

GENDER PARITY MYTHBUSTERS



Myth:

Our elections are fair game-- the voters decide, so if more men are in office it's because they won fair and square.

Fact:

A competitive campaign takes money, support from PACs and political parties, and is especially taxing for individuals who are responsible for children and a household. And because our political system favors incumbents who are overwhelmingly male, women face a disproportionate set of challenges before even making it on the ballot.

REPRESENT
WOMEN 

GENDER PARITY MYTHBUSTERS



Myth:

Women will win more elections if donors contribute more money to female candidates.

Fact:

Training and funding female candidates will be more effective once women are not systemically disadvantaged at each step of the electoral process. Funding one woman's race at a time doesn't create a sustainable path for other women to run in the future and fails to mitigate the fact that women are disadvantaged by centuries of social, political, and institutional capital that have kept men in office.

REPRESENT
WOMEN 

GENDER PARITY MYTHBUSTERS



Myth:

Setting voluntary or intentional recruitment targets will offer an unfair advantage to women in elections.

Fact:

Incumbency and gerrymandering already offer men an advantage over women in terms of recruitment and candidacy. Men report being urged to run by political operatives, colleagues, and friends at a higher rate than women. Intentional recruitment would simply cast a wider search for candidates, leveling the playing field so women receive the support needed to be a competitive candidate.

REPRESENT
WOMEN 

GENDER PARITY MYTHBUSTERS



Myth:

Even with accurate gender representation, the United States government would not be more successful at creating legislation.

Fact:

An increase of women in Congress would make the US government much more productive. Female senators introduce more bills and cosponsor more bipartisan legislation than male senators.

GENDER PARITY MYTHBUSTERS



Myth:

Women choose not to run in government elections simply because they are not interested in politics.

Fact:

Women are not encouraged to pursue careers in politics as much as their male counterparts. A 2013 study found that 40% of male respondents received encouragement from a parent about political careers, while only 29% of female respondents received that same support from a parent.