

Term Limits

Special Committee on Governance

February 21, 2019

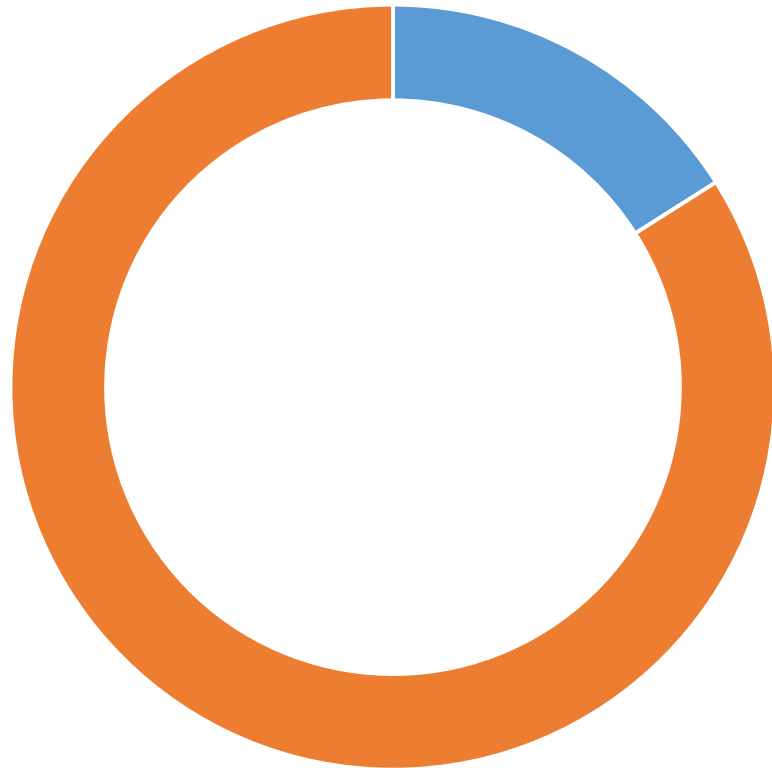
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Beaches—East York, Ward #19

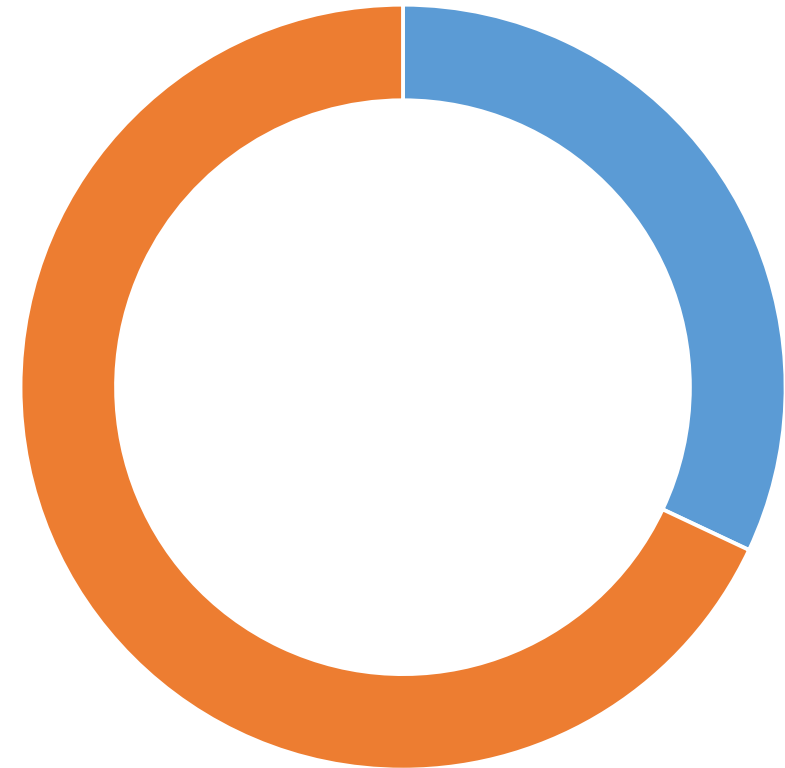
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2018 Toronto City Council Demographics



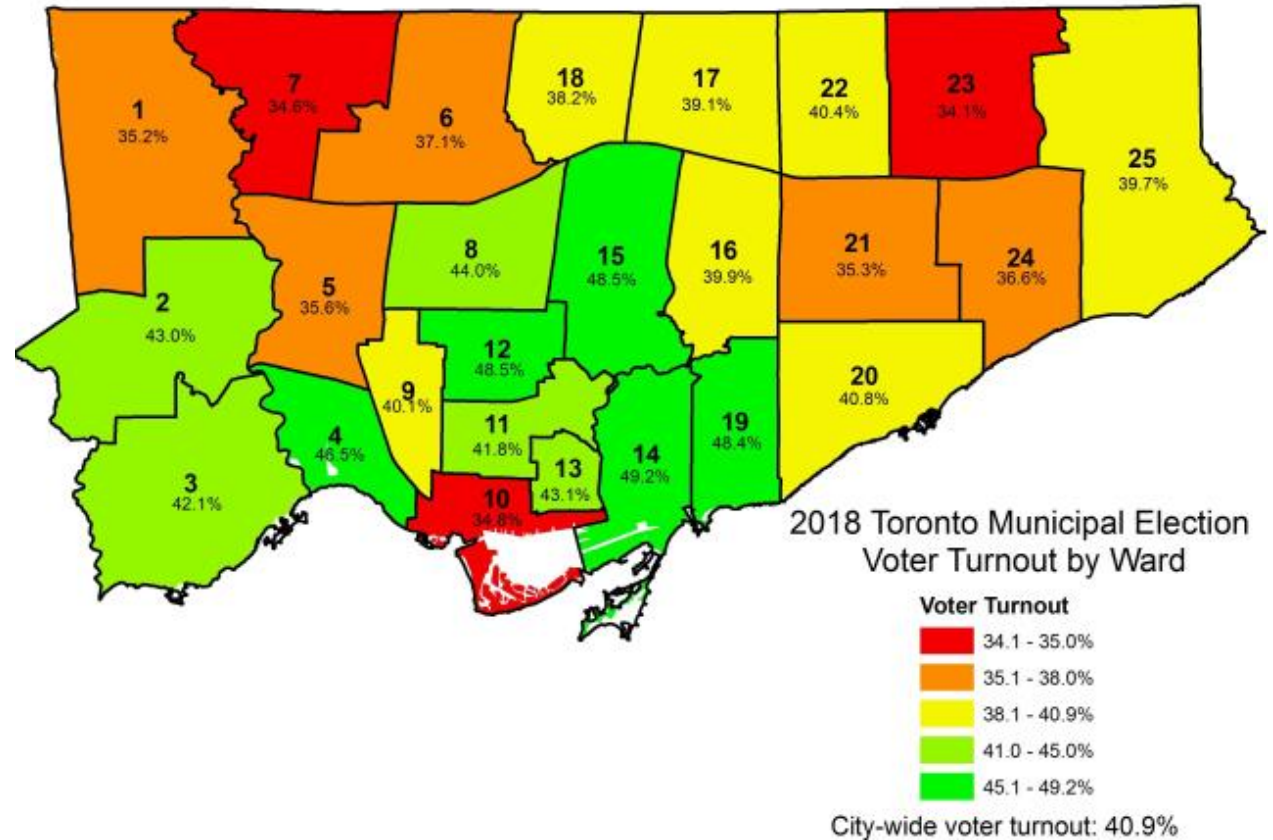
■ Visual Minorities ■ White



■ Female ■ Male

The Incumbent Bias

- Creates challenges for those seeking office
- Hurts voter participation



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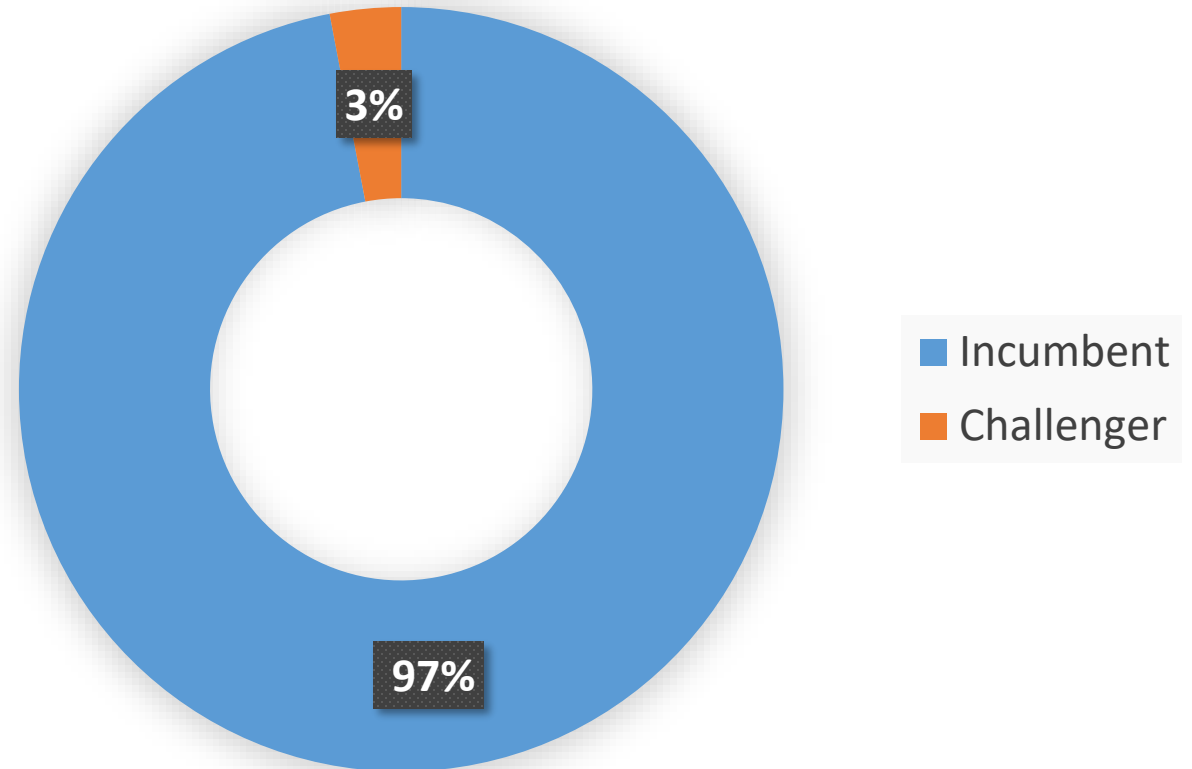
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2010 Election

% Of Races Won By Incumbents in 2010



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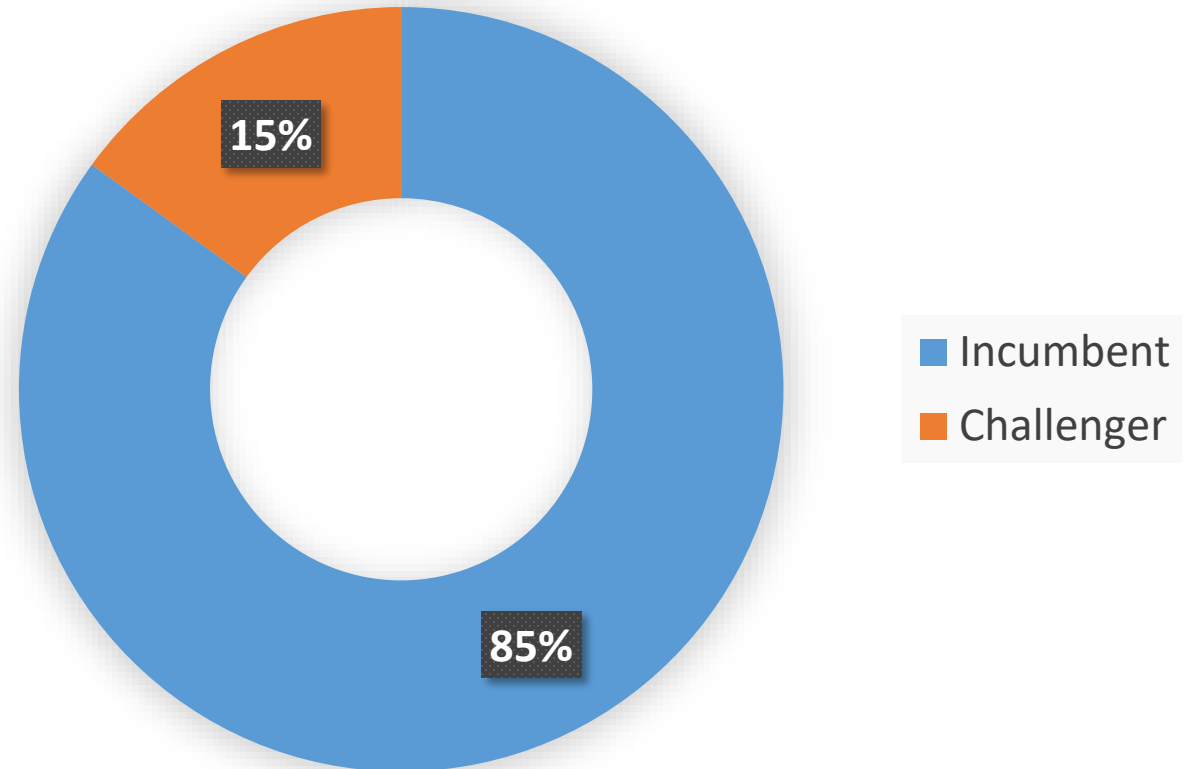
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2014 Election:

% Of Races Won By Incumbents in 2014



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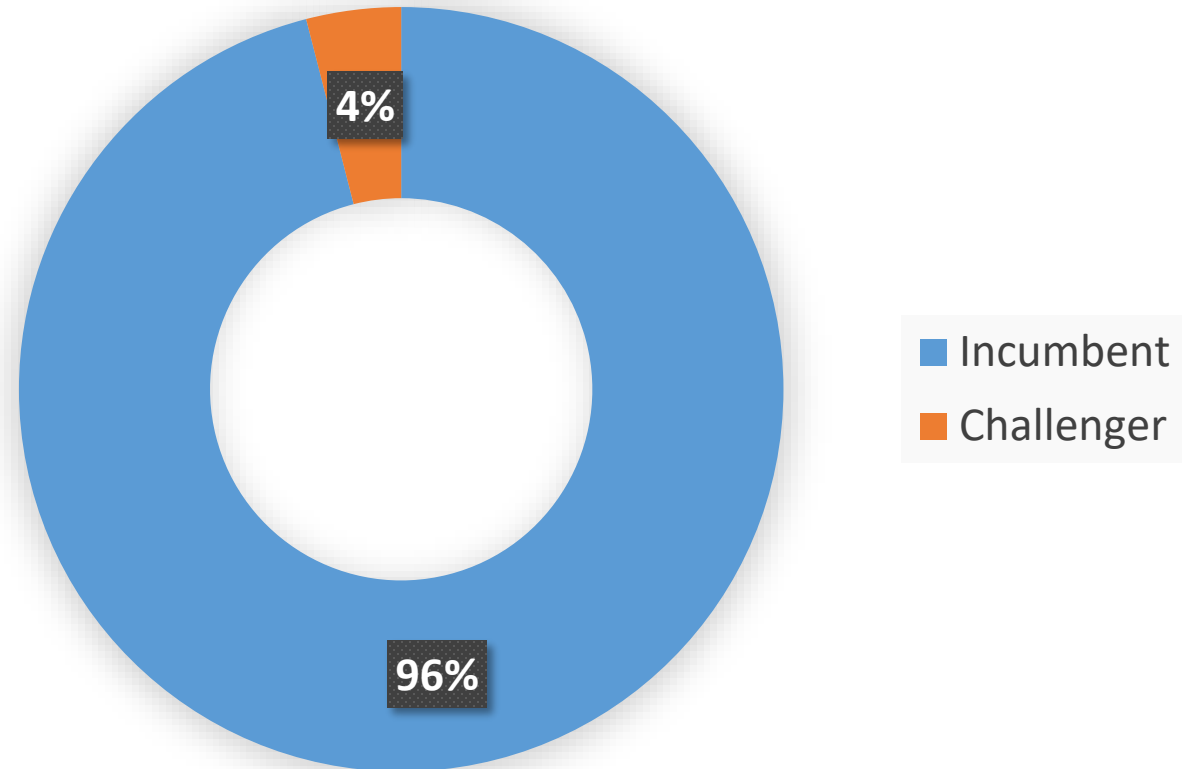
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2018 Election:

% Of Races Won By Incumbents in 2018



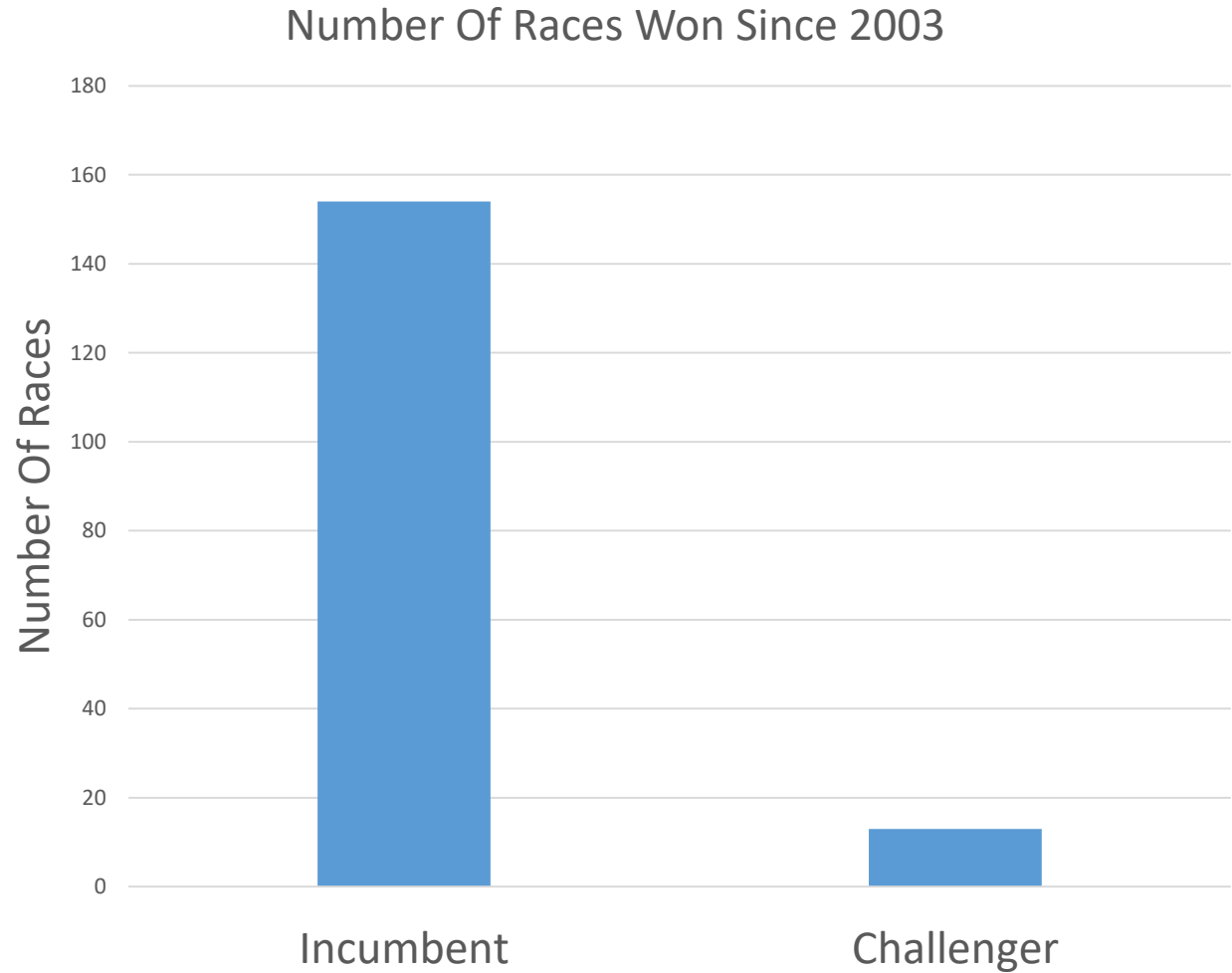
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Elections Since 2003:



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There is a solution

- Term Limits Increase the Number of Women Running in General Elections
- States with term limits saw more female candidates run for office than those without term limits

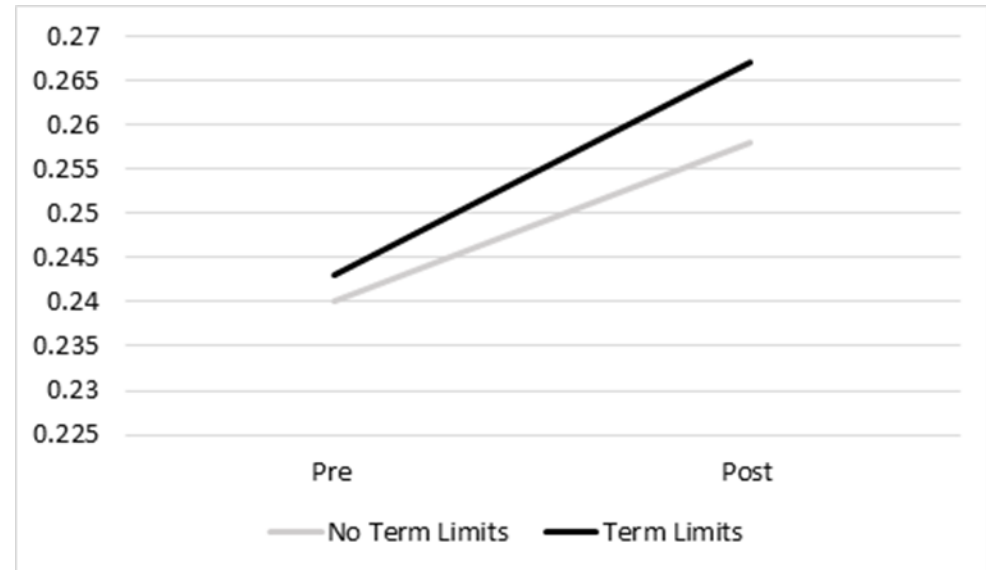
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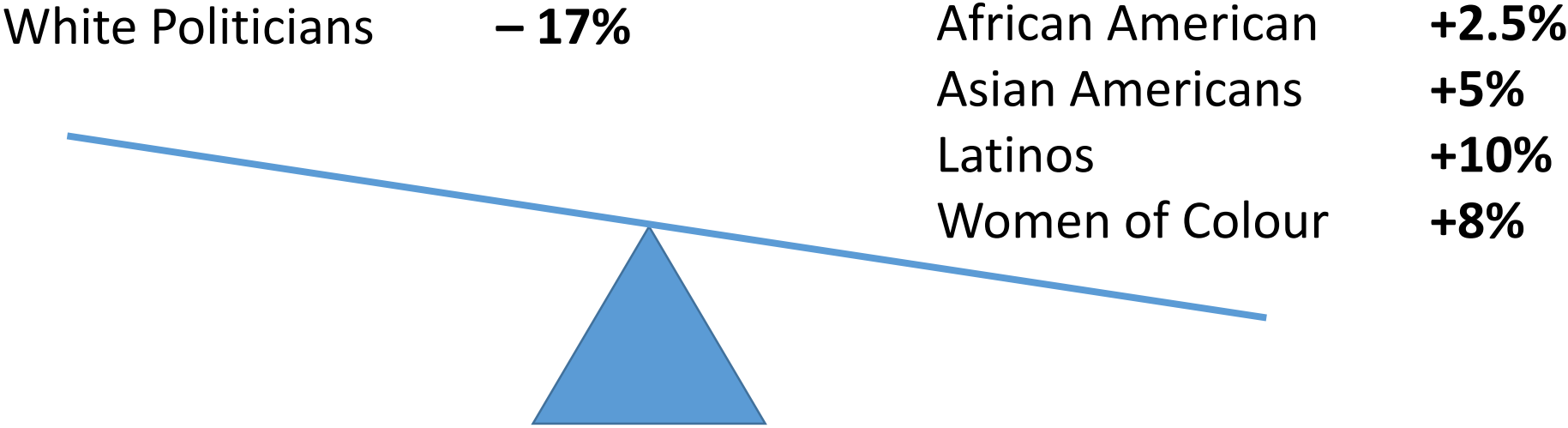
Figure 1 – Women Emergence in States Pre and Post Term Limits



* Samantha Pettey – London School Of Economics

Weighing The Benefits:

Changes Once California Implemented Term Limits (2010-2016):



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Conclusion:

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Special Committee on Governance request the City Manager to report back to the committee by the first quarter of 2020 on opportunities and next steps to implement term limits for City Councillors and the Mayor, such report to include but not be limited to:

- a. a survey and analysis on the use of term limits in comparable North American jurisdictions;
- b. consideration for the potential impacts of term limits on levels of political engagement, public participation in government, and diversity among elected officials;
- c. an extensive public consultation process with residents on their opinions toward term limits;
- d. recommended length and number of terms, and transition provisions for term limits; and
- e. the required legislative changes to the City of Toronto Act, 2006 and the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 to implement term limits based on the findings in Parts a to d above.

