

Census Shows Congressional Districts to Need Revision

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ST PAUL (AP) — Preliminary census figures for 1970 indicate Minnesota's eight congressional districts are badly in need of revision.

Only three of the districts are within 10 percent of the ideal size — 471,251 person — according to figures released Wednesday.

As expected the suburban 3rd District is the farthest out of whack containing 43.7 percent more population than an ideal district.

The Ideal figure is figured by dividing the state population of 7 million, by eight the number of congressmen allotted to Minnesota.

The 1971 legislature will reapportion the districts, creating segments of approximately equal population to reflect a 'one man one vote' apportionment.

Present districts were set up in 1962. In that case, Minnesota lost one congressman but early reports indicate there will be no change in the number of congressional seats following the 1970 census.

Several states in the region may lose a congressman 'apiece' next year however, because other areas of the nation grew faster.

The current 3rd District served by Republican Clark MacGregor has 677,202 people. It takes in suburban Hennepin and Anoka Counties which are among the fastest growing areas of the state.

The two northern districts the 7th and 8th also are far from the ideal in the other direction. Both need about 100,000 additional population to come up to the goal.

These seats are held by Republican Odin Lingen in the 7th and Democrat John Blatnik in the 8th.

The malapportionment will have no effect on this year's elections, in which all incumbents except MacGregor are seeking new terms. MacGregor is running for the U.S. Senate.

The 6th District representative, by Republican John Zwach, is surprisingly close to the ideal even though it contains large rural areas which have lost population. The 6th is only 2.65 percent below the ideal figure.

Here is how the existing congressional districts stack up against the ideal population figure:

- 1st Republican Albert Quie 514,846. too large by 9.25 percent
- 2nd Republican Anchor Nel-mhi 392,968 too small by 16.62 percent
- 3rd Republican Clark MacGregor. 677,202. too large by 43.7 percent.
- 4th. Democrat Joseph Earth: 557,286. too large by 18.21 percent.
- 5th. Democrat Donald Fraser. 431,077. too small by 8.34 percent.
- 6th. Republican John Zwach 458,797 too small by 2.65 percent.
- 7th. Republican Odin Lingen. 368,431 too small by 21.82 percent
- 8th. Democrat John Blatnik. 368,551 too small by 21.80 percent

Fraser's district now includes solely the City of Minneapolis, which has lost population. The next legislature could, if it wished, split up the city among two congressional districts, or hook on a suburb to bring the population up to the ideal.

Hennepin County by itself has enough population for two congressional districts, opening up the possibility of two city-suburban districts.

Ramsey County now linked with Washington County, fib neatly into a district of its own

Possibilities include pushing Anoka and Washington Counties into essentially out-state districts. such as the 1st or Sth.

The makeup of the new districts for the 1972 elections will depend heavily on the outcome of this year s voting. Whichever party wins control of the legislature and the governor s office will be able to add its political flavor to the new apportionment, subject to scrutiny by the courts in case the result is challenged.

In 1961, congressional redistricting was accomplished at a brief special legislative session late in the year. There have been predictions that lawmakers in 1971 will be unable to handle both congressional and legislative reapportionment, and that a special session will again be needed.

However, legislative stalls have already begun preliminary work toward using computers to speed the job.

Letter to the Editor Response

Editor; Dispatch: I am not a resident of your town; I only happened to pick up a copy of your paper while passing through.

In your June 5 editorial, you recommend that Brainerd should increase its population through annexation because you feel that this will help Brainerd financially. I think you ought to reconsider. this position in the light of certain statistics presented by Gus Tyler in an article in the Saturday Review (November 8, 1969). He mentions studies which have shown that when the gross income of a city rises 100 per cent, revenue rises only 90 per cent, while expenditures rise 110 per cent. Thus, as a city grows, its budget problems get worse instead of better.

This is only one of the ways in which growing centralization is creating problems in this country. Instead of encouraging your city to grow, you should realize how lucky you are to live in a small town! I have lived most of my life in or near big cities, and I wish I could get away from them. I know many other big city residents who feel the same way.

Theodore J. Kaczynski
Lombard, Ill.

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