

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

The slow progress of women in elective office is frustrating for some political observers and experts—including myself. Achieving gender equality in Congress is an important goal. This is because the number of women involved in legislative decisions has significant 26 for all the policies that governments 27. Female legislators are more likely than men to introduce, speak about and work to pass policies that disproportionately affect women and girls, such as paid family leave, pay 28 and gender-based violence.

Having more women in Congress also fosters a greater sense of connection between female voters and government. In addition, it 29 women's sense that government cares about their concerns and inspires young women to become more politically engaged.

While women are underrepresented in governments around the globe, it is a particularly 30 problem in the United States. Currently, the U.S. ranks 73rd in the world when it comes to female representation in government.

But the reason women are so 31 underrepresented in U.S. government is not because they face resistance from voters or struggle to raise money. On the contrary, decades of research shows that female candidates raise as much money and win as often as male politicians with similar 32.

Rather, the slow progress of women in politics is a tale of two political parties.

In the next Congress, there will be 107 female Democratic lawmakers and 42 female Republican lawmakers in the Senate and House combined.

In order for women to gain half of the seats in Congress, more women need to run, 33 on Republican tickets. This will require the Republican Party as a whole to 34 recruiting women—and not just for one election cycle, but in a 35 way.

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| A) bolsters | I) formidable |
| B) consequences | J) impetus |
| C) credentials | K) lavish |
| D) dramatically | L) prioritize |
| E) enact | M) suffices |
| F) equity | N) sustained |
| G) especially | O) tenured |
| H) evasively | |