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Two Seats Would Change Hands If Congress Were Reapportioned with 2002 Population Estimates

An analysis of state population estimates for 2002 released today by the U.S. Census Bureau with the first county-level population estimates of the decade shows that **Texas** and **Utah** would each gain one seat in the U.S. House of Representatives if the estimates had been used for reapportionment. The losers would be **Iowa** and **Ohio**. Texas gained two seats after reapportionment in 2001 and three seats in 1991 and 1981. The **Texas** delegation of 32 representatives has doubled in size since 1900 and is the second largest state delegation, after California. In Election Data Services' analysis of the 2002 estimates, Texas would not only have gained one congressional seat, but would have been high in the state rankings for yet another seat. **Utah**, the other state that would have gained a seat, currently has three congressional seats.

Iowa currently has five congressional seats. In 1900, the state had 11 seats. During the same time that the Texas congressional delegation doubled in size, Iowa's declined by more than half.

Ohio, the other state that would have lost a seat using the 2002 estimates, did lose one seat when Congress was reapportioned in 2001 and came close to losing a second.

The table below shows the results of the 2002 reapportionment analysis. It shows the ranking of states for the last seats allocated with the 2002 population estimates as well as the margins by which seats were gained or lost. Numbers in parentheses indicate the particular seat to which the ranking applies. For comparison, similar information has been provided for the last congressional reapportionment in 2001 using population data from the 2000 census.

Congressional Reapportionment Allocations

Estimated 2002 Population		Census 2000 Population	
Last Six Seats	Seat Gained	Last Six Seats	Seat Gained
430 Texas (33rd)	440,336	430 Georgia (13th)	142,389
431 California (53rd)	641,923	431 Iowa (5th)	44,338
432 Utah (4th)	41,452	432 Florida (25th)	212,934
433 Missouri (9th)	100,469	433 Ohio (18th)	79,688
434 Pennsylvania (19th)	190,959	434 California (53rd)	33,942
435 North Carolina (13th)	118,222	435 North Carolina (13th)	3,087
Next Five Seats	Seat Lost	Next Five Seats	Seat Lost
436 Iowa (5th)	42,331	436 Utah (4th)	856
437 California (54th)	521,158	437 New York (30th)	47,249
438 Florida (26th)	270,278	438 Texas (33rd)	86,272
439 Ohio (18th)	231,509	439 Michigan (16th)	50,888
440 Texas (34th)	533,473	440 Indiana (10th)	37,056

“It’s ironic that North Carolina still received the last available seat with the 2002 estimates, the same position the state was in with the 2000 actual population numbers,” noted Kimball Brace, President of Election Data Services, Inc. “It’s also noteworthy to observe the continued population growth in Texas, given the on-going redistricting controversy in the state this year,” said Brace.

In the table, **Texas**, which has 32 congressional seats, would have gained a 33rd seat with 440,000 people to spare if the 2002 estimates had been used for reapportionment. Texas would also have been fifth in line to gain yet another seat. **Utah** would have gained a fourth seat with 41,452 people to spare. **Iowa** would have lost the fifth seat it now holds by a margin of 44,331. **Ohio** would have lost its 18th seat by a margin of 231,000. When Congress was reapportioned two years ago, Iowa held onto its fifth seat by a margin of 44,000, while Ohio held onto its 18th seat by a margin of 80,000.

In the 2001 reapportionment, the last seat in the 435-member House went to North Carolina, whose population included a substantial number of federal employees overseas. After the 2000 reapportionment results were announced, **Utah** filed suit and argued against the census rules on counting overseas workers. Although federal employees overseas have been included in official census population counts since 1990, census rules have barred the inclusion of some 10,000 missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints working abroad. The suit was dismissed. If the 2002 population estimates had been used for reapportionment, not only would North Carolina have retained the congressional seat it gained after the 2000 census, but Utah would have gained a seat as well. Federal employees overseas are not included in census population *estimates*.

Election Data Services, Inc. found that the reapportionment calculations from the 2002 estimates would not have been affected if overseas populations were added to the estimates. Because the Census Bureau did not create newer overseas estimates, Election Data Services added the 2000 overseas data to the 2002 estimates. A table of the reapportionment results from the 2002 estimates are attached to this press release, as well as a separate table showing the results when the overseas populations are added to the estimates.

The 2002 population estimates used in the reapportionment study are of the number of persons residing in each state and county as of July 1, 2002. State-level population estimates for 2002 were released by the U.S. Census Bureau in December 2002. The new data represent the first estimates of county populations by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin since the 2000 census. The estimates are not statistically adjusted for any known undercount.

Election Data Services conducts apportionment studies with each release of state population estimates and population projections by the Census Bureau. Election Data Services is a Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm that specializes in redistricting, election administration, and the analysis of census and political data. For more information, contact Kimball Brace by telephone or email at (202) 789-2004 or kbrace@electiondataservices.com.