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LSG Policy Update: Apportionment and Redistricting

April 28, 2021

LSG Colleagues and Supporters,

This week, the Census Bureau's release of statewide population data used for apportionment reminds us that when we meet in special session to draw new districts later this year, we must make sure that the people of color who drove the Texas population are provided the opportunity to elect the candidates of their choice. We hope you find this information helpful to you as we prepare for redistricting.

Rep. Garnet F. Coleman, Chair

LSG Policy Update: Apportionment and Redistricting

Failure of leadership cost Texas a congressional district and federal funding

This week, we received the 2020 statewide census count of 29,145,505 Texans. Based on 2019 census estimates, Texas was expected to pick up three additional congressional districts. The fact that we only got two is the direct result of our state leadership's failure to implement a "complete count" effort and efforts by the Trump administration to add a citizenship question that federal courts rejected. Texas was the only large state that did not invest in a complete count effort, and that failure will cost us representation in Congress and a loss of federal funding that we would otherwise be entitled to receive for the next ten years.

Last year, the Census Bureau estimated that [37.2% of Texans](#) did not self-respond to the pandemic year 2020 census, up from 23.5% in the 2010 census. Historically, census undercounts have deprived appropriate representation for people of color, and the state's anemic 62.8% self-response rate was one of many things that exacerbated the challenge to accurately count the same people that drove our rapid population growth.

What is Driving this Population Growth?

When drawing Texas redistricting maps, consideration should be given to the fact that the Hispanic and Black population is responsible for 73.1% of the state's population growth, according to 2019 estimates. When the Asian/other population

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growth is added to the equation, non-Anglo Texans make up 86% of the Texas population growth since 2010.

Texas Population and Growth in Population by Race							
	2010	% 2010	2019	% 2019	Increases	% Total Increase	% Race Increase
Hispanic	8,917,475	36.7%	11,511,365	39.7%	2,593,890	55.4%	29.1%
African-American	2,911,175	12.0%	3,740,469	12.9%	829,294	17.7%	28.5%
Hispanic + African-American	11,828,650	48.7%	15,251,833	52.6%	3,423,183	73.1%	28.9%
Anglo	11,325,820	46.6%	11,946,303	41.2%	620,483	13.2%	5.5%
Asian/Other	1,157,420	4.7%	1,797,745	6.2%	640,325	13.7%	55.3%
Total	24,311,890	100%	28,995,881	100%	4,683,991	100%	19.3%

- Hispanic population has grown at a 29.1% rate and added 2.59 million additional residents, accounting for 55.4% of the total Texas population growth.
- Black population has grown at a 28.5% rate and added more than 829,000 additional residents, accounting for 17.7% of the state’s total population growth.
- Asian/other population has grown at a 55.3% rate and added more than 640,000 additional residents, accounting for 13.7% of the state’s total population growth.
- Anglo population has grown at a 5.5% rate and added more than 620,000 additional residents, accounting for 13.2% of the state’s total population growth.

Where Will the Districts Go? People of Color are Driving Rapid Urban and Suburban Growth

Far too often, redistricting discussions focus only on the geography of population increases and fail to consider the demographic changes that are at the heart of those population increases.

- Hispanic, Black, and Asian population growth is driving the rapid population growth in Texas urban and suburban counties, while as many as 100 or more rural counties are losing population, based on 2019 census estimates.
- Texas has six of the Top 10 counties in the country in terms of numeric population growth, including Harris (2nd), Tarrant, Bexar, Dallas, Collin and Travis Counties.
- Texas has four of the Top 10 counties in the country in terms of percentage growth – all in the San Antonio and Austin suburbs – including Hays (2nd), Comal, Kendall, and Williamson Counties.
- Texas has three of the Top 10 metropolitan areas in the country in terms of numeric population growth, including DFW (1st), Houston-Woodlands-Sugar Land (2nd) and Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown (8th).

Litigation Is a Certainty, and Congressional Action is Possible

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Although the U.S. Supreme Court gutted Section 5 preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) in the 2013 Shelby case, other provisions of the VRA are still in effect. There is nothing more certain in Texas redistricting than the fact that the process and the product of congressional and legislative map making will be subject to litigation.

Every Texas redistricting effort since the passage of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) in 1965 has been challenged in federal court, and the courts have almost always found some level of discrimination in violation of the law. Given the rapid growth of the Hispanic, Black, and Asian American communities in Texas, any plan that fails to provide these communities the opportunity to elect their candidate of choice will face a legitimate and well-grounded challenge.

The average size of districts

- **Texas House - 194,303**
- **Texas Senate – 940,178**
- **Texas Congressional Seats – 766,987**

If you have any questions regarding redistricting, please call Ed Martin at (512) 496 2867

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