

# Election Data Services

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## **Four States Affected by New Census Bureau Estimates**

An analysis of new state population estimates for 1997 released today by the Census Bureau shows that four state's allocation of Congressional seats would be changed from last year's estimates. The states of **California** and **Texas** would each gain a seat compared to the 1996 population estimates, with Texas's additional seat actually being the second seat they are anticipated to gain since the 1990 Census. The states of **Illinois** and **Wisconsin** are now showing that they would lose a congressional seat if the Congress were reapportioned on the basis of these projections.

When compared to the reapportionment that followed the 1990 Census, 15 states would have the size of their congressional delegations changed based on the new 1997 projections as eight congressional seats shift around the nation. States that would gain a congressional seat would be **Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Montana, Nevada,** and **Texas (+2)**. States that would lose a seat under the new projections are **Connecticut, Illinois, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania,** and **Wisconsin**.

The gain of a congressional seat by **California** reverses a trend noted earlier in the decade of stagnant population growth in the state. Earlier Election Data Services, Inc. studies of Census numbers indicated that California might have been held to no increases in their delegation for the first time since 1850. The new 1997 Census data indicates California's additional seat was gained by the slimmest of margins, the state being allocated the 435<sup>th</sup> and last seat distributed in the apportionment process.

The Election Data Services, Inc study using the 1997 Census estimates also reveals that **Montana**'s regaining of their second congressional seat that was lost following the 1990 Census is becoming more and more tenuous. The state's second seat was received with only 15,382 people to spare according to the new study, and it dropped from seat number 427 in 1996 to seat number 430 in 1997 (out of a possible 435 seats).

The loss of a seat by Illinois and Wisconsin in the new study was foreshadowed last year when the 1996 study showed these two states holding the last two seats (#434 & 435) at that time. Illinois currently holds seat number 437 in the new study, having missed keeping a seat by 85,860 people. Wisconsin lost seat is number 438 in the new study, which it lost by only 45,533 people.

“The 1997 data is just another step in the march towards the 2000 Census,” indicated Election Data Services, Inc. President Kimball Brace. “It indicates a heightened need for all states to seek a full and complete count in the 2000 census process, especially if your state is on the border of gaining or losing a congressional district,” he said.

The 1997 data shows that the Census Bureau’s state population projections for the year 2000 that were released in October of 1996 are already out of date. Studies performed by Election Data Services, Inc. on those data indicated that, for example, California was not projected to gain an additional seat by the year 2000. The 2000 projections had predicted that **Arizona, Georgia, and Texas** would each gain two seats by the end of the decade, while **Colorado, Florida, Montana, Nevada, and Utah** would each gain one seat. The losses in that study were concentrated in **New York and Pennsylvania** (two seats from each state), and single seat losses in **Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin**.

The new 1997 study indicates that **Arizona** is not quite at the stage of gaining their anticipated second new seat, but that they missed the opportunity by only 44,668 people. They currently hold seat number 439 in the new study, a significant jump from seat number 447 in the 1996 study.

**Colorado** is in a similar situation to **Arizona**, in that the “Centennial State” missed gaining its anticipated new seat by just 90,429 people. Colorado also jumped in the ordering of seats, moving from 448 in the 1996 study to number 444 in the new study.

On the flip side of the gain/loss coin, both **New York** and **Pennsylvania** moved closer to losing a second congressional seat in the 1997 study. Each of their last seats occupy positions number 433 and 434 in the new study, a movement closer to the edge by three to four positions from the 1996 study.

The new study also harbors a warning for the state of **Indiana**. While that state still retains 10 congressional seats in the new study, their last seat was received with only 70,674 people to spare and is seat number 431. The 1996 study showed the state holding its last seat with a margin of nearly 79,000 people.

The new 1997 Census data appears to boost **Michigan**’s chances of avoiding a loss of a congressional seat. Michigan’s 16<sup>th</sup> and last congressional seat was gained in the new study with 313,538 people to spare, markedly up from the 185,000 margin noted in the 1996 study.

The apportionment analysis by Election Data Services, Inc. is based on the new state-level population estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. These data are rounded to the nearest thousands, 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. Congress is currently debating the appropriateness of using sampling procedures in the upcoming 2000 census.

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. Additional copies can be obtained by calling (202) 789-2004.

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