

Overview of the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program

Maryland Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) and “No Representation Without Population Act”

What Is the Purpose of the Census Redistricting Data Program?

To provide legislatures with small-area census population totals for redistricting.

What Are Its Origins?

Following the “one-person, one-vote” court decisions in 1960’s, state legislatures found 1970 census small geographic areas to have boundaries that did not coincide with voting districts (precinct) lines. This frustrated their efforts to merge local voting behavior data with small-areas census counts to create legislative districts with balanced populations.

The Census Bureau, National Conference of State Legislatures, and state officials began in 1972 to design a 1980 census program to meet this critical need. This cooperative effort was used for planning the 1990, 2000 and 2010 Programs.

What Does Public Law 94-171 Require?

In 1975, Congress enacted Public Law 94-171, which amended the Census Law (Title 13, United States Code) and setup the following requirements:

1. The Census Bureau would inform state governments at least 4 years before each census of technical guidelines they must follow to obtain population totals for their locally defined voting districts (e.g. election precincts).
2. States wishing to participant in this non-partisan, voluntary program would submit to the Census Bureau specific boundaries of their voting districts, following technical criteria established by the Bureau.
3. The Census Bureau must provide small area population totals to the legislature and governor of each state, in a non-partisan manner, by one year after the census (i.e. by April 1, 2011).

What Is the “No Representation Without Population Act”?

In 2010 Maryland General Assembly passed into law HB 496 and SB 400, the *No Representation Without Population Act*, requiring persons incarcerated in Maryland correctional institutions to be counted at their last place of residence before incarceration for the purpose of creating congressional district and state legislative district plans and for county and municipal corporation legislative districts plan.

What Does Maryland Redistricting Data Require?

It will require adjusting Census Public Law 94-171 data based on relocation of the Maryland incarcerated individuals at their last place of residence before incarcerated. This adjusted and updated data will only be used for Redistricting purpose in Maryland.

Program Phases

There are five phases by which the Census Bureau plans to gather and distribute redistricting data by the April 1, deadline.

2010 Census Redistricting Data Program (Public Law 94-171)

Phase 1: State Legislative District Project (SLDP): 2005 - 2006

Key Census Date: February 2005 Federal Register Notice Announced the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program Commencement of Phase 1: The State Legislative District Project (SLDP)

Census Director Invited State Officials to Join Phase 1 of the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program

Purpose was for participating states an opportunity to provide the Census Bureau with their legislative district plans. These new areas were included in the Public Law 94-171 data sets and the American Community Survey data releases starting with five-year releases. All 50 states participated in the delivery of their legislative plans.

In addition, each state had the opportunity to host a roll-out of the 2010 Census plans during Phase 1. These meetings were intended to provide information regarding various programs and timelines for the 2010 Census, allowing states to plan appropriately with this information coming out early in the decade.

Timeline: February 2005 - January 2007

Phase 2 Voting District/Block Boundary Suggestion Project (VTD/BBSP): 2007 - 2009

Key Census Date: April 2007 *Federal register* Notice announced the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program Commencement of Phase 2: The Voting District/Block Boundary Suggestion Project (VTD/BBSP)

Purpose: Participating states got the opportunity to provide the Census Bureau with their Voting District (VTD) boundaries and updates to congressional and legislative districts for inclusion in the Public Law 94-171 data sets. States also submitted block boundary suggestions for inclusion in the 2010 Census block tabulations during this phase of the Redistricting Data Program. A verification phase included for all components (VTD/SLD/congressional) of this phase. Under contract, the Census Bureau produced a software tool, The MAF/TIGER partnership software (MTPs), that states could use to update Voting districts and block boundary suggestions. Both Phase 1 and 2 are voluntary

Timeline: March 2007 - May 2009

Using the MTPs, states had several months to define their voting districts (i.e., wards, election precincts) and suggest block boundaries, Staff in the Census Bureau's 12 regional offices reviewed the shape files submitted by states and incorporate the information into the Census Bureau's geographic database that was used to take the census.

VTD/BBSP Verification: States worked closely with the regional office geographic staff to ensure that the Census Bureau properly included the geographic updates in the MAF/TIGER database.

Key Census Date: APRIL 1, 2010 - Census Day

Phase 3 Delivering the Data: 2011

Key Census Date: April 1, 2011. By law the Census Bureau must deliver population totals for small areas to the governor and legislative leadership in each state no later than April 1, 2011.

Purpose: Under Public Law No. 94-171, the Census Bureau is required to provide each governor and majority and minority leaders of each house of the state legislature with 2010 Census population totals for small area geography, such as counties, American Indian areas, school districts, cities, towns, county subdivisions, census tracts, block groups and blocks. States that participated in Phase 2 of the Redistricting Data Program will receive data summaries for local voting districts (e.g. election precincts). State legislative districts collected nationwide during Phase 1 also will be included in the Public Law 94-171 data files. These 2010 Census Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data will include population totals by race, Hispanic origin, and voting age and housing units by occupied and vacancy status.

These public law data will be accompanied by census maps (in PDF format) showing blocks, census tracts, counties, towns, cities (as of January 1, 2010 corporate limits), county subdivisions, state legislative districts, and voting districts, for participating states. Comparable geographic TIGER/Line[®] Shape files also will be provided to these designated state officials under Public Law 94-171.

Timeline: February 2011 – March 31, 2011

2010 Maryland Law

Adjustment of Population Data for Maryland Redistricting Effort 2011

Upon receiving prison population data from the Department of Safety and Correction, the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Department of Legislative Services will adjust and update 2010 Census Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data in accordance to the Maryland State law Section 8-7010. This new set of data will be certified by Maryland Department of Planning, the Maryland Department of Legislative Services and Maryland Board of Elections for the sole purpose of Redistricting in Maryland.

Timeline: March 2011 – May 2011

Phase 4: Collection of the Post – 2010 Census Redistricting Data Plans: 2012 – 2013

Purpose: The Census Bureau will collect state legislative district and congressional plans from the states for insertion into the Census Bureau's MAF/TIGER database. The Census Bureau will provide geographic and data products for the 113th Congress as well as ongoing data through the American Community Survey. The Census Bureau also will retabulate the 100 percent data for the newly drawn congressional and state legislative districts.

Timeline: Summer 2012

Phase 5: Evaluation and Recommendation for the 2020 Census 2012 – 2014

Purpose: To work with the states in reviewing the efforts made during the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program. States will conduct a review documenting the successes and failures of the Census Bureau to meet the needs of the states as required by Public Law 94-171. A final publication will summarize the view from the states and their recommendations for the 2010 Census.

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