NDRC
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Memorandum

To:	Interested Parties
From:	John Bisognano, National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NDRC)
Date:	July 1, 2025
Subject:	New 2030 Population Projections Amplify Need For Fair Redistricting That Builds a Truly Representative Democracy

The National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NDRC) has updated its projections for how the 2030 Census might impact the congressional map in the coming decade, and the results underscore that we must act with urgency to prevent significant gerrymandering of the congressional map and to produce representation in the U.S. House of Representatives that actually reflects the will of the people.

The growth that can be seen in states like Texas and Florida is the result of population growth specifically in diverse, metropolitan, Democratic-leaning urban centers. This trend suggests that the country is not seeing a uniform partisan shift, but instead a geographic redistribution of the population. This means that America is not reddening, blue areas are growing in conservative states.

Although many may look at first glance as though there is a significant shift in population from historically blue states to historically red states, the truth lies deep in the details - America is changing.

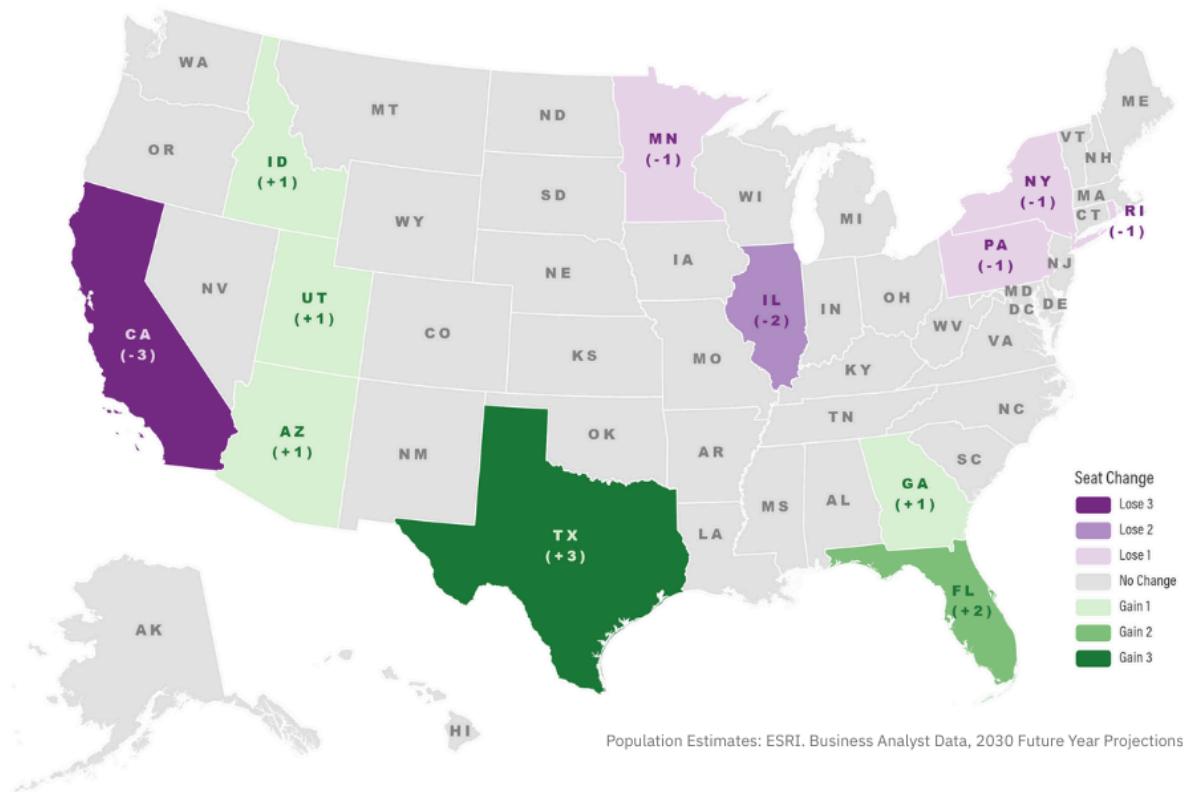**<u>The NDRC's Latest Apportionment Projections for 2030:</u>**

The NDRC projects that nine congressional districts are likely to shift states due to reapportionment following the 2030 Census.

Texas and Florida are expected to gain the most congressional districts, with Texas projected to gain three congressional districts and Florida likely to gain two. Meanwhile, Arizona, Idaho, Georgia, and Utah are all projected to gain one additional congressional seat per state. Several states across the country are projected to lose congressional seats after the 2030 Census, with California and Illinois expected to lose the most congressional seats. California is projected to lose three congressional districts, and Illinois is projected to lose two. Meanwhile, New York, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island are all expected to lose one congressional seat per state.

Although the NDRC's updated projections mirror the direction of previous projections based on data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau (data from the American Community Survey, or ACS), these updated projections, based on new data from the Environmental Systems Research Institute

(ESRI), indicate slightly smaller population shifts and, therefore, fewer changes in congressional reapportionment than the projected census data does.

2030 APPORTIONMENT ESTIMATE

Population Estimates: ESRI. Business Analyst Data, 2030 Future Year Projections

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<u>Diverse, Metropolitan Areas are Driving Population Increases in the Fastest-Growing States:</u>

The ESRI data mirrors the overall trends of population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2025. Population increases in the fastest-growing states are occurring in metropolitan areas, according to data released by the U.S. Census Bureau in <u>March 2025</u>. That report specifically stated the following: "Metro areas as a whole increased by nearly 3.2 million from 2023 to 2024, accounting for 96% of the nation's total population growth." <u>Census data also indicates that</u> communities of color have accounted for 100 percent of the population growth in the United States between 2023 and 2024.

Any new maps in the fastest-growing states – as in all states – must reflect the trends demonstrated in the data, including those highlighted below:

- **Texas:** The population of Harris County, home to Houston, saw massive growth, increasing by 105,852 people. Dallas County grew by 19,774 people. Communities of color drove 100 percent of that growth, while the White population decreased in both counties.
- **Florida:** 90 percent of Florida's statewide population increases took place in communities of color. The population of Miami-Dade County specifically, increased by 64,211 people, and Orange County, home to Orlando, grew by 32,381.
- **Arizona:** More than 98 percent of Arizona's statewide population growth took place in communities of color. The population of Maricopa County specifically, home to Phoenix, increased by 57,471 people and communities of color accounted for 100 percent of that growth.
- **Georgia:** The population of Georgia increased by 116,446 people. Communities of color accounted for 100 percent of the population growth.
- **Utah:** Nearly 74 percent of Utah's statewide growth occurred in communities of color, most of which occurred in the Latino population. The population in Salt Lake City and Utah Counties specifically, saw a population growth of 37,605 people, making up 62% of the state's total growth.

Left Unchecked, Gerrymandering Could Intensify Due to Population Shifts:

Maps in several of the fastest-growing states already unfairly—and illegally—dilute the people's voting power, a problem that could worsen over the next decade as population shifts further exacerbate the impact of extreme partisan gerrymandering in these states. Florida and Texas demonstrate this threat.

In Florida, the state enacted a map that dismantled a long-standing Black opportunity district in the northern part of the state. The Secretary of State, the House of Representatives and the State Senate all admitted in legal filings that this map diminishes the voting power of Black Floridians.

In Texas, the congressional map is being challenged in court for violating the Voting Rights Act of 1965. That map increased the number of majority-white districts and reduced the number of districts where people of color can elect the candidate of their choice, despite the fact that 95% of the state's population growth as reflected in the 2020 Census came from communities of color in the previous decade.

If the status quo remains, these states will likely enact maps that continue to ignore population trends and are drawn to try to lock in political power for Republicans despite those trends, resulting in even more egregious gerrymanders.

ESRI Data Adds Critical Inputs and Provides Reliable Estimates:

These reapportionment forecasts utilize data from ESRI's 2025/2030 Updated Demographics Report, which produces population estimates by integrating census data with multiple sources—USPS delivery data, building permits, real estate transactions, and more—all of which provide additional recent reference material and granular tracking of population changes, especially at the block group level. ESRI's analysis was released on Wednesday, June 25th,

providing the first set of data to explicitly forecast state-level population in the United States in 2030.

Historically, ESRI's population projections have proven more accurate than other projections. In 2010, ESRI correctly predicted the allocation of all 435 congressional districts, while the 2020 ESRI estimates for 2020 Apportionment were only four congressional districts off the official census apportionment numbers (Texas, Arizona, Minnesota, and Rhode Island). In comparison, the estimates from the same year using the Census Bureau's ACS data were six congressional districts off (Texas, Arizona, Florida, New York, Minnesota, Rhode Island).

Conclusion:

Although the national congressional landscape that emerged following the 2020 Census was much fairer than the previous decade, there are fewer competitive seats overall than before. Gerrymanders enacted this decade have led to a historic level of litigation filed by parties interested in both dismantling or protecting gerrymandered maps – legal fights that continue today, halfway through the decade.

Many of the fastest-growing states projected to gain congressional seats are already gerrymandered. Barring additional safeguards, politicians elected in already-gerrymandered state legislative districts, who will draw the new maps, could be poised to unfairly manipulate the partisan balance of the national congressional map.