

**EMBARGOED UNTIL: 12:01 A.M. EST, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2006**

Date: December 21, 2006

Contact: Kimball W. Brace

Tel.: (202) 789-2004

Email: [kbrace@electiondataservices.com](mailto:kbrace@electiondataservices.com)

## **Katrina-driven Population Loss Will Also Lead to Louisiana's Loss of a Congressional Seat, According to 2006 Population Estimates**

New Census Population Estimates document for the first time the significant loss of population in Louisiana due to the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe. The loss of population will also lead to a loss of representation in Congress, according to a study by Election Data Services Inc. that was released today. Louisiana is now projected to lose a congressional seat, based on the new data.

The 2006 population estimates shift two more seats between four states, compared to last year's study of the 2005 estimates (see Election Data Services Inc., "Five States Would Gain Seats if Congress Were Reapportioned with 2005 Population Estimates," December 22, 2005). "Changes affecting three of the four new states were expected;" noted Election Data Services' president, Kimball Brace, "but Louisiana's loss was a new twist in the numbers."

Overall, the 2006 estimates show that seven congressional seats in 13 states have already changed at this point in the decade, if the U.S. House of Representatives was reapportioned with the updated numbers. Six states—**Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, and Utah**—would each gain a seat and **Texas** would gain two seats if the House was reapportioned with census population estimates for July 1, 2006, according to Election Data Services' analysis. Seven states would lose seats—**Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania**. The states of **Georgia, Nevada, Louisiana, and Massachusetts** are new states on the list of changes, compared to the 2005 study.

The 2006 population estimates reflect the steady increase in the number of seats and states that are affected by apportionment as the nation continues to grow and change. "It is important to note that the estimates reflect the current population situation in each state," noted Kimball Brace, "not the projected population in 2010." The Census Bureau released 2010 population projections in July 2005, and the projections were the subject of an earlier Election Data Services study. "Those projections, however, were created before Katrina, and do not reflect the population changes for Louisiana that were released today," said Brace. Last year the study projected that 10 congressional seats would be changed in 2010, affecting 15 states. Table A attached to this press release summarizes apportionment changes over the current decade.

The 2006 population estimates have not been statistically adjusted for any known undercount. No estimates were provided for U.S. military personnel overseas, although this component has in the past been counted and allocated to the states by the Census Bureau and has been factored into the apportionment formula for the past several decades. As part of its research for this study, Election Data Services took the 2000 military overseas counts and added them to the Census Bureau's 2006 population estimates. However, there were no changes in the state allocations of congressional districts with the military overseas population.

The 2006 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 2006 analysis, the last seat in the 435-member House would go to Minnesota, which holds onto its 8th congressional seat by a margin of only 14,313 people. Missouri, in position no. 436, just lost its 9<sup>th</sup> seat by only 16,229 people and would be next in line to gain the congressional seat back, if the size of the chamber changes. Table B attached to this press release summarizes the 2006 population estimate study.

### 2006 Reapportionment Analysis

2006 Population Estimates			2000 Census Population		
Last Five Seats	Margin of Gain		Last Five Seats	Margin of Gain	
431 Ohio (17th)	121,814		431 Iowa (5th)	44,338	
432 California (53rd)	309,247		432 Florida (25th)	212,934	
433 Georgia (14th)	74,620		433 Ohio (18th)	79,688	
434 Illinois (19th)	98,073		434 California (53rd)	33,942	
435 Minnesota (8th)	14,313		435 North Carolina (13th)	3,087	
Next Seats	Margin of Loss		Next Seats	Margin of Loss	
436 Missouri (9th)	16,229		436 Utah (4th)	856	
437 Florida (27th)	204,652		437 New York (30th)	47,249	
438 California (54th)	481,674		438 Texas (33rd)	86,272	
439 Texas (35th)	311,376		439 Michigan (16th)	50,888	
440 Massachusetts (10th)	113,304		440 Indiana (10th)	37,056	

### Representation for the District of Columbia

In the past year, there was increased interest in finding a way to give the District of Columbia a vote in Congress. Rep. Thomas Davis (R-Va.) introduced a bill in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress that would temporarily increase the size of the House of Representatives to 437 members and give a seat to both the District of Columbia and the state of Utah. Under one version of the bill, the House would revert to 435 members in 2010. In another version, 437 members would be permanent.

Election Data Services' reapportionment program allows for changes to the reapportionment parameters as well as changes to the population data. Changes to the reapportionment parameters for this study included the addition of the District of Columbia to the list of states that would be guaranteed at least one seat in the House of Representatives and changes to the size of the House.

"The first thing to note about Davis' proposal is that he's working with old information," said Kimball Brace. All of Election Data Services' reapportionment studies since 2002 have shown that the state of Utah would gain a fourth seat on the basis of population growth alone. Utah

missed receiving its fourth seat after the 2000 Census by just 856 persons. "The higher growth rate in Utah, coupled with slower growth rates in other parts of the county, mean that Utah is due to gain the new seat at any rate," noted Brace. "They just missed the calendar on when apportionment was done," he said.

The release of the 2006 population estimates provided a new basis to review different options for the District. In addition to the changes noted earlier, Election Data Services' study showed:

- If 2006 population estimates were used, the size of the House of Representatives was increased to 437 seats, and the District of Columbia was given one seat, then Missouri would keep the seat that would otherwise have lost with the size of the House capped at 435. This study of the 2006 estimates placed Missouri in line for seat no. 436.
- If 2006 population estimates were used, the size of the House of Representatives was kept at 435 seats, and the District of Columbia was given one seat, then Minnesota would lose a seat. In this study of the 2006 estimates, Minnesota sits on the cusp, having secured the last seat (no. 435) by just 14,313 people.
- If 2010 population projections released last year were used (pre-Katrina and, therefore, not affecting Louisiana), the size of the House of Representatives was kept at 435 seats, and the District of Columbia was given one seat, then Georgia would not get the new seat that it would have received in the 2005 study of those projections.
- If 2010 population projections released last year were used (pre-Katrina and, therefore, not affecting Louisiana), the size of the House of Representatives was increased to 437 seats, and the District of Columbia was given one seat, then Georgia would keep the new seat that it would have received in the 2005 study and Alabama would keep the seat would otherwise have lost in that study.

### **Election Data Services**

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](mailto:kbrace@electiondataservices.com)).