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Five States Would Gain Seats if Congress Were Reapportioned with 2005 Population Estimates

Five states—Arizona, Florida, Nevada, Texas, and Utah—would each gain one seat if the U.S. House of Representatives were reapportioned with census population estimates for July 1, 2005, according to an analysis by Election Data Services Inc. Five states would lose seats—Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. In Election Data Services' 2004 analysis, only four seats changed. Nevada is an addition to the states gaining seats; Massachusetts, to the states losing seats. The 2005 population estimates, which have not been statistically adjusted for any known undercount, were released today by U.S. Census Bureau.

The 2005 reapportionment analysis shows the margins by which congressional seats were allocated, compared to the last congressional reapportionment in 2001 after the 2000 census. In the 2005 analysis, the last seat in the 435-member House would go to Missouri, which holds onto its ninth congressional seat by a margin of only 9,419. Texas, in position no. 436, would be next in line to gain still another congressional seat. Texas received 32 congressional seats in the 2001 reapportionment.

2005 Reapportionment Analysis

2005 Population Estimates			2000 Census Population		
Last	Five Seats	Margin of Gain	Last	Five Seats	Margin of Gain
431	Ohio (17th)	208,572	431	Iowa (5th)	44,338
432	Illinois (19th)	142,416	432	Florida (25th)	212,934
433	California (53rd)	304,458	433	Ohio (18th)	79,688
434	Minnesota (8th)	25,713	434	California (53rd)	33,942
435	Missouri (9th)	9,419	435	North Carolina (13th) 3,087
Next Seats		Margin of Loss	Next	Seats	Margin of Loss
436	Texas (34th)	37,180	436	Utah (4th)	856
437	New York (29th)	224,205	437	New York (30th) 47,249
438	California (54th)	437,417	438	Texas (33rd)	86,272
439	Massachusetts (10	0th) 86,201	439	Michigan (16th)	50,888
440	Georgia (14th)	149,330	440	Indiana (10th)	37,056

Four of the five states that would stand to gain seats in the 2005 analysis—Arizona, Florida, Nevada, and Texas—gained seats when Congress was last reapportioned in 2001. Arizona, Florida, and Texas have each gained at least one seat in every reapportionment since 1950. Utah, the fifth state that would gain a seat in the 2005 analysis, just missed gaining a seat in 2001 by only 856 people.

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Three of the five states that would lose seats in the 2005 analysis—New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania—also lost seats in 2001. New York and Pennsylvania have each lost at least two seats in every reapportionment since 1950. Iowa, which in 2001 held position no. 431 of 435, retained its fifth congressional seat by a margin of only 44,338 people. Massachusetts, the fifth state that would lose a seat in the 2005 analysis, was in position no. 422 in 2001.

In 2001, the last congressional seat went to North Carolina, whose population included a substantial number of federal employees overseas. Federal employees overseas have been included in official census population counts since 1990, but are not included in census population estimates. Election Data Services' 2005 reapportionment analysis produced no changes when overseas federal employees were accounted for. The 2000 census was, of course, conducted well before troop deployments for the Iraqi war. And the new census population estimates do not show the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the state of Louisiana. In the 2005 reapportionment analysis, Louisiana held position no. 426 of 435 and kept its seventh congressional seat by a margin of 100,000 people. Population shifts from Louisiana to Texas as a result of Katrina, if they became permanent, could have implications for the next reapportionment in 2011 and chances for Texas for gaining another congressional seat.

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. Election Data Services conducts the congressional apportionment analyses with each annual release of the census population estimates. For more information about the reapportionment analysis, contact Kimball Brace (202.789.2004 or kbrace@electiondataservices.com).