

A Vote at the Table: Building Equitable Boards and Commissions



**New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
St. Louis, MO
February 4, 2017**

Agenda

1. Introductions

2. Panel

- **Challenge:** Inequitable Policies
- **Strategy:** Changing the Face of Decision-makers
- **Implementation:** Inclusive Governance and Democracy
- **Advocacy:** Power Building for Equity
- **Q & A** with Panelists

3. Breakout Groups

4. Closing

Introductions

Mashael Majid

Program Manager of Equitable
Development



Tracy Zhu

Stakeholder and Advisory Body
Analyst

Jessica Buendia

Community Benefits Manager



San Francisco
Water
Power
Sewer

Services of the San Francisco
Public Utilities Commission

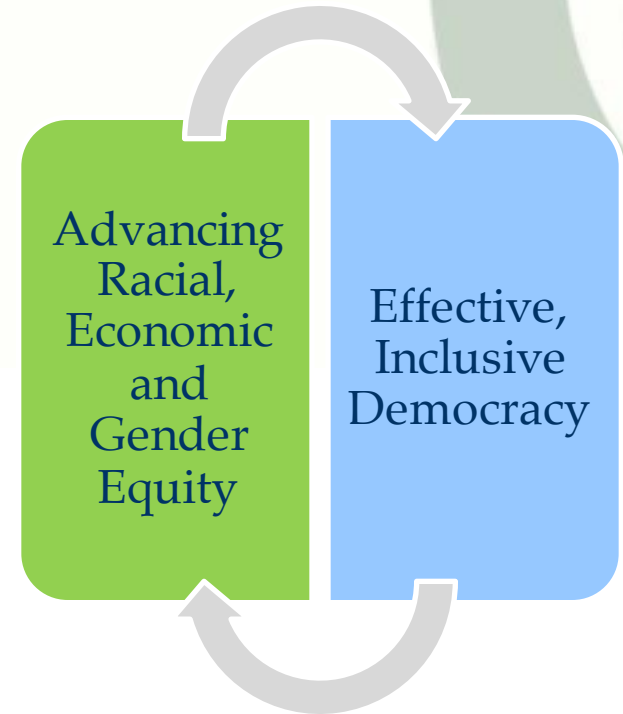
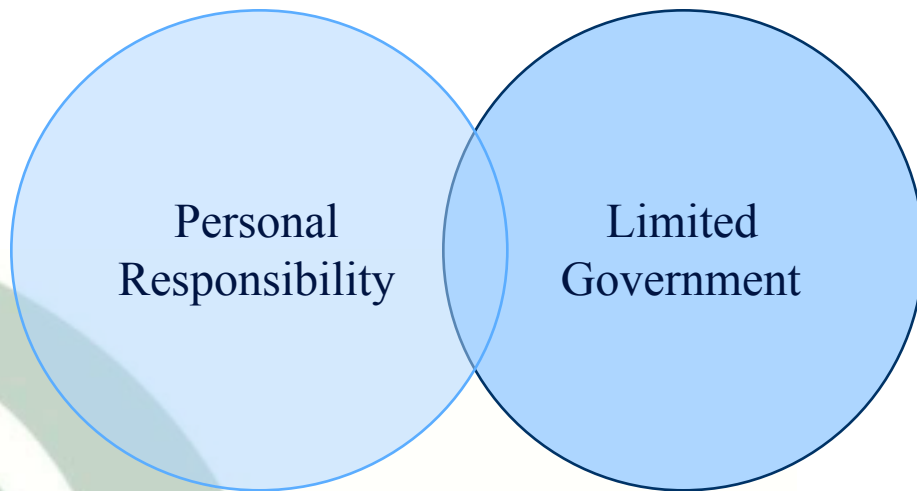
Justin Rausa
Commissioner



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Challenge: Inequitable Policies

Shifting the Narrative





**Strategy:
Changing the Face of
Decision-makers**

Urban Habitat

- Founded in 1989
- Environmental justice organization
- Regional perspective - 9 Bay Area counties
- Transportation, land use planning, housing justice



www.urbanhabitat.org

Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute

- Strategy to move an equity agenda in the Bay Area
- Launched in 2009 with ten fellows
- 100+ alumni network
- 70% of alumni have served on a board or commission
- Eighth cohort



The BCLI Model

- Train
- Place
- Support



Train

- Race, Class, & Gender Analysis – Provide tools to analyze policies through a multidimensional justice lens.
- Content Knowledge – Gain a deeper understanding of regional policies in the areas of housing, transportation and land use.
- Commissioner Skills – Acquire skills necessary to become an effective advocate commissioner, such as Robert’s Rules, inside/outside strategy and power mapping.
- Networking – Create opportunities to meet local decision-makers, including BCLI alumni.

Placement

- Keep an eye out for vacancies on boards and commissions that directly relate to Urban Habitat's equity campaigns
- Commission placement **work** plan



Support

- Commissioner **action** plan
- On-going technical assistance

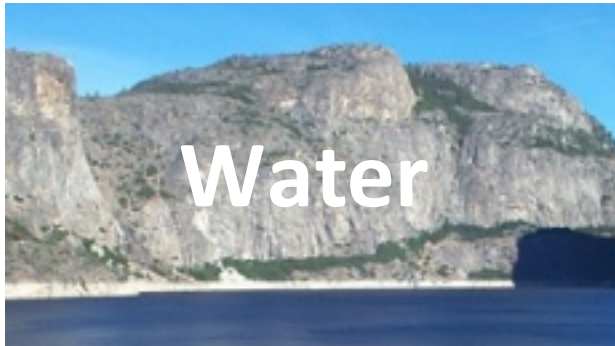




Implementation: Inclusive Governance and Democracy

Our Mission

To provide customers with high quality, efficient and reliable water, power, and sewer services...



in a manner that is **inclusive of environmental and community interests,** and that **sustains the resources** entrusted to our care.

A background image showing a construction site on a hillside overlooking a city. A large yellow excavator bucket is suspended in the air on the left. In the foreground, a construction worker wearing a hard hat and a high-visibility vest stands on a pile of earth. The city below is densely packed with buildings, and the sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

The SFPUC Opportunity

\$1 Billion Operating Budget

2,300 Employees

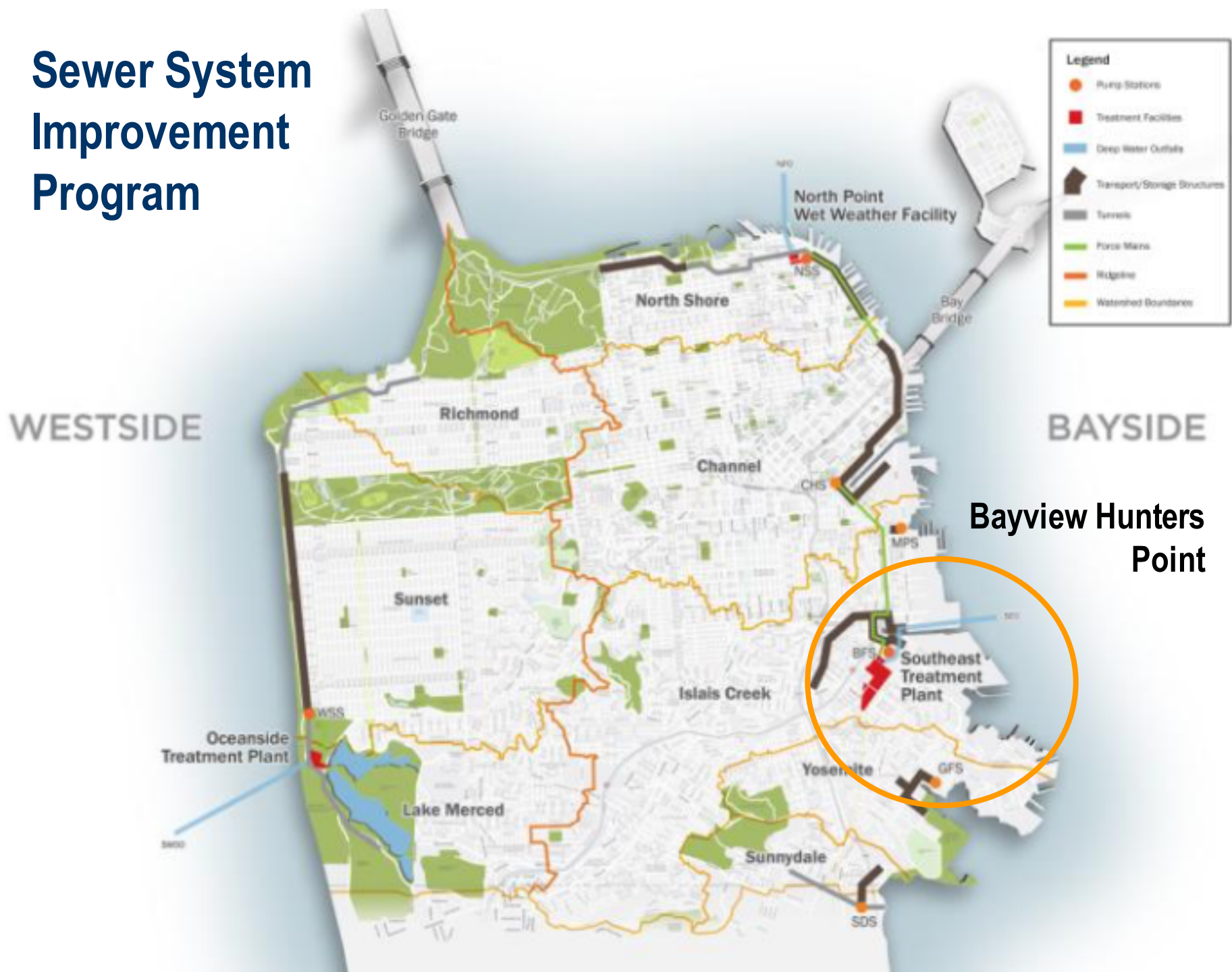
\$4.6 Billion Water System
Improvement Program

\$6.9 Billion Sewer System
Improvement Program

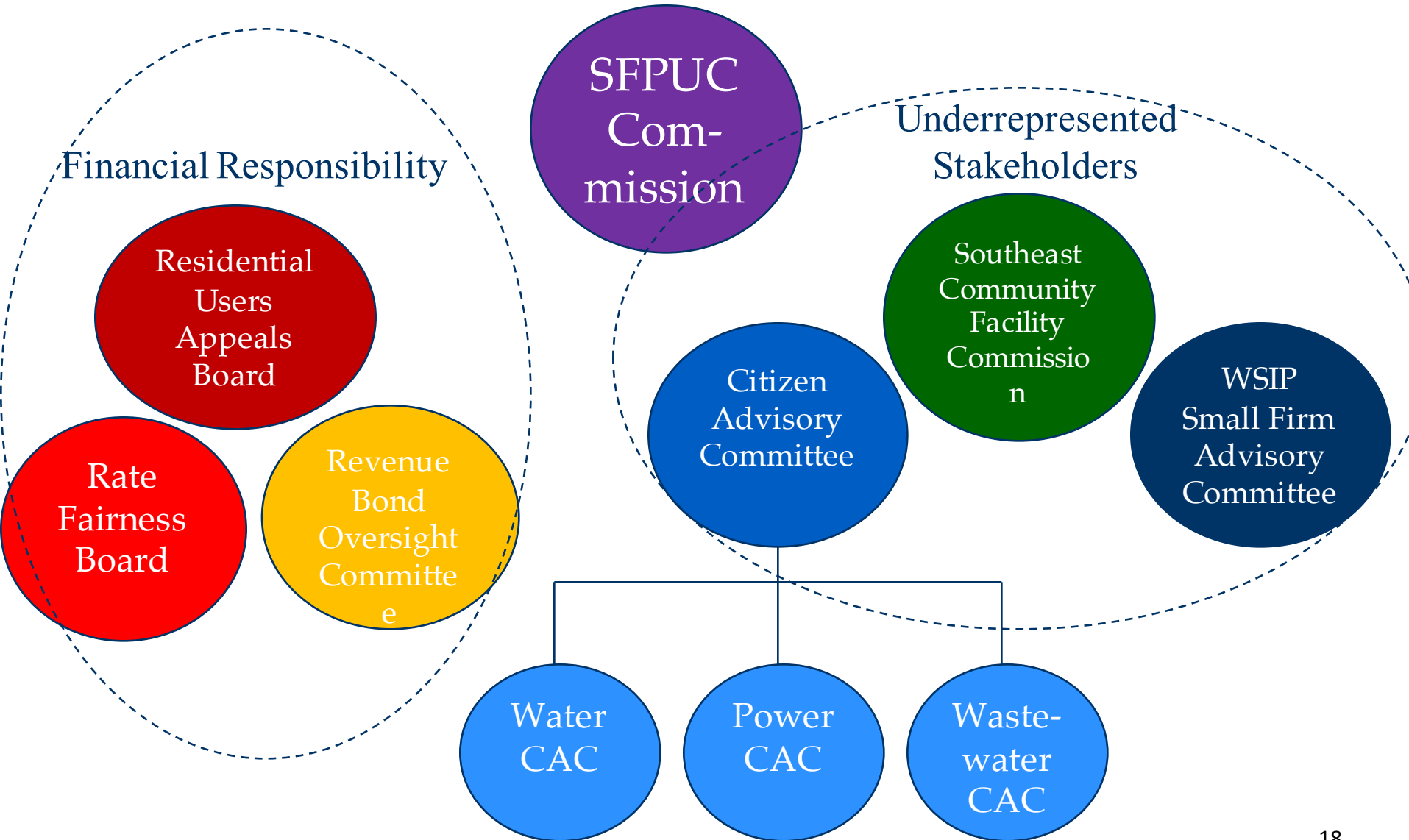
Water System Improvement Program



Sewer System Improvement Program



Robust Oversight and Stakeholder Engagement



**Leadership
from the

Citizen
Advisory
Committee
&
Southeast
Community
Facility
Commission**



**Provided
authentic
meaningful
engagement
to pass...**



Equitable Policies

Environmental Justice Resolution

SFPUC Citizen Advisory Committee Resolution dated December 17, 2007

- Definition for EJ, EJ checklist, and EJ pilot projects

Environmental Justice Policy

SFPUC Commission Resolution No. 09-0170 dated October 13, 2009

- EJ training, green jobs, reduce impact of projects, culturally competent stakeholder engagement

Community Benefits Policy

SFPUC Commission Resolution No. 11-0008 dated January 11, 2011

- Devote staff and resources to implement the EJ and CB policy, develop performance measures that measure impact

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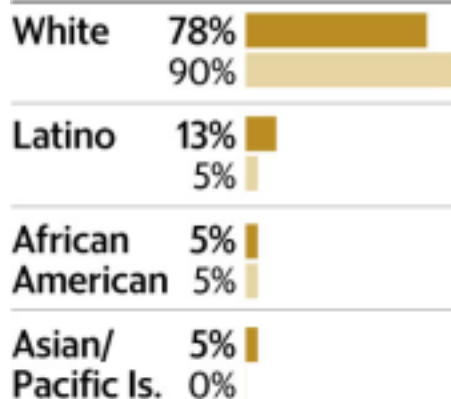
Advocacy: Power Building for Equity

Legislature doesn't look like California, but in some ways it's closer than before

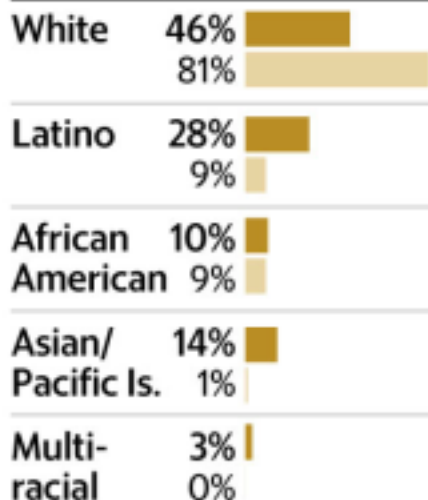
BY RACE/ETHNICITY

2016-17 1993-94

Senate

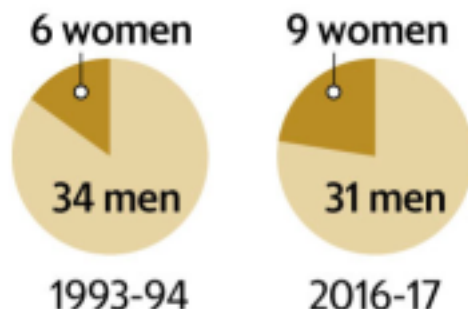


Assembly

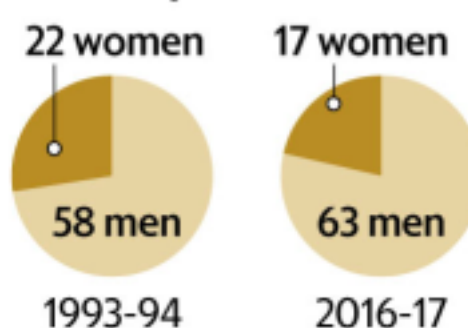


BY GENDER

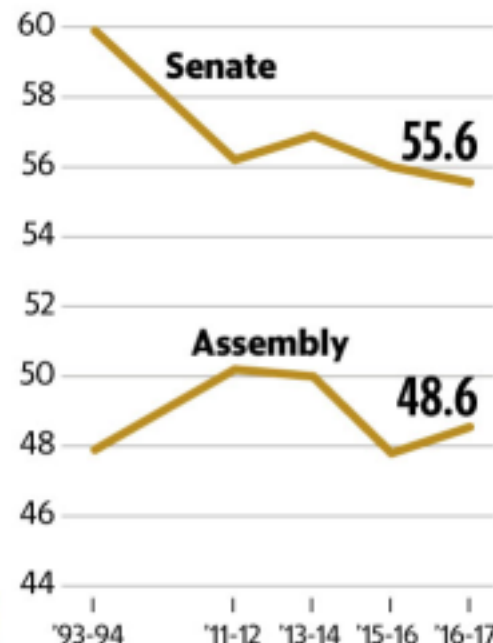
Senate



Assembly



BY AVERAGE AGE



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Panel Q&A

Breakout Groups

1. Participants who want to develop an equity analysis to assess policies – Mashael
2. Participants who want to share strategies to develop buy-in externally and internally at a government agency – Tracy
3. Participants who want to engage with an advocate commissioner on challenges and successes – Justin

Closing

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