

Federal Deputy, what professional occupation is this?: the professional profiles of parliamentarians from the 1988 Constitution

Deputado Federal, que ocupação profissional é essa?: os perfis profissionais dos parlamentares a partir da Constituição de 1988

Diputado federal, ¿qué ocupación profesional es esta?: los perfiles profesionales de los parlamentarios a partir de la Constitución de 1988

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Abstract

It deals with the study of the professional and educational profile of federal deputies from 1988 to 2022. In almost thirty-five years of existence, the Federal Constitution of 1988 allowed countless Brazilian men and women to participate in the electoral process and to occupy elective mandates, transforming the Chamber of Deputies into a body rich in heterogeneity and knowledge. From quantitative descriptive research, supported by information from the Open Data portal of the Chamber of Deputies and the Parliamentary Legislative Information System, it was possible to identify that most parliamentarians of the last nine legislatures (48th to 56th) have higher education, the predominance of males among the elected representatives and a profession, with the most common professions being lawyer, businessman, teacher, doctor, and engineer.

Keywords: Legislative Branch; Chamber of Deputies; federal deputy; professional occupation; schooling.

Resumo

Trata do estudo do perfil profissional e educacional dos deputados federais de 1988 a 2022. Em quase trinta e cinco anos de existência, a Constituição Federal de 1988 permitiu a inúmeros brasileiros e brasileiras participarem no processo eleitoral e ocuparem mandatos eletivos, transformando a Câmara dos Deputados em um órgão rico em heterogeneidade e conhecimento. A partir de uma pesquisa descritiva quantitativa, apoiada pelas informações do portal de Dados Abertos da Câmara dos Deputados e no Sistema de Informação Legislativa Parlamentar, foi possível identificar que a maioria dos parlamentares das últimas nove legislaturas (da 48.^a à 56.^a) possui formação de nível superior, tem predominância do gênero masculino entre os representantes eleitos e possui uma profissão, sendo que as profissões mais comuns são advogado(a), empresário(a), professor(a), médico(a) e engenheiro(a).

Palavras-chave: Poder Legislativo; Câmara dos Deputados; deputado federal; ocupação profissional; escolaridade.

Resumen

Se trata del estudio del perfil profesional y formativo de los diputados federales de 1988 a 2022. En casi treinta y cinco años de existencia, la Constitución Federal de 1988 permitió a innumerables brasileños y brasileñas participar del proceso electoral y ocupar mandatos electivos, transformando a la Cámara de Diputados en un organismo rico en heterogeneidad y conocimiento. A partir de una investigación descriptiva cuantitativa, sustentada en información del portal de Datos Abiertos de la Cámara de Diputados y del Sistema de Información Legislativa Parlamentaria, se pudo identificar que la mayoría de los parlamentarios de las últimas nueve legislaturas (de la 48.^a a la 56.^a), tienen educación superior, predominio masculino entre los representantes electos y una profesión, siendo las profesiones más comunes abogado, empresario, profesor, médico y ingeniero.

Palabras clave: Poder Legislativo; Cámara de Diputados; diputado federal; profesional ocupación; escolaridad.



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
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1 Introduction

The year 2023 marked the formation of the 57th legislature of the Brazilian National Congress. Deputies and senators took office in the elective mandates won in the 2022 electoral process. Intrinsic to the concept of democracy (Goyard-Fabre, 2003), parliamentary representation is one of the pillars of the Brazilian Legislative Branch, which originates from a representative democracy (Barroso, 2021), which defines modern Brazilian society and allows citizens, interests and desires to be debated, equated and transformed into law. According to Hopkinson (2001), even though it is based on a fragile balance that is susceptible to shocks, parliamentary democracy centered on the representativeness of political parties is the one that has the greatest capacity for adaptation and the best way of manifesting plurality of thought.

With universal suffrage (Canêdo, 2005) as their starting point, men and women run for office in the Brazilian legislature in order, among other things, to represent political, social, religious, and moral ideals shared with their community or a specific group that supports them politically. Given the wide range of activities, parliamentary activity ends up attracting or not being restricted to a professional profile or a particular professional activity.

It is not uncommon for young people who have just reached the age of majority or people who are already of advanced age to have the prospect of running for one of the 513 seats in the Chamber of Deputies or the 81 seats in the Federal Senate. It is precisely in the heterogeneity of the profiles that alternate in one of the seats available in the Chamber of Deputies or the Federal Senate that the reality of these bodies is built and, consequently, the dynamics of the work of the Legislative Branch are organized and thus allow for a better form of political representation (Martins, 2019) and balance of forces in the debate and decision-making that takes place on a daily basis in the Brazilian National Congress.

Endowed since its formation in Brazil with the concept of bicameralism, the Legislative Power has allowed the manifestation and balance of forces of groups and/or groups of individuals at the moment of legislative deliberation. The existence of two spheres of deliberation and decision, taking turns as the initiating House and the revising House, gives the legislative process unique moments for dialog and the formation of the parliamentary figure as a mediator of conflicts and facilitator of agreements. But what skills are inherent in a parliamentary post? What profile does he have, or is he capable of playing such an essential role in the Brazilian legislature?

Brazil, a country of large proportions, highly miscegenated and endowed with high social inequality (Souza, 2018), ends up reproducing, in the Legislative Branch, such a multiplicity of characteristics in its formation throughout its history. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Legislative Branch could be characterized as more restricted in terms of membership, mostly male, with little representation of social classes, high income, and education. In the 21st century, the growing presence of women, diverse races, and social classes are represented and have a voice in the spheres of power and decision-making. Although there are still reservations about Brazil's political party structure, which leads to institutional oligarchization (Guimarães; Rodrigues; Braga, 2019), the Legislative Branch is the most plural political sphere in the Brazilian state.

Based on studies of political careers such as those of Leoni, Pereira and Rennó (2003), Madeira (2007) and Araújo and Silva (2013), in which parliamentary activity and the legislative agenda itself are a set of complex personal and institutional factors permeated by issues such as the existence of professional politicians (Marenco, 2013) and the involvement of issues such as static ambition and progressive ambition (Meireles, 2013), the construction of the professional figure and parliamentary performance itself is a fertile field for understanding the dynamics that exist in the Legislative Branch.

Furthermore, based on the idea of plurality in the formation of the Legislative Branch, it is not uncommon for there to be studies and journalistic reports about the formation of the Chamber of Deputies and the Federal Senate after each election period. Gender classifications, profiles and past histories of elected representatives often gain a lot of importance, be it for the quantitative or qualitative bias of the profiles that will be in a new legislature. However,

these studies tend only to portray the current situation or revisit previous periods, only in order to present a superficial comparison of the people who have held a parliamentary mandate, i.e., without actually building a broader and more reliable picture of the parliamentary profile.

Knowing the history of an institution from the perspective of the people who have made it up and represented it over time is a consistent approach that provides all the necessary breadth to understand power as complex and important for sustaining Brazilian democracy as the Legislative Branch. Brazil's democratic rule of law was re-founded on the premise of the individual and their right to hear and be heard; therefore, studying who the people who have held elected office since 1988 are and have been is yet another contribution to understanding Brazil's political dynamics since its re-democratization.

With exactly these premises and the question of how to characterize the individual who occupies an elective mandate, this paper aims to present the educational and professional characteristics of the deputies who have been present in the Chamber of Deputies since 1988, the year in which the 1988 Constitution was promulgated, a milestone in the re-democratization of Brazilian society. Based on the data available from the [Open Data Portal of the Chamber of Deputies](#) and the Legislative Information System of the Chamber of Deputies – Infoleg Parlamentar, a quantitative descriptive study was conducted on the information regarding the educational level and declared profession in the biographies of parliamentarians from the last nine legislatures (48th to 56th), covering the period from 1988 to 2022.

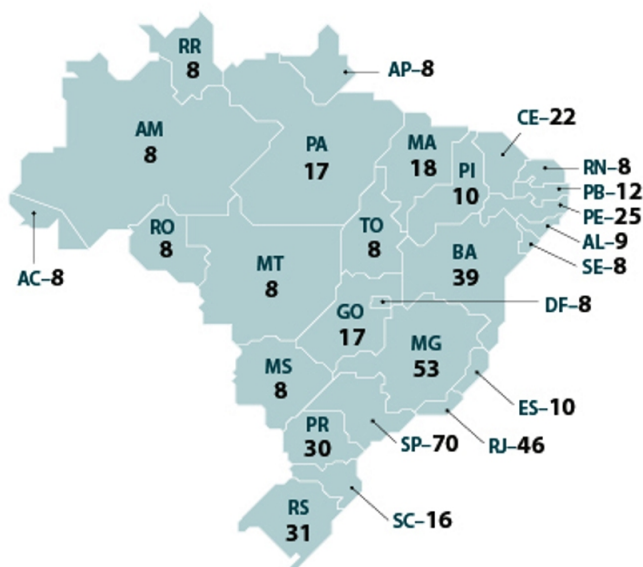
2 The Chamber of Deputies

Created by the first Brazilian constitution in 1824, still during the imperial period, the Chamber of Deputies was housed in the old Cadeia Velha building in the city of Rio de Janeiro. Composed of 102 members chosen through indirect elections, the Chamber of Deputies was created with the purpose, shared with the Chamber of Senators, of “annually setting public expenditures, authorizing the government to contract loans and establishing means for the payment of public debt. In addition to legislating on taxes and examining past administrations, curbing abuses” (Veja [...], 2018, our translation).

Almost two centuries later, the Chamber of Deputies has had, in its history (Franco, 1981), changes in physical facilities, changes in attributions, and new competencies until it reached the modern day with its headquarters in Brasília, the current federal capital, and its composition of 513 deputies representing the population of the twenty-six states and the Federal District. According to Brasil (1988, art. 45, our translation), the “Chamber of Deputies is made up of representatives of the people, elected, by the proportional system, in each State, in each Territory and in the Federal District.” Thus, between shared and private competencies, it is up to the Chamber of Deputies to be the closest mirror to the reality of the Brazilian people, to give voice and listen to the wishes of the population, and to legislate and oversee the actions of the Brazilian state. Based on the premise of maximum participation by society, through the proportional electoral system (Carlomagno; Carvalho, 2018), in which units of the Federation with a larger population receive more seats and, at the same time, a minimum and maximum number of representatives per Federated entity is guaranteed, the Chamber renews its staff every four years, a period called a legislature. Figure 1 shows the distribution of the number of seats held by each unit of the Federation in the Chamber of Deputies.

Once elected, deputies have the task of reporting, deliberating, making speeches and to debate and vote on matters from the most varied areas of knowledge and influence on the life of Brazilian society. From the simplest proposals that can be deliberated in a few minutes to the most complex ones that require weeks of consideration and negotiation, the participation and mediation of parliamentarians is guaranteed. The main part of the parliamentary activity is proposing legislation, parliamentarians must possess and develop a set of skills that allow them to understand and convince other parliamentarians of the agendas they wish to convert into law while still in office, in order to increase their political capital and future political ambitions (Gaddie, 2003).

Figure 1 – Map of the number of seats each unit of the Federation has in the Chamber of Deputies



Source: Saiba [...] (2018)

Studies of legislative elections repeatedly confirm that previous office holding has value in the pursuit of future office. Or, to put it another way, if you want to see the governors, congresspeople, and senator of the future, go look in the state legislature. Many legislators see themselves as a future something else (Gaddie, 2003, p. 21).

According to Edinger and Jahr (2016), capital, recruitment, and political ambitions are part of a larger context known as a political career. According to these authors, political careers are not built by accident, they are guided by identifiable patterns and a very well-structured logic of their own. The Brazilian context, according to Miguel, Marques and Machado (2015, p. 721, our translation), is no different from other countries in that it is marked by a high degree of inbreeding, i.e. new politicians enter political careers due to the influence “[...] of parents, spouses or other close relatives who already hold elected office or prominent positions in the Executive Branch.”

Long studied by political science, political careers are interesting sources for understanding the structure and political culture of a given society. Although there are numerous contexts that shape political careers in different countries, according to Russo and Verzichelli (2016), invariably, regardless of the nation in question, political careers have a clear trajectory: from the local to the regional and from the regional to the national. These stages would be the “necessary stepping stones for the future political class in formation” (Russo; Verzichelli, 2016, p. 50, our translation). According to Perissinotto, Massimo and Costa (2017, p. 80, our translation),

one of the indicators of political professionalization is the existence of a long and stable “political career.” Under these circumstances, in order to become a professional politician, an individual would have to be ambitious enough to follow a reasonably structured *cursus honorum* in order to gradually climb the necessary ranks towards the ascending positions that characterize the career in each specific national context. Thus, the more professionalized politics is, the longer the career of the politicians, the rarer the lateral entries into the activity, the more rigorous the recruitment, the fewer neophytes there are in senior positions, the greater the group’s cohesion and *ethos* of professional. At the same time, the more structured the career, the more political agents are urged to professionalize if they want to dedicate themselves to political life, and the more they professionalize, the more institutionalized the careers become.

Returning to the idea of previously acquired skills, they are brought by the parliamentarian from their own life prior to working in the Chamber of Deputies, especially from their educational or professional background. Skills such as dialog, persuasion and rhetoric, among others, are important for success in legislative life. Grouped in thematic caucuses or with close colleagues, parliamentarians seek to work on issues that are most familiar to them, either because of their professional experience or because of their affinity with the subject, and thus, through the exchange of ideas, lead their peers to the conviction that will result in the transformation of legislative proposals into law.

Legislative work and parliamentary activity in the Chamber of Deputies are governed by the Legislative Process and are closely linked to dialogue. In the Plenary, the highest deliberative body, the representatives of the people discuss and vote sovereignly on the proposals in progress. The rhetorical skill of properly arranging ideas, putting forward appropriate arguments, organizing and orally presenting a speech to an audience is the parliamentarian’s main tool in exercising their office (Schwartz, 2022, p. 300, our translation).

Figure 2 shows the legislatures that have existed since 1988 with their corresponding year intervals.

Figure 2 – Legislatures and range of years included

Legislature	Range of years
48th	1987-1991
49th	1991-1995
50th	1995-1999
51st	1999-2003
52nd	2003-2007
53rd	2007-2011
54th	2011-2015
55th	2015-2019
56th	2019-2023

Source: Own elaboration

In February 2023, the Chamber of Deputies began its 57th legislature, bringing with it both newly elected and incumbent deputies who bear the responsibility and authority to guide the actions of the Brazilian state. According to Siqueira (2022), the turnover rate in the Chamber of Deputies in the 2022 election was 39.38%, a figure lower than the historic record of 47.37% recorded in 2018. The percentage of reelected deputies, meaning those returning from the 56th legislature, is 57.31%, while 3.31% of deputies served in legislatures prior to the 56th. This data aligns with the perspective of Leoni, Pereira and Rennó (2003, p. 63), who analyze the behavior of deputies and argue that they only seek to run for higher offices when they perceive they have accumulated sufficient electoral strength during their mandates to compete for a different position. Furthermore, according to these authors, Brazilian federal deputies have four career choices: “[...] withdrawing from the political game (retiring); running for a state legislative office (regressive ambition); running for re-election (static ambition); and running for higher offices (progressive ambition)” (Leoni; Pereira; Rennó, 2003, p. 44, our translation).

Naturally heterogeneous, the Chamber of Deputies is the arena of political debate most richly permeated by diverse profiles of multiple origins from all Brazilian regions. Since the 1988 Federal Constitution, thousands of people have held a parliamentary mandate and have been able to influence and decide the direction of Brazilian democracy. With a large number of people who have held elected office in the Chamber of Deputies, what are the characteristics of the people who have played such an essential role in the functioning of Brazilian democracy?

Understanding which professionals were represented in the position of federal deputy is an interesting opportunity to study how the Legislative Branch is characterized as a sphere of interest for individuals, as well as contributing to the recording of its history.

3 Data collection

The research based its data collection on public and online databases made available by the Chamber of Deputies itself. Based on the data available on the [Open Data Portal of the Chamber of Deputies](#) and the Parliamentary Legislative Information System, which contains biographical information on parliamentarians, available on the institutional portal of the Chamber of Deputies¹, the databases were consulted using the following parameters:

- a) legislature (48th to 56th);
- b) name of the parliamentarian;
- c) Federative unit;
- d) profession;
- e) level of education; and
- f) gender.

As this is a quantitative descriptive study with a census purpose, the personal identification of each parliamentarian was only used as a parameter for the initial data collection and to facilitate subsequent analysis; therefore, the final presentation of the data does not include the individual identification of the parliamentarians. The name of the parliamentarian has been hidden from the spreadsheet compiled for this study, but it is possible to obtain it by consulting [Open Data Portal of the Chamber of Deputies](#).

In addition, it is important to note that the entire survey is analyzed globally, since the intention was not to build individual profiles of a specific parliamentarian or political group. After the first consultation of the databases, 5,621 records were returned. It should be noted that it is common for a person to hold several parliamentary mandates over the years. Therefore, the number cited above does not represent the number of parliamentarians actually present in the study. The number of unique individuals is 2,720 parliamentarians.

Another important factor to note is that the entry of alternates into parliamentary seats on a permanent or temporary basis means that each legislature has more than 513 individuals holding parliamentary office over the course of four years. It is common to find, when analyzing the entire four-year period, more than 513 parliamentarians. For the purposes of analysis, alternates were not excluded from the sample, since there are several cases of alternates who have served for a prolonged period of time, here considered to be more than 30 days.

It is also important to highlight the multiple recordings of professions found in parliamentary biographies. It is recurrent, and it is not a mistake for parliamentarians to declare more than one profession. In some records, some of the parameters consulted were blank due to the fact that parliamentary biographies are self-declared and not compulsory in some fields, such as when personal information is protected by law. MPs are free to change, add, or remove information from their own biographies, with the exception of mandatory information. As a result, the biographical information available on the Chamber of Deputies Portal are regularly changed.

With the data collected, an electronic spreadsheet² was built with the raw data obtained. In order for the data to be up-to-date and thus more representative and accurate, given that the 56th legislature was still in progress, the data was collected on December 22, 2022, the last official day of the legislature.

4 Data analysis

Analysis of the data showed that, in the period studied, from 1988 to 2022, there was a predominance of one profession per parliamentarian (3,023 occurrences) and that, at the

¹ Accessible via [link https://www.camara.leg.br/deputados/quem-sao](https://www.camara.leg.br/deputados/quem-sao).

² Accessible via [link https://github.com/Cefor/E-Legis/tree/main/2024%20-%20n.%2040/artigo%2001](https://github.com/Cefor/E-Legis/tree/main/2024%20-%20n.%2040/artigo%2001).

other extreme, there were 73 occurrences where the parliamentarian registered more than four professions. Again, it is essential to note that the professional register for parliamentarians who participate in more than one legislature tends to be altered or added to with more professions from one legislature to the next. As for the level of education of parliamentarians, there was a concentration of university graduates with 1,975 records in the period studied. Only 20 parliamentarians did not declare their level of education. Table 1 shows the number of records according to educational level/gender, ordered from the highest to the lowest number of records.

Table 1 – Parliamentarians’ level of education

Level of education	Quantity		
	Total	Male	Female
Higher	1,975	1,806	169
Secondary	192	180	12
Higher education incomplete	162	148	12
Postgraduate studies	113	91	22
High school	71	62	9
Master’s Degree	63	53	10
Primary	33	31	2
Doctorate	31	28	3
Undeclared	20	20	-
Elementary school	19	17	2
Technical education	12	12	-
Master’s degree incomplete	9	7	2
Doctorate incomplete	6	6	-
Incomplete secondary education	5	5	-
Incomplete primary	4	3	1
High school incomplete	3	3	-
Gymnasium	2	1	1
Totals	2,720	2,473	247

Source: Own elaboration

As can be seen in Table 1, the level of education “Higher” and its directly dependent levels (Postgraduate, Master’s and Doctorate) appear in large numbers for both men and women, indicating that a first possible inference about the characteristics of a parliamentarian in the period studied is that they have a higher level of education. According to the Continuous National Household Sample Survey (PNAD), 17.4% of the Brazilian population has a university degree (Fundação Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, 2019): when compared to the parliamentary population studied, it can be seen that 72.61% of parliamentarians in the Chamber of Deputies have a “Higher” level of education.

If the directly dependent levels mentioned above are included, the percentage rises to 80.22%. If we look only at the male gender, 79.98% have a higher level of education. As for females, 82.59% have the same level of education. This behavior has become a constant in the last three general elections held in 2014, 2018 and 2022 (Marcel, 2014; Haje, 2018; Perfil [...], 2022). It is interesting to note that the profile of the parliamentarian ends up attracting a significant number of people with higher education degrees, which shows that there is an interest in or need for age and professional maturity in order to occupy a parliamentary seat.

As mentioned earlier, although there are 513 seats available in the Chamber of Deputies, a legislature ends up having a larger number of registered parliamentarians. This is due to the call-up of substitutes to fill the mandate due to the permanent or temporary absence of the mandate holder. It should be noted that although there are more registered deputies in a legislature, there are only 513 parliamentarians holding office at the same time. Moving on to the analysis of the number of individuals present in each legislature, it was possible to observe

that the smallest increase in the number of individuals holding parliamentary office in a full legislature was around 12%, and the largest was around 30%.

Table 2 shows the number of parliamentarians registered in each legislature.

Table 2 – Parliamentarians registered in each legislature

Legislature	Quantity		
	Total	Male	Female
48th	577	548	29
49th	620	590	30
50th	635	593	42
51st	642	603	39
52nd	626	574	52
53rd	636	584	52
54th	671	611	60
55th	623	558	65
56th	598	509	89

Source: Own elaboration

The data presented in Table 2, as well as showing how much turnover there is of individuals in the parliamentary mandate, reveal the growing number of women in the Chamber of Deputies holding a parliamentary mandate. Although the number of women is still considerably lower than the number of men, it is possible to infer that more women are gaining access to the legislature (Arraes, 2021). When analyzing the range of years studied, from 1988 to 2022, the presence of women represents 8% of the total number of seats available in the period. The legislatures with the highest percentage of women were exactly the last two: 55th legislature (10%) and 56th (15%). This movement can be explained in part by the greater strength of the women's movement in recent years and also by legal requirements, such as the minimum number of female candidates for political parties to have access to public campaign funding.

Moving on to an analysis of the professions registered in each legislature, it was possible to observe a high number of professions registered over the years. More than 100 professions were registered by the parliamentarians. These registers contain professions from the most varied areas of occupation, all of which are based on the Brazilian Classification of Occupations (CBO), an official instrument that portrays the professions present in the Brazilian labor market. Based on the data collected, a number of recurring professions were found, the ones with the highest number of records being lawyer, businessman, teacher, doctor and engineer. Figure 3 shows the list of the most common professions and their approximate representation in relation to the total number of registered professions.

Figure 3 – Most registered professions by parliamentarians

Profession	Number of records	Percentage of total
Lawyer	1,550	28%
Teacher	1,148	20%
Businessman	1,094	20%
Doctor	625	11%
Engineer	600	11%
Administrator	504	9%
Economist	348	6%
Public Servants	314	6%
Journalist	294	5%

Source: Own elaboration

5 Conclusions and final considerations

The promulgation of the 1988 Constitution marked not only the restart of democracy in Brazil: the constitutional text, known as the Citizen's Constitution, brought essential predicates to Brazilian society such as participation, representativeness, and legitimacy. Brazilian citizens, who spent more than two decades without the right to elect their political representatives or actively participate in state decisions, have found in the new Magna Carta rights and guarantees to make political activity something desirable and achievable for all Brazilians.

During the process of reconstituting the democratic rule of law in Brazil, institutions and individuals learned how to rebuild relationships and restart dialogues in search of the common good and, above all, harmonious and balanced ways of expressing political will. The resurgence of the idea of representing and being represented has once again given Brazilian society the legitimacy of demonstrating and respecting divergent thinking and, through consensus, based on widely accepted legal precepts, a way of finding convergent points and thus overcoming previously insurmountable differences.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Constitution, with the corrections we will make, will be the guardian of governability. Governance lies in the social. Hunger, misery and unassisted illness are ungovernable. [...] I repeat, it will be the citizens' constitution. Because it will recover millions of Brazilians as citizens (Guimarães, 1988, p. 1, our translation).

The Legislative Branch was one of the spheres of power both affected and benefited by the constitutional changes, especially the possibility for all Brazilians to run for and hold elected office. Regardless of financial, intellectual or creedal capacity, any Brazilian citizen could take part in the electoral process and become a member of parliament. Almost 35 years later, the Legislative Branch is reaping the rewards of this transformation, with countless individuals and professionals among its ranks who have led the demands and needs of Brazilian society. The multiplicity of profiles and knowledge that have permeated the Legislative Branch in recent decades are preponderant factors in the formation of the *corpus* of knowledge that makes up the National Congress.

Career politicians enter the political sector because of the non-pecuniary rewards they derive from being in office. Individuals with political careers, on the other hand, enter the political sector in order to increase their market wages. Since political skills are positively correlated with market ability, and politics is a showcase, incumbent politicians have in fact the opportunity to leave the political sector and work in the market sector at a higher wage than the one they would anticipate receiving had they not become politicians. (Mattozzi; Merlo, 2008, p. 599)

Acting as an elected parliamentarian in the National Congress means being able to represent and decide the course of millions of Brazilians, an arduous and far from trivial task. For this reason, skills and knowledge are very important artifacts for men and women to be able to hold elected office. Academic background, original professional activity, and a capacity for dialogue are just some of the things that need to accompany a parliamentarian. In addition, skills such as dialoguing, articulating, mediating and deciding are of great importance for the good performance of parliamentary activity, which consists more of finding a point of convergence of ideas and positions than imposing a thought or position.

In view of this, this study investigated the professional and educational characteristics of federal deputies from 1988 to 2022. The data obtained made it possible to draw up a broad picture of the profile of the individuals who have made up the Chamber of Deputies since 1988. This data indicates that the majority of federal deputies are university graduates who have a profession and that, of these professions, five are the most common: lawyer, businessman, teacher, doctor and engineer. In addition to these findings, it was possible to identify a large number of professions, more than 100 in all, that have been present in the Chamber of Deputies over the last 35 years. Another situation that was possible to observe was a considerable turnover

of individuals participating in a parliamentary mandate through the substitution of an elective mandate, either by the definitive departure of the incumbent or by temporary leaves of absence.

Brazilian politics and society are in the midst of change. As a result, institutions need to be able to serve and understand citizens as an important part of this transition. More modern sets of regulations such as Law n.º 12.527/2011, known as the Access to Information Law, and Law n.º 13.709/2018, known as the General Data Protection Law, have ushered in a new form of interaction and co-responsibility between the state and society. Mutual rights and obligations become the main guidelines of this relationship, which aims to expand the area of dialogue and popular participation, through secure structures for accessing and making information available to and for citizens.

The Legislative Branch, a power essentially formed by the exercise of citizenship and popular participation, needs to be attentive and, above all, capable of participating in this process of change, as well as possessing the necessary skills to contribute to the strengthening of Brazilian democracy. Therefore, the more voices, personal and professional characteristics that are present in the Brazilian parliament, the greater and better the legislative response will be to the needs of society and, consequently, of Brazilian democracy.

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