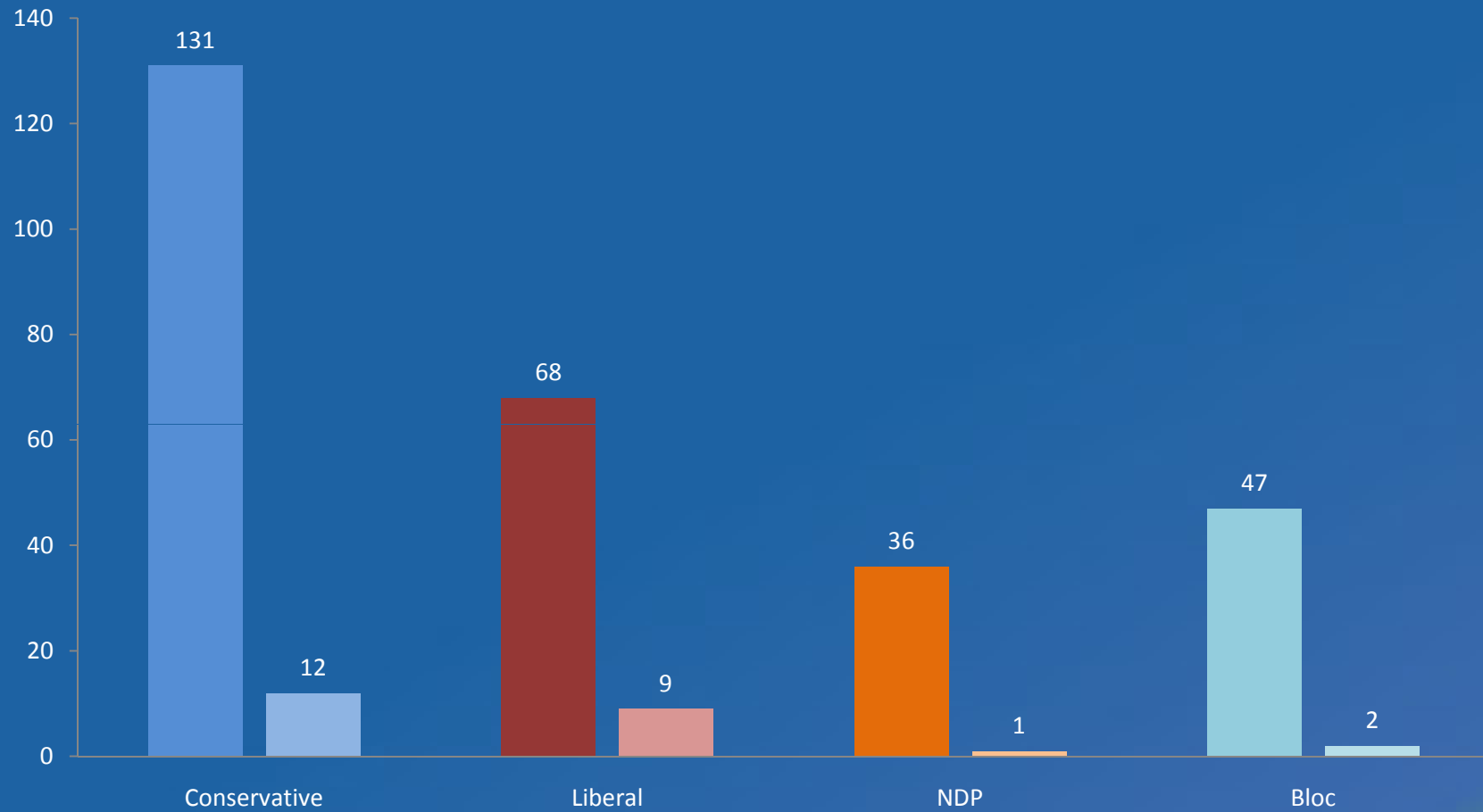
* No statistics available, done by visual assessment

† Compilation of “African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American and Native-American” statistics

‡ Statistics provided by the UK Library of Parliament, definition unknown



White vs. “Non-White” MPs – 40th Parliament



Some of the Basics –Foreign Born

- 36 (11.7%) of MPs are “foreign-born” (-1.7%)
 - 17 (22.1%) MPs in the Liberal Caucus
 - vs. 21 MPs last Parliament – increase of 0.2%
 - 11 (7.7%) MPs in the Conservative Caucus
 - vs. 12 MPs – decrease of 1.7%
 - 6 (16.2%) MPs in the NDP Caucus
 - vs. 5 MPs – decrease of 0.5%
 - 2 (4.1%) MPs in the Bloc Caucus
 - vs. 4 MPs – decrease of 2.1%
 - 15 MPs from Ontario (41.7% of total)
 - vs. 18 – decrease of 2.2%
- 12 (2.7%) of US Representatives are “foreign-born”

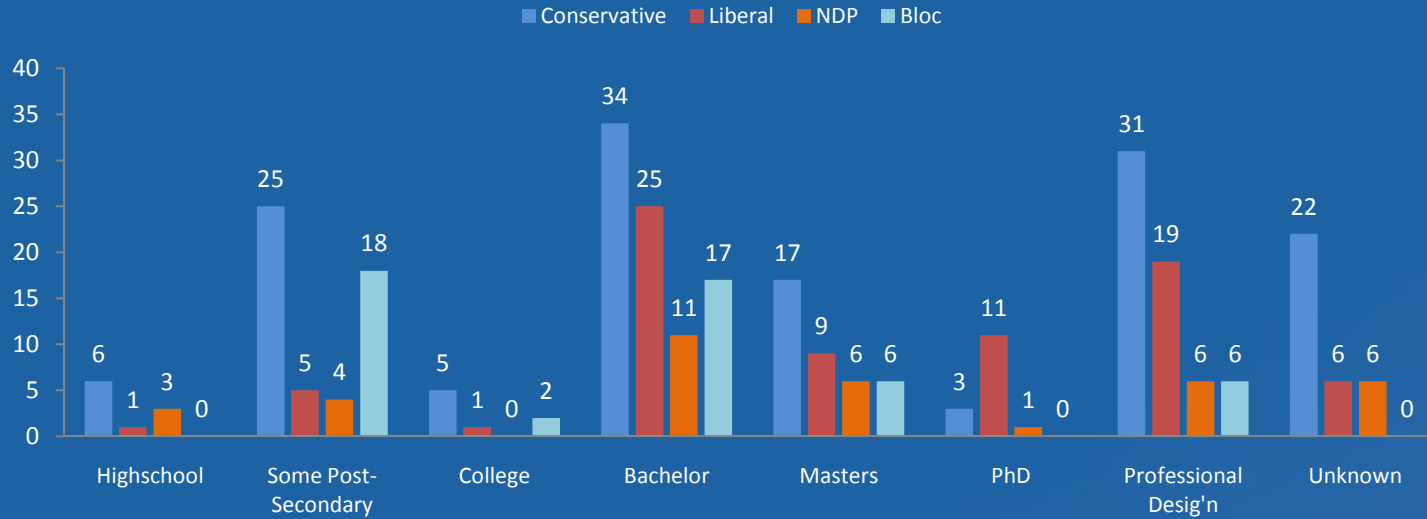


Education

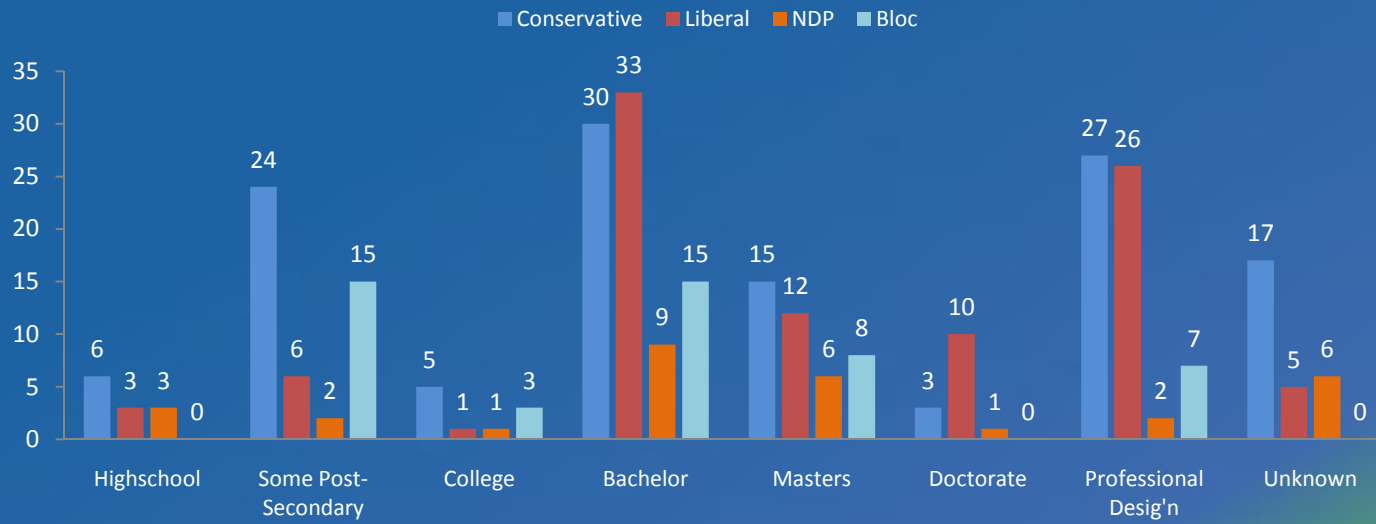
- 84.7% have attended a post-secondary institution
 - decrease of 1.8% from previous Parliament
 - 10 (3.2%) listed high school as their highest attainment
 - Decrease of 1 MP (0.7%)
 - 37 (12.0%) did not specify their education
 - Increase of 8 MPs (2.7%)
- 203 (65.9%) of MPs have a university degree
 - Decrease of 4 MPs (1.9%)
 - 59.4% of Conservative MPs
 - 59.2% of Bloc MPs (+0.8%)
 - 64.9% of NDP MPs
 - 83.1% of Liberal MPs



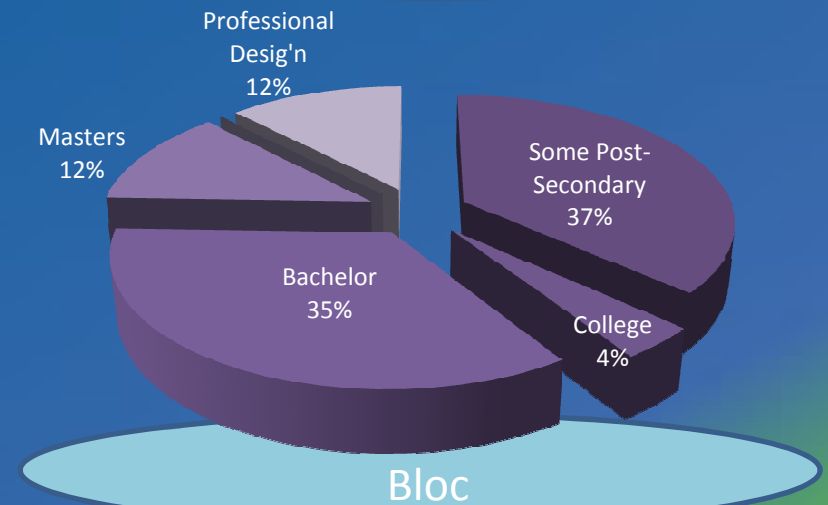
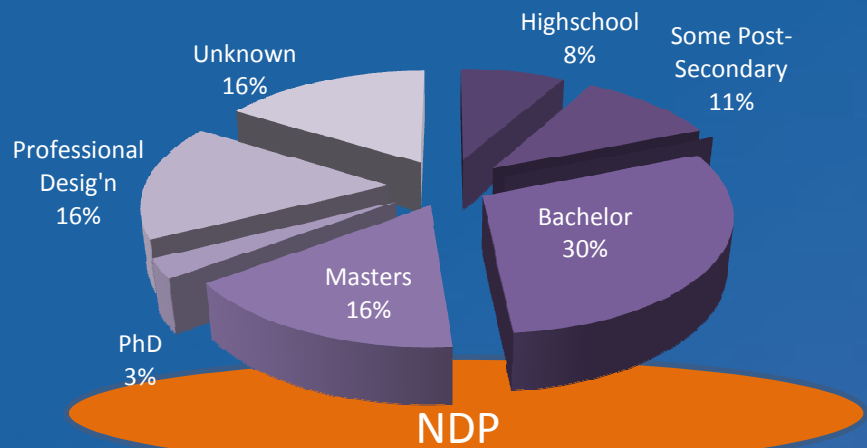
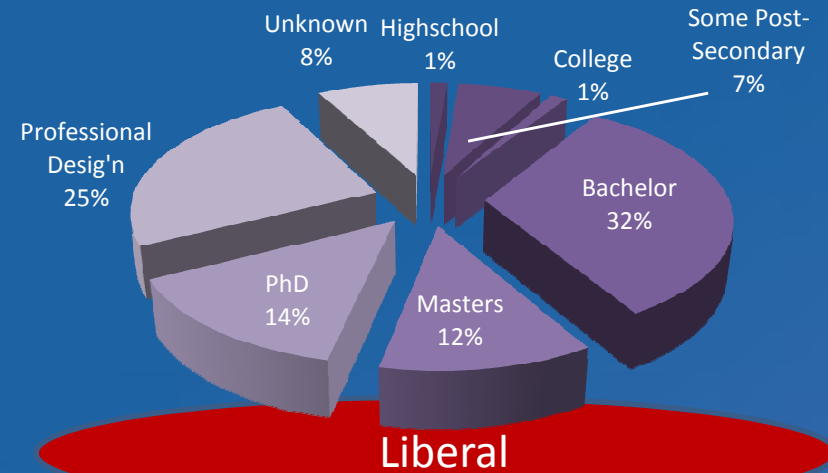
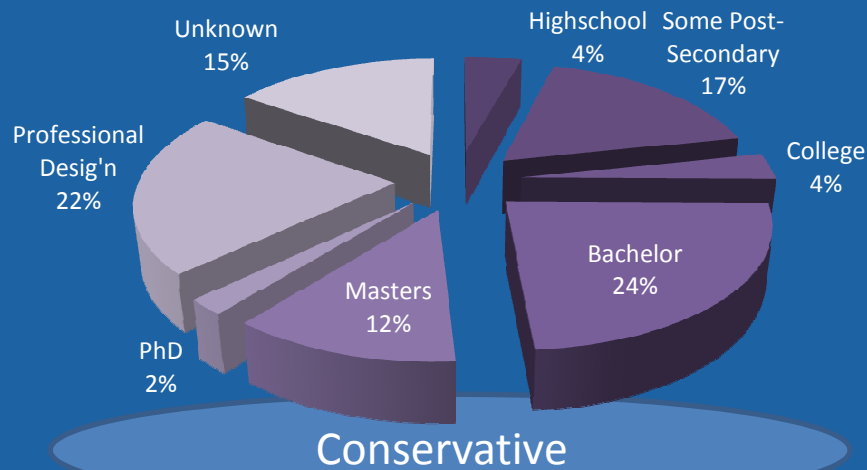
Education Breakdown - 40th Parliament



Education Breakdown - 39th Parliament



Education Background – Breakdown by Party



Education (US & UK)

- 409 Representatives (92.7%) have a university degree (decrease of 14 or 3.1%)
 - Only 3 (<1%) did not attend a post-secondary school
 - Decrease of 2 Representatives
 - 40 (9.1%) have degrees from Ivy League universities
 - Increase of 4 Representatives – 0.9%
 - 289 (65.7%) have “Advanced Degrees”
 - Increase of 9 – 2.1%
- 465 (72%) of UK MPs attended university
 - 406 (63%) attended one of the “Sutton 13” Schools*
 - 174 (27%) went to either Oxford or Cambridge
 - 81% of Conservative MPs, 64% of Labour MPs



Professional Background

- 189 MPs (61.4%) come from Business/Private Sector*
 - Decrease of 6 MPs – 1.5%
- 42 (13.6%) from Education/Academia
 - Increase of 1 MP
- 30 (9.7%) from Public Service/Public Health
 - Increase of 4 MPs – 1.2%
- 29 (9.4%) from Politics†
 - Increase of 6 MPs – 1.9%
- 18 (5.8%) from Non-Profit Sector
 - Decrease of 2 MPs – 0.8%



* Defined as entrepreneur, business executives, lawyers, etc.

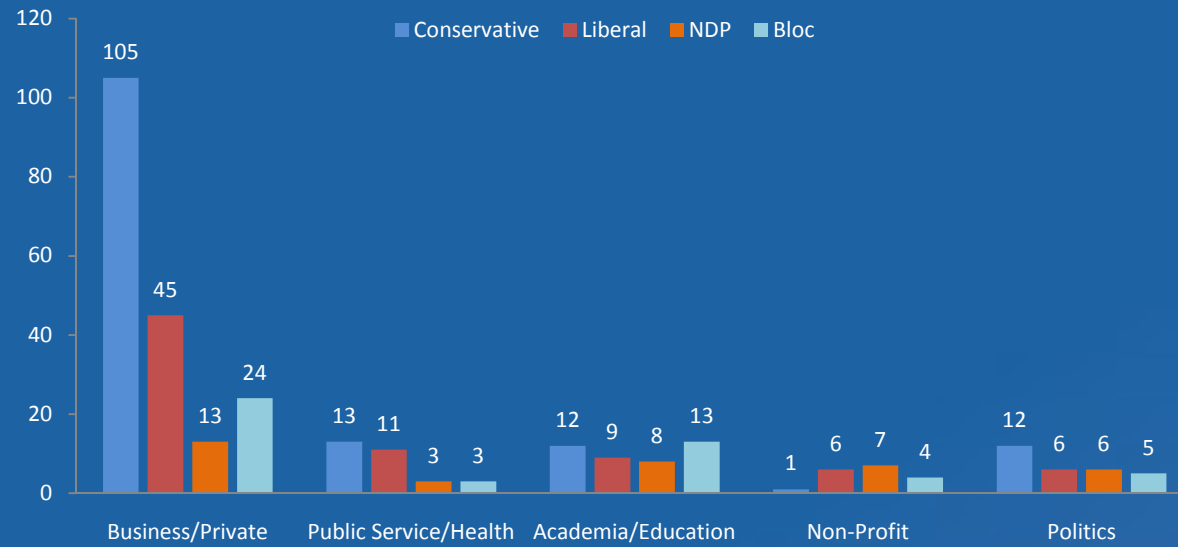
† Defined as someone who previously held another political position – e.g. Staff to an MP, Provincial Member, City Councillor, etc.

Professional Background (cont...)

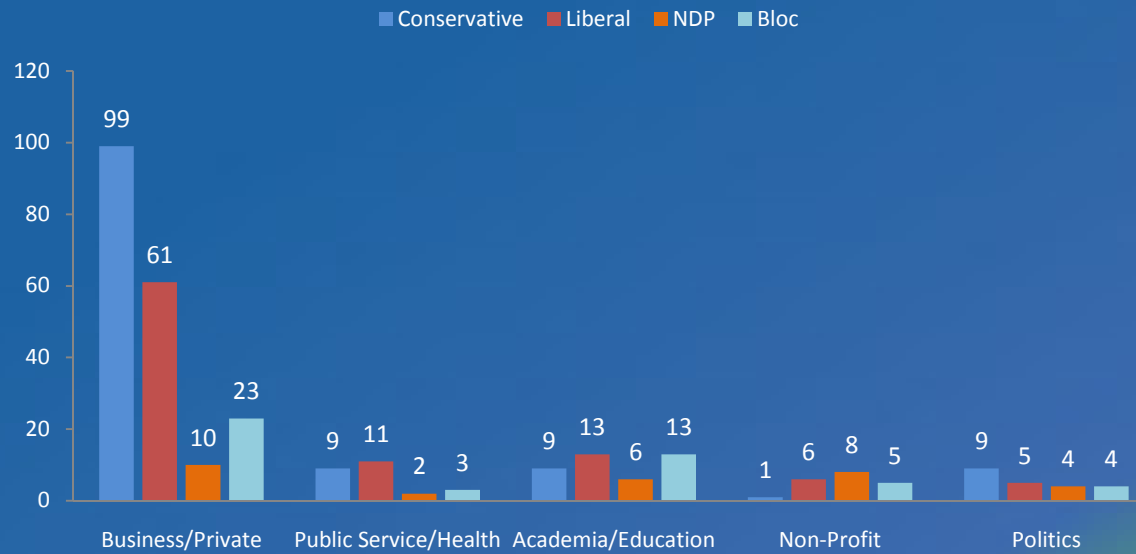
- 73.4% of Conservative caucus comes from Business/Private Sector (decrease of 4.6%)
 - Remains the Highest
 - Lowest is NDP with 35.1% (increase of 2.1%)
 - Liberals and Bloc 58.4% (-5.1%) and 49% (+1.1%), respectively
- 18.9% of the NDP Caucus comes from the non-profit sector (decrease of 7.8%)
 - Lowest is the Conservative caucus with 0.7% (-0.1%)
 - Liberals and Bloc 7.8% (+1.5) and 8.2% (-2.2%), respectively



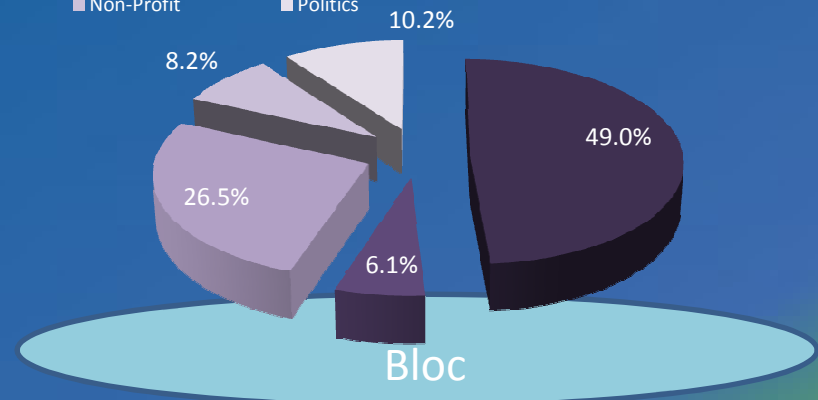
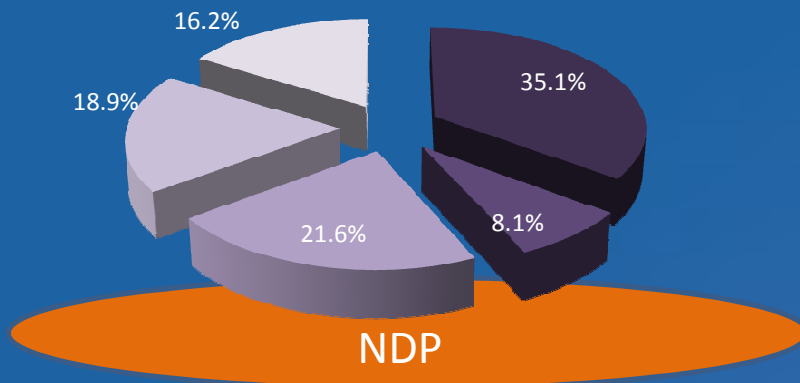
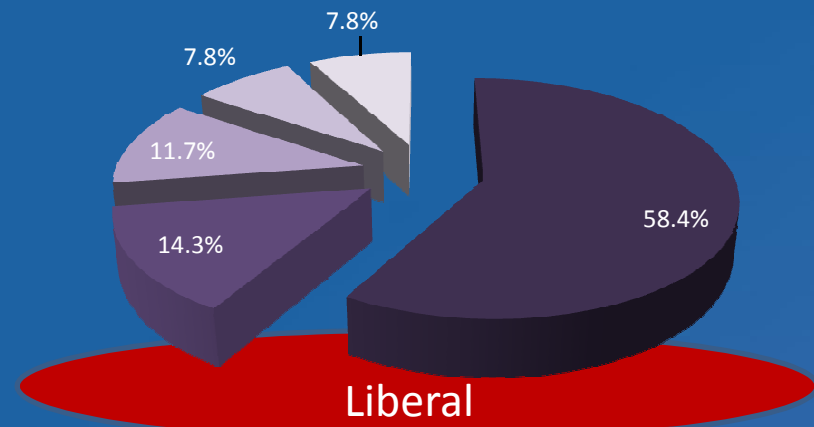
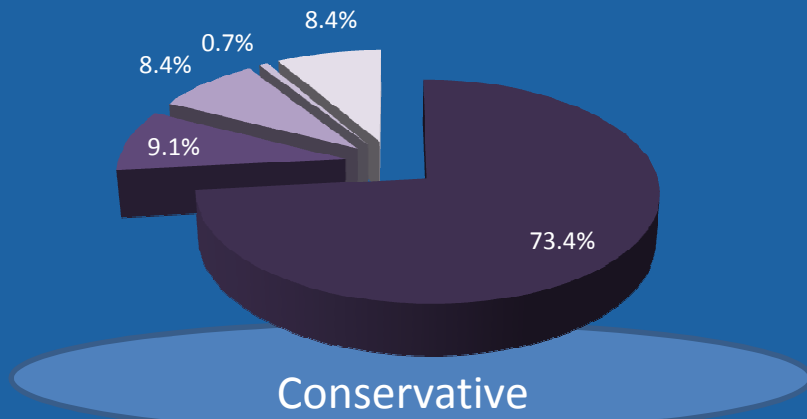
Professional Background - 40th Parliament



Professional Background - 39th Parliament



Professional Background – Breakdown by Party



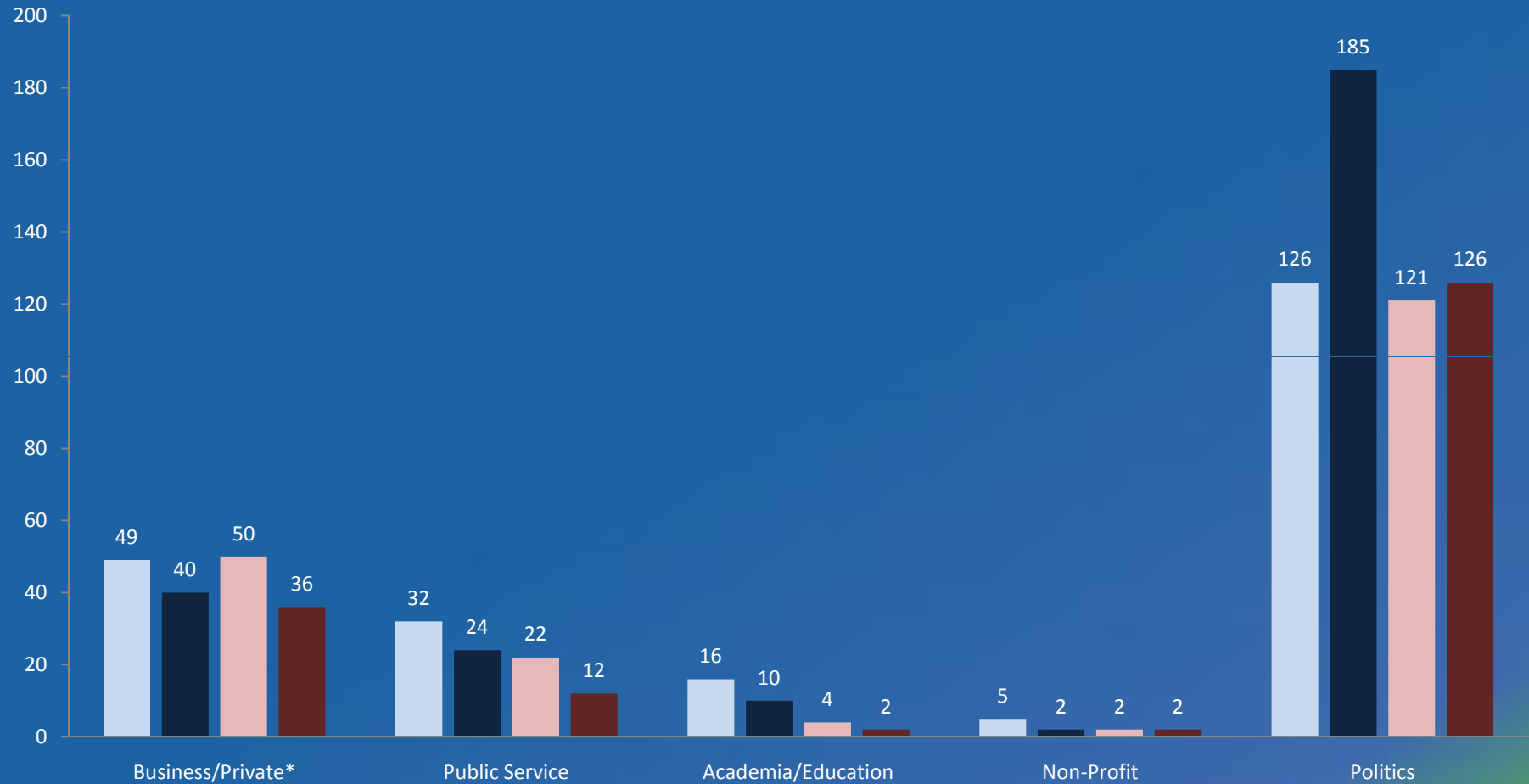
Professional Background (US)

- 311 (70.7%) of Representatives come to Congress from another political job (e.g. state/municipal politics, party insider, political staffer)
 - Increase of 64 Representatives (+12.9%) vs. previous Congress
 - 227 (51.6%) from state politics* (increase of 35 – 8.0%)
 - 112 (25.6%) former Congressional staffers[†]
- 76 (17.3%) come from the Business/Private Sector (decrease of 23 – 5.9%)
- 37 (8.4%) come from Public Service (e.g. Military, Police, Judges, etc.) (decrease of 17 – 4.2%)
 - 20 prosecutors/judges; 7 former military officers; and 4 former sheriffs
- 16 (12 & 4, respectively) come from the Academia/Teaching and Non-Profit sectors (3.6%)
 - Decrease of 11 Representatives (2.7%)



US Professional Background – 110th & 111th Congresses

■ Democrat - 110th ■ Democrat - 111th ■ Republican - 110th ■ Republican - 111th



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Professional Background (UK)

- 403 (65.5%) Members come from the Business/Non-Profit sectors*
 - 83% of Conservative MPs – Highest
 - 56.1% of Labour MPs – Lowest
 - 118 Businessmen; 78 from “White Collar” professions; 72 Lawyers; 43 Journalists; and, 38 Manual Workers
- 91 (14.8%) come from Teaching careers
- 87 (14.1%) come from Politics
- 34 (5.5%) come from Public Service
 - Including 28 “civil servants” and 6 doctors

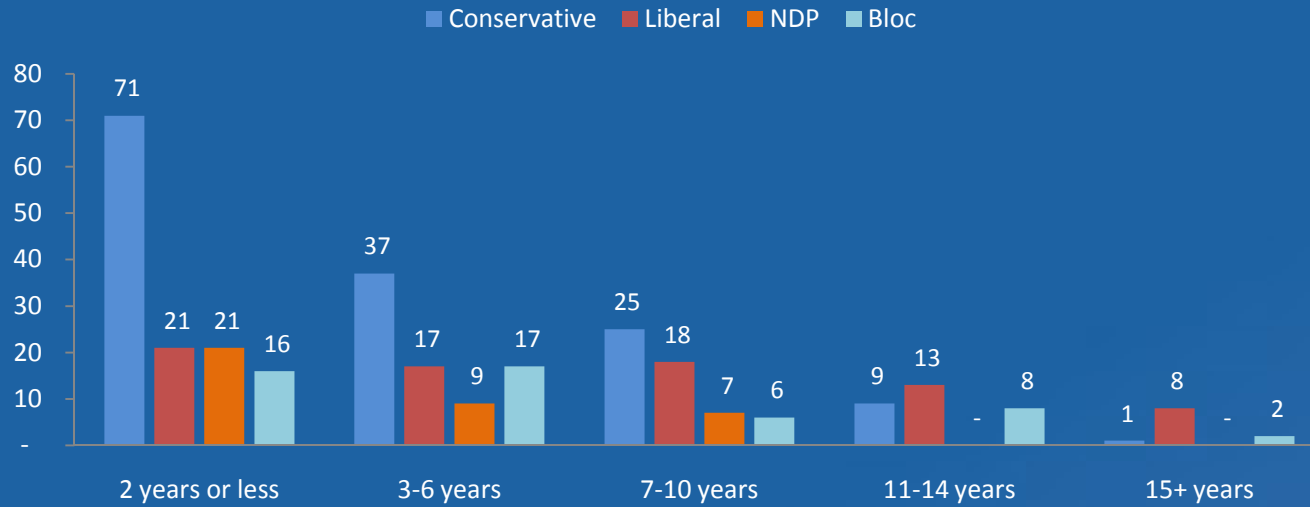


Political Work

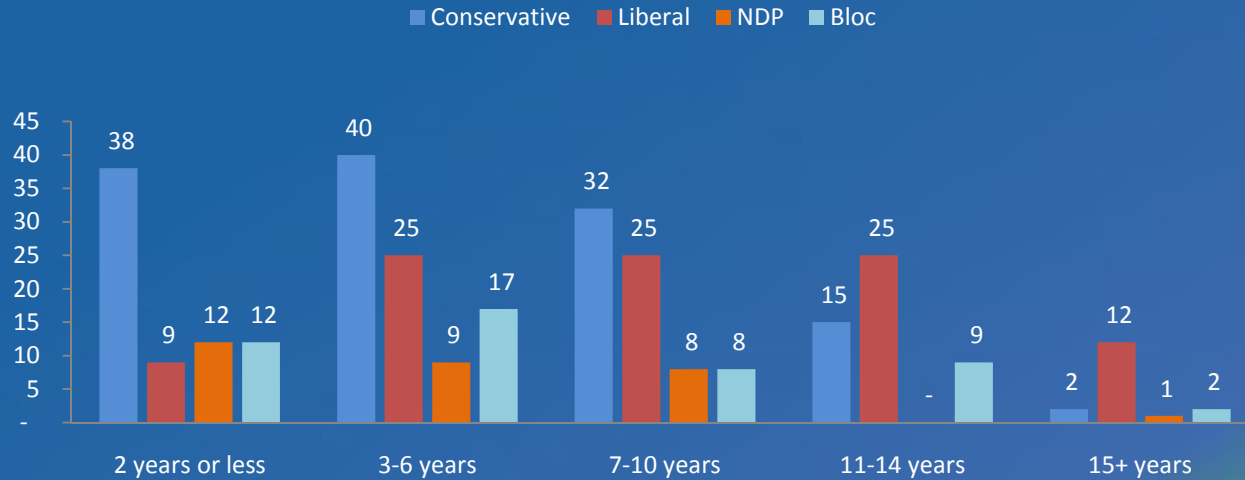
- 74 MPs are newly elected (24% of Parliament)
- 208 MPs (67.5%) have less than 5 years experience
 - Versus 162 MPs in last Parliament – 53.4% (+14.1%)
 - 65.3% of Bloc MPs (-1.4%)
 - 75.5% of Conservative MPs (+14.1%)
 - 78.4% of NDP MPs (+18.0%)
 - 49.4% of Liberal MPs (+15.0%)
- Average Tenure: 6 years, 12 days
 - Longest Tenure: Louis Plamondon (Bloc Quebecois) – 24 years
- 12 (3.9%) MPs have more than 15 years experience
 - decrease of 6 MPs (-2.0%)
 - 10 (83.3%) are Liberal MPs



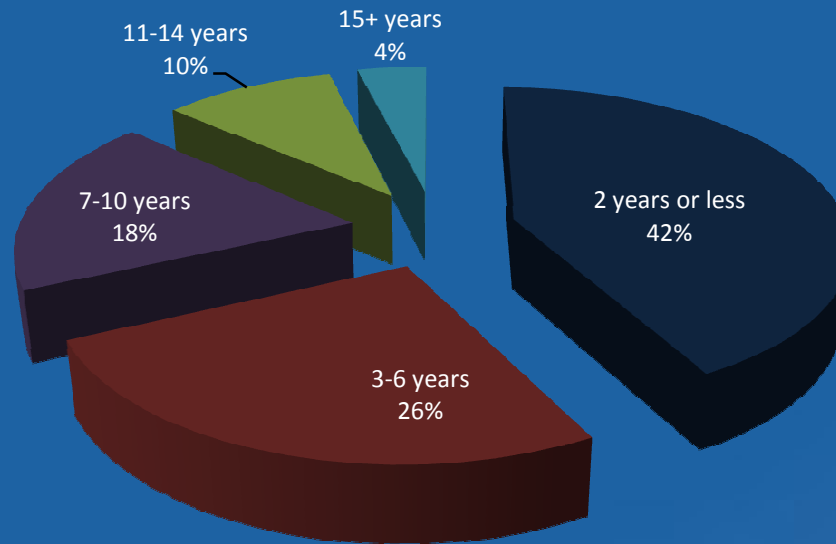
Tenure Breakdown – 40th Parliament



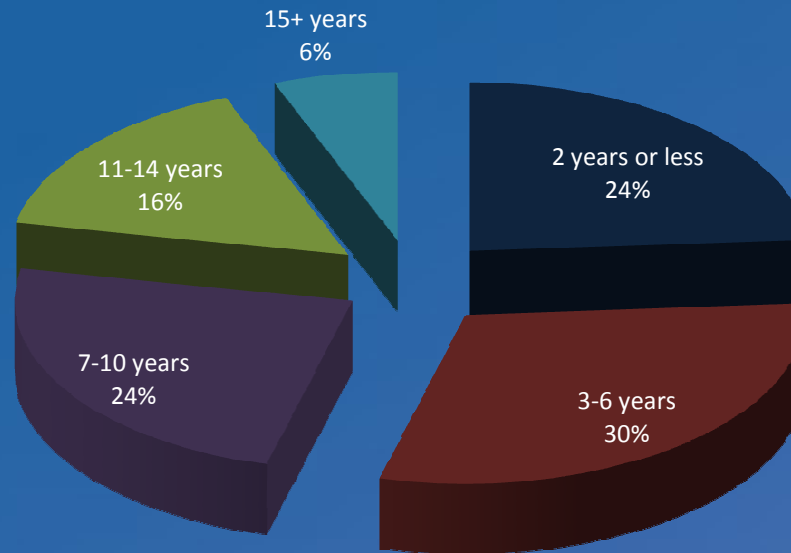
Tenure Breakdown – 39th Parliament



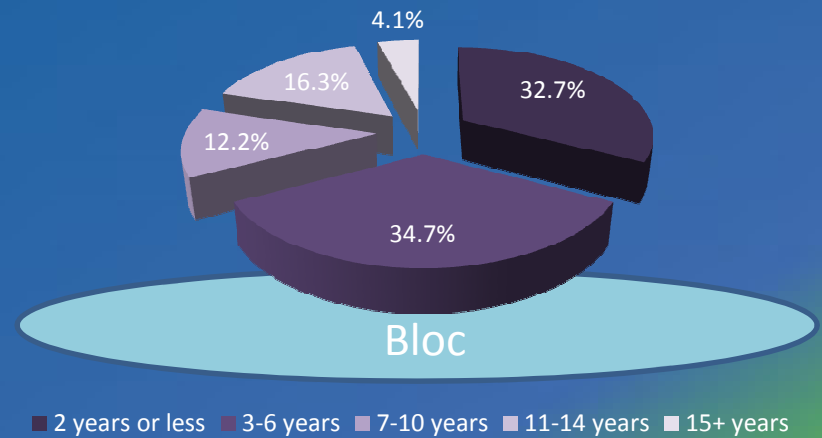
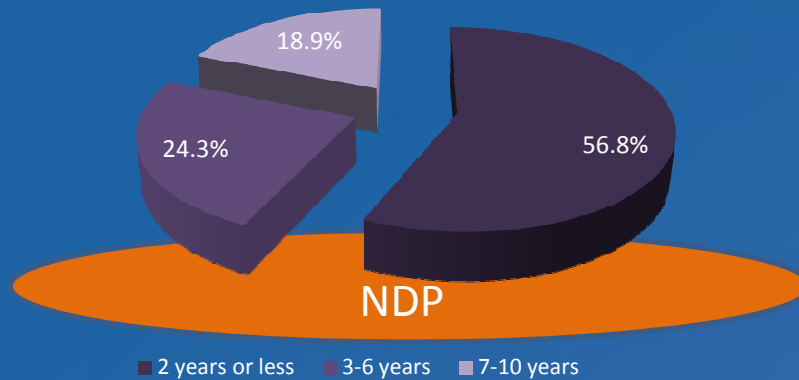
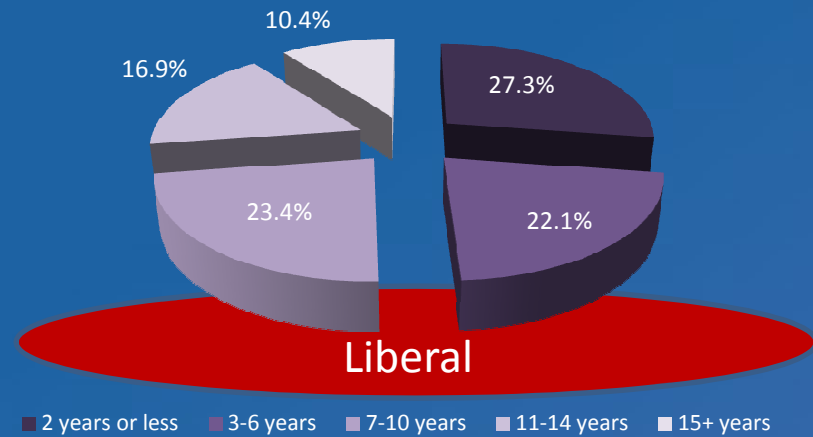
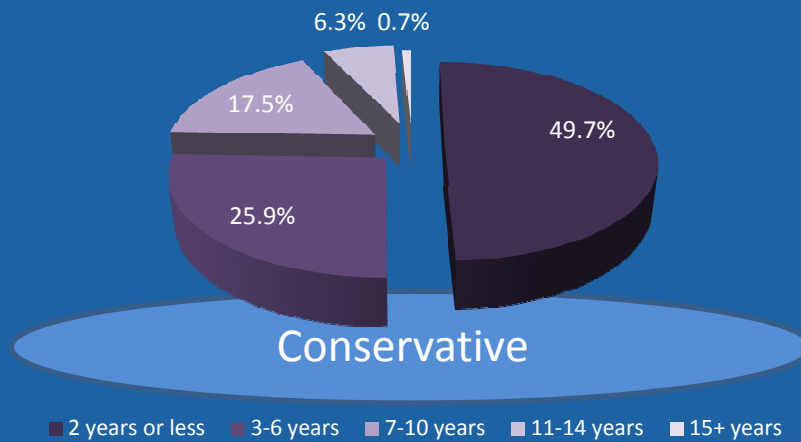
Tenure Breakdown - 40th Parliament



Tenure Breakdown – 39th Parliament



Tenure – Breakdown by Caucus

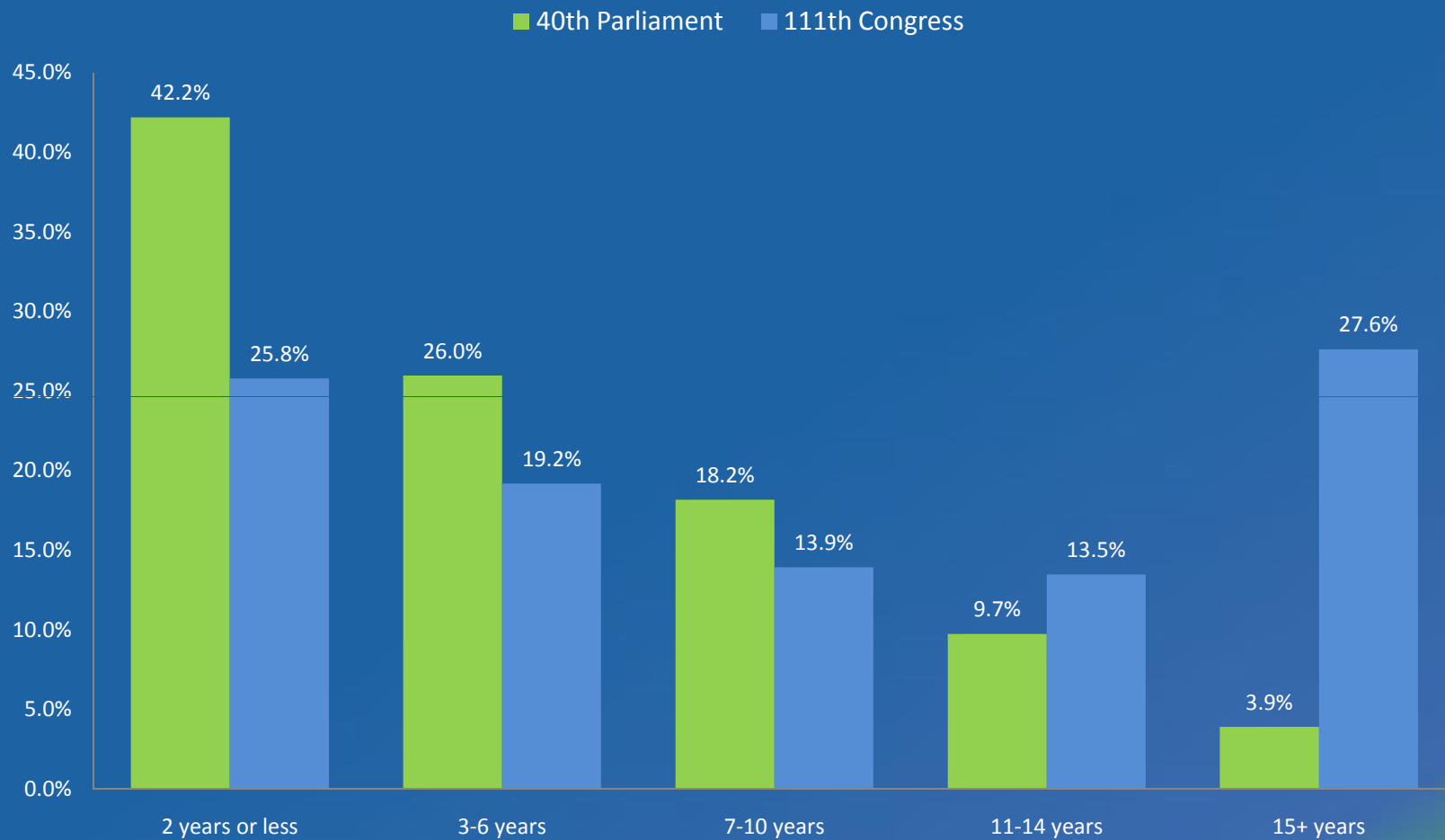


Political Work (US)

- 151 (34.3%) of Representatives have less than 5 years experience (increase of 47 – 10.5%)
 - 36.5% of Democrats
 - 31.5% of Republicans
- 121 (27.5%) of Representatives have over 15 years experience (decrease of 14 – 3.4%)
 - 30.4% of Democrats
 - 23.6% of Republicans
- Longest tenure: John Dingell (54 years)



Tenure Comparison - 40th Parliament vs. 111th Congress



Political Work (UK)

- 207 (32%) of MPs have less than 7 years experience
- 251 (38.9%) of MPs have more than 11 years experience
 - 32 (4.9%) have more than 30 years experience
 - Longest Serving Member: Alan Williams (44 years)
- 47% of Conservatives, 39% of Labour MPs and 15% of Liberal-Democrats were elected before the 1997 General Election (>11 years experience)



Political Work (cont...)

- 102 (33.1%) MPs have experience in Provincial/Municipal politics (decrease of 4 MPs – 1.7%)
 - 28 (9.2%) have provincial experience
 - 74(25.6%) have municipal experience
- 20 MPs (6.5%) have provincial cabinet experience
 - 11 Conservative MPs
 - 4 Liberal MPs
 - 4 NDP MPs
 - 1 Bloc MP

