

Election Data Service

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Two States Affected by New Census Bureau Estimates

With the 2000 Census right around the corner, an analysis of new state population estimates for 1999 released today by the Census Bureau shows that just two state's allocation of Congressional seats would be changed from last year's estimates. The state of **Colorado** would gain a seat compared to the 1998 population estimates, while **Illinois** would now be losing a congressional seat if the Congress were reapportioned on the basis of these new estimates.

When compared to the reapportionment that followed the 1990 Census, 16 states would have the size of their congressional delegations changed based on the new 1999 estimates as ten congressional seats shift around the nation. States that would gain a congressional seat would be **Arizona (+2), California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Montana, Nevada,** and **Texas (+2)**. States that would lose a seat under the new estimates are **Connecticut, Illinois, Mississippi, New York (-2), Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania (-2),** and **Wisconsin**.

The Census Bureau's new state populations (called "estimates") reflect the number of persons in each state as of July 1, 1999, **not** the number of persons that is anticipated on Census day in 2000 (called "projections"). The last time the Census Bureau released state projections for 2000 was in October, 1996.

Illinois's loss of a seat had been indicated in previous studies in this decade, but was temporarily reversed in last year's 1998 study. The new 1999 numbers show the state missed staying even in the congressional seat race by nearly 40,000 people. "The shift of the seat from **Illinois** to **Colorado** is indicative of the nation's population movement to the West," said Election Data Services, Inc. President Kimball Brace.

The 1999 study also highlighted the closeness of the population numbers and their importance in the apportionment process. **Montana** secured the last seat (number 435) in the study, with just 934 people to spare. This would be **Montana's** second congressional district, and would reverse the state's loss of a seat in 1990. On the other hand, **Georgia** just missed picking up their second additional congressional seat. The 1999 study revealed **Georgia** would get the next seat in the apportionment process (seat number 436), but missed gaining that seat by just 8,253 people.

The 1999 population estimates are the last set of numbers to be released before the 2000 Census is taken. "The tightness of some of the seat allocations indicates a heightened need for all states to seek a full and complete count in the 2000 census process," said Brace. He noted that the state of **Georgia** has undertaken enormous efforts to cooperate with the Census Bureau and ensure all persons are counted.

Contrary to speculation, the 1999 study also showed **California** would be gaining only one congressional seat, should the apportionment process take place with the 1999 estimates. **California** missed gaining a second seat by nearly 250,000 people. The study showed that the states of **Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, Wisconsin, and Utah** were much closer to either keeping a lost seat or gaining an additional seat than **California**. In each state's case, a gain of less than 50,000 people would shift the apportionment process in their favor. All of these states are close enough to the last seat given out in the apportionment process that their actions to promote a full count in the remaining three months before the actual Census will determine their fate.

2000 Population Projections

As noted above, the Census Bureau does not plan to announce updated 2000 population projections before the actual Census is taken (the last state projections were released in October of 1996). As a result, Election Data Services, Inc. utilized the 1999 population estimates and aged them forward nine months (from July 1, 1999 to April 1, 2000) to coincide with Census day. Four different trend lines (all based on Census Bureau estimates) were used and all produced the same results for the apportionment process.

The Election Data Service's 2000 projection apportionment study revealed the same results as the 1999 study, with one significant difference. The projection study confirms the shift of one more seat, that going from **Montana** to **Georgia**. As a result, should the actual Census process confirm the Bureau's estimates, Election Data Services' anticipates that ten congressional seats would shift between 15 states following the 2000 Census. The Election Data Service's 2000 projection apportionment study shows the seven states would gain a congressional seat compared to what they currently have: **Arizona (+2), California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia (+2), Nevada, and Texas (+2)**. Eight states that would lose a seat under the new 2000 projections are **Connecticut, Illinois, Mississippi, New York (-2), Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania (-2), and Wisconsin**.

Montana's failure to regain its second seat lost in 1990, however, is very tenuous. One of the four trend lines shows the state just missed the new seat by only 739 people, while the other trends indicate the margin to be only slightly larger. Three of the trend lines indicate Montana would be allotted seat number 436, just one seat away from the number allocated for Congress under law.

The new projection study also uncovers a new threat for the state of **Indiana**. In each of the four trend lines, **Indiana** secures the last seat in the apportionment process (seat number 435). Most of the trends show the state gained that seat with just 25,000 - 30,000 to spare, but one trend placed the buffer at under 5,000 people. **Indiana** has not been a stranger to close apportionment numbers. In 1980 the state lost a congressional district by just over 7,000 people.

The Election Data Services' 2000 projection study also confirms that **California** still has a way to go before it could possibly gain a second congressional seat. Each of the trend lines show **California** missing their second seat by anywhere from 150,000 to 250,000 people.

The new projection study also provides a warning for the state of **Iowa**. While the state is still projected to keep its five congressional seats, their last seat is near the bottom of the apportionment list for all four trend lines. Should the population trends in the nation continue into the first decade of the new millennium, the state of **Iowa** could be down to only four congressional seats in 2010.

The state of **Michigan** is provided good news in the new study in their attempt to avoid the loss of a congressional seat. Each of the trend lines shows the state holding onto their 16th and last congressional seat, with between 159,000 and 203,000 people to spare. This reverses the trend anticipated in the Census Bureau's 1996 projection study.

Both apportionment studies by Election Data Services, Inc. are based on the new state-level population estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. These data are nine months short of when the Census will be actually taken, do not include federal employees abroad (e.g., military personnel) and are not adjusted for any known census undercount or sampling process. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled at the beginning of 1999 that sampling procedures are not constitutional for the apportionment process.

Election Data Services, Inc. is a Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm that specializes in redistricting, election administration, and the analysis of census and political data. A copy of the current apportionment analysis is attached. A full copy of the study can be found on our web site (www.electiondataservices.com) or by calling (202) 789-2004.