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WASHINGTON - Reps. Harry Mitchell and Gabrielle Giffords are among 19 first-term House Democrats who belong to the "new center" in Congress, according to the National Journal political magazine.

The Arizona lawmakers' voting records last year were among the most centrist in the House, the magazine said in a report published Friday.

Researchers scored 109 House votes, classified them as relating to economic, social or foreign policy, then ranked lawmakers' positions as liberal or conservative. Lawmakers with composite scores between 35 and 65 were classified as centrists.

Nearly half of the 42 House Democratic freshmen got the label. Mitchell, who had a 54 percent liberal voting record last year, replaced one of the most conservative members of the House in 2006. His predecessor, J.D. Hayworth, R-Ariz., had an 85 percent conservative record in 2006.

Giffords scored a 57 percent liberal record. She replaced Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., who scored a 65 percent conservative record in 2006.

Rep. Rick Renzi, R-Arizona, also fell into the centrist category, scoring a 63 percent conservative record last year.

Three of nine Senate Democratic freshmen qualified as centrists: Sens. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., Jim Webb, D-Va., and Jon Tester, D-Mont. Sens. John McCain and Jon Kyl, both Arizona Republican, did not make the centrist list.