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CLARK BENSEN

POLIDATA • 1303 HAYWARD RD, P.O. BOX 530 • CORINTH, VT 05039

Tel: 802-526-2176 • Fax: 202-318-0793 • email: clark@polidata.org

PUBLISHER OF THE POLIDATA® DEMOGRAPHIC AND POLITICAL GUIDES AND ATLASES

PRESS RELEASE

PRE-RECESSION MIGRATION: APPORTIONMENT IN 2010

Population Trends for the 2000s; the 2008 Estimates

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CLARK BENSEN¹

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Thankfully, the long presidential campaign cycle has come to an end. Eventually there might even be a winner in the race for U. S. Senator from Minnesota also. Nevertheless, as the Obama team engineers the peaceful transition of political power in Washington, the U. S. Bureau of the Census has once again released state-level estimates of population as of July 1, 2008.

It is these numbers which form the basis for prognostication by political analysts around the nation as to how the actual enumeration in April of 2010 will form the next transition of political power: the number of seats in the U. S. House for the 113th Congress elected in 2012. Of course, these new numbers will also impact upon the Electoral College makeup for the 2012 election as well.

With a record date of July 1, 2008, the state-level estimates are pre-recession numbers and, just as we had the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita impact recent state-level numbers, the likely shift of persons due to the economic slowdown is bound to have some impact on the apportionment in 2010.

Methods. To project out the population from the July 1, 2008 date to the April 1, 2010 Census date, several factors must be reviewed and assumptions made. As the time to the census winds down, the degree to which these factors are more relevant increases. Then again, these are merely projections based upon estimates; some slippage is bound to occur. Moreover, the apportionment formula is very sensitive to small shifts in persons.

¹ Clark H. Bensen, B.A., J.D., consulting data analyst and attorney doing business as POLIDATA® Polidata Data Analysis and a publisher of data volumes operating as POLIDATA® Demographic and Political Guides. POLIDATA is a demographic and political research firm located outside Washington, D.C.

The first factor is the rate of change in the population to be used from July 1, 2008 outward. These projections once again rely upon the most recent rates, for the previous two years of estimates, that of 2006-2007 and that of 2007-2008, with the 2007-2008 weighted more than the 2006-2007 rates. This helps to take account of the recession to some degree as there is likely to be some shift based upon the widespread impact of the economic slowdown which went to new heights (lows) in September and October of 2008.

The second factor to consider is how to apply this selected rate of growth: whether it is to be applied uniformly to all states and for how long. This set of projections continues the adjustment for the states most affected by the 2005 storms of Katrina and Rita: Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. In each of these states, the rate used is that of 2007-2008 alone. The timeframe for applying the rate is for the entire year through July 1, 2009 but only at a 75% rate for the timeframe to April 1, 2010. Nevertheless, the projections still do not account for any overseas persons in the apportionment count as was done in the past few censuses.

Once the factors and assumptions are determined, application of the projections to the apportionment formula, the so-called "method of equal proportions", produces the projected shift in the seats for each state for the 2012 congressional elections. Again, these are merely projections based upon the latest estimates; changes are still quite likely to be evidenced in next year's 2009 estimates, released months before the actual census. Of course, the 2009 estimates will be the last round before the final numbers are released by December 31, 2010.

Results. Based upon these projections as outlined above, the shifts of congressional seats would be as follows: a shift of 12 seats amongst 19 states, from 11 donor states to 8 recipient states. Of these 19 states, those with the largest shifts in seats would be Texas at +4 to 36 seats; Arizona at +2 for 10 seats and Ohio at -2 for 16 seats. The other 16 states would see a net shift of 1 seat.

States expected to gain under these projections include: Arizona, up 2 to 10 seats; Florida, up 1 to 26; Georgia, up 1 to 14; Nevada, up 1 to 4; Oregon, up 1 to 6; South Carolina, up 1 to 7; Texas, up 4 to 36 seats; and Utah, up 1 to 4.

States expected to lose under these projections include: Illinois, down 1 to 18; Iowa, down 1 to 4; Louisiana, down 1 to 6; Massachusetts, down 1 to 9; Michigan, down 1 to 14; Minnesota, down 1 to 7; Missouri, down 1 to 8; New Jersey, down 1 to 12; New York, down 1 to 28; Ohio, down 2 to 16; and Pennsylvania, down 1 to 18.

Of course, there are always states that are near the cutoff and just barely make the cut. Those states that would get the *last five seats*, numbered 431 to 435 in the list are: Texas at 36 (with 170k persons to spare), New York at 28 seats (+115k), South Carolina at 7 (+25k), California at 53 (+155k) and Oregon at 6 (+5k).

Those states that would *fall just short*, numbered 436 to 440 in the list are: North Carolina at 14 (with 17k persons too few), Washington at 10 seats (-10k), Minnesota at 8 (-25k), Illinois at 19 (-100k) and Missouri at 9 (-45k).

Note also that Montana comes in at seat number 444, failing by about 17,000 persons to return to 2 seats. California is, at this point, likely to remain at the current 53 seats but even so, this would become the first apportionment that the state has not gained a seat since statehood.

Estimates. As can be readily seen by the above numbers, some states may shift over the next year and a half. A note should be made that when the Bureau releases the state-level estimates, there are usually refinements to previous year estimates as well. This year's set of estimates seems to be especially so. For example, there are changes in the estimates for the states of Florida and New York that significantly affect the apportionment projections.

The set of estimates based upon the July 1, 2007 date indicated that the growth rate for the preceding year (2006-2007) was: +194k for Florida and +16k for New York. The revised numbers based upon the most recent release, for the same time period, are: +180k for Florida and +63k for New York. The net advantage of Florida, which had been +178k is now just +118k. The impact of these revisions can be seen in the apportionment projections: whereas the projections based upon the 2007 estimates had Florida gaining 2 seats and New York losing 2 seats to be tied at 27 seats each, the latest estimates reduce this to a 1 seat shift for each and yield an advantage to New York to remain at 28 seats versus Florida's 26 seats.

More to Come. As usual, the Bureau has released these numbers just in time for the Holiday break. Perhaps there will be more time to comment as time allows.

This press release and the accompanying maps can be found online at this link:

<http://www.polidata.org/news.htm> or directly at:

<http://www.polidata.org/census/est008dl.htm>

Enclosures:

1-Map, Population Growth, % Change, 2000 to 2010

2-Map, States Gaining/Losing Seats based upon 2010 Projections

3-Map, States just Above, or just Below, the Cutoff

4-Map, Number of Members by State Delegation