

*Texas Water Conservation Association  
2010  
Mid-Year Conference  
June 9 – 11, 2010*



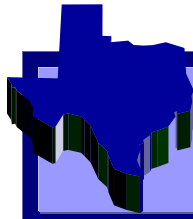
## **Decennial Redistricting in Texas**

**Presented By: David Méndez**

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## **Overview**

- Changes Texas Demographics
- Redistricting Issues
  - State level
  - Local Government level



## Texas: Population Growth

### Texas Population

- 2000 Population:
  - **20,851,820**
  
- 2009 Estimated Population:
  - **24,782,302**
  - **18.8% Increase**

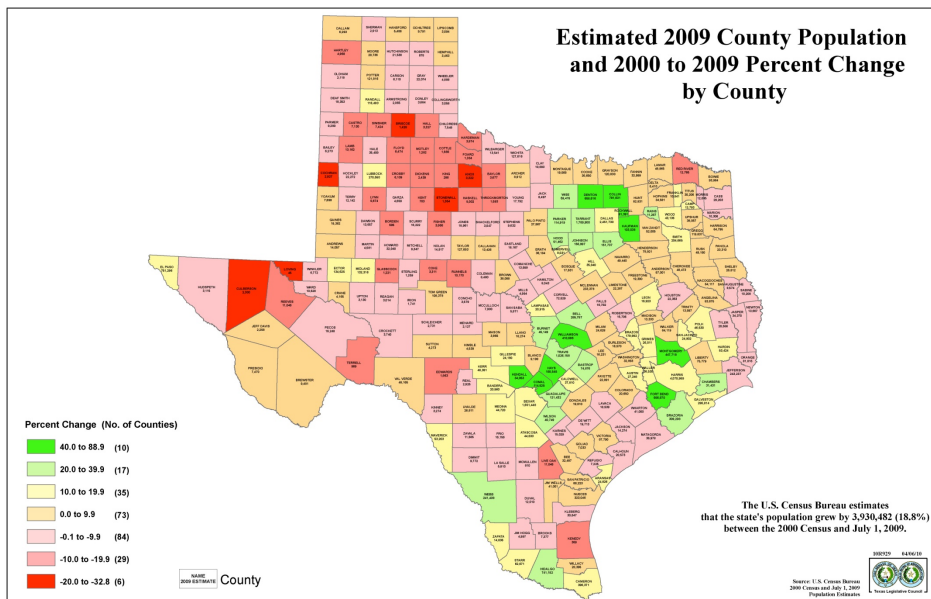
## Adult Hispanic Citizenship Levels in Major Texas Cities

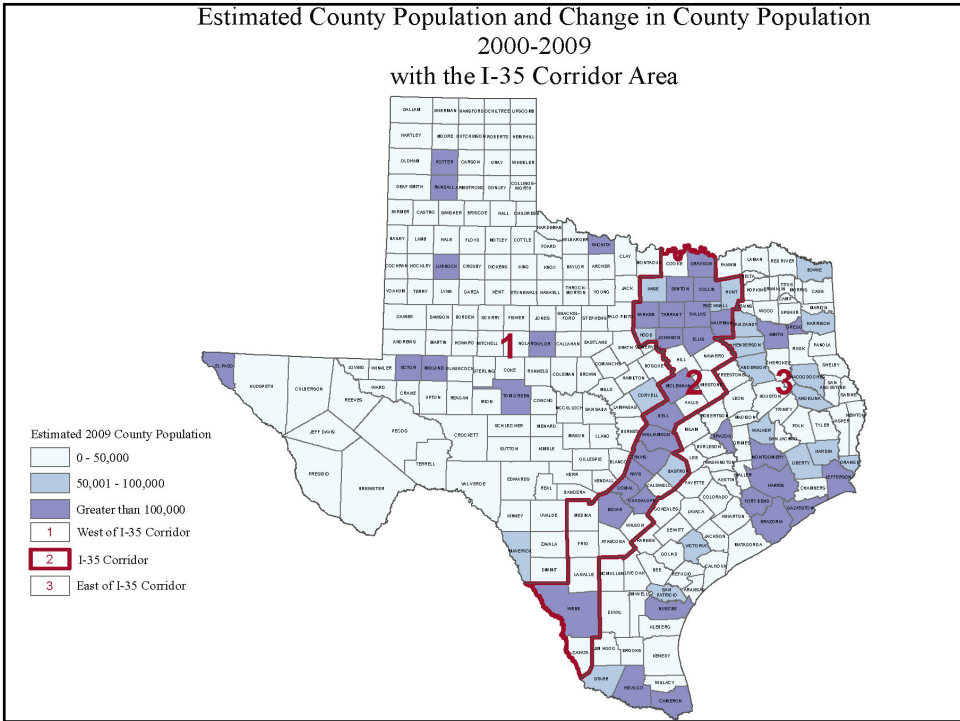
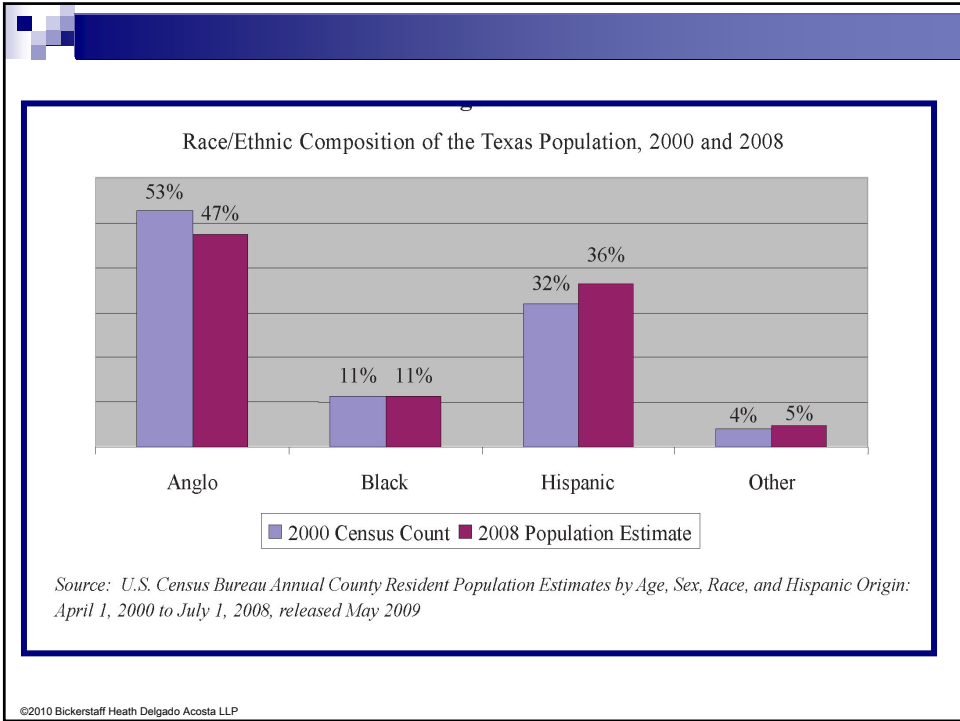
	Total Hispanic 18 and Above	Hispanic Non-Citizen 18 and Above	Percent Hispanic Non-Citizen
<b>Dallas</b>	338,362	200,522	59.26%
<b>Houston</b>	559,789	299,525	53.51%


Data Set: **2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates**  
 Survey: American Community Survey  
 The figures reported do not include reported Margins of Error (MOE).

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## Estimated 2009 County Population and 2000 to 2009 Percent Change by County





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- During the last decade, most growth in Texas has occurred in South Texas, along the Interstate-35 corridor, or next to major metropolitan counties.
  - The Panhandle and rural West and rural East Texas grew more slowly.
  - Only a few of Texas' 254 counties are expected to have lost population or not to have grown at all.
  - According to the Census Bureau, 10 of the 25 fastest-growing U.S. counties are in Texas: **Harris, Tarrant, Bexar, Collin, Dallas, Travis, Fort Bend, Denton, Williamson, and Hidalgo.**
  - The recent recession has slowed the growth of suburban areas somewhat by decreasing movement away from large, established cities.

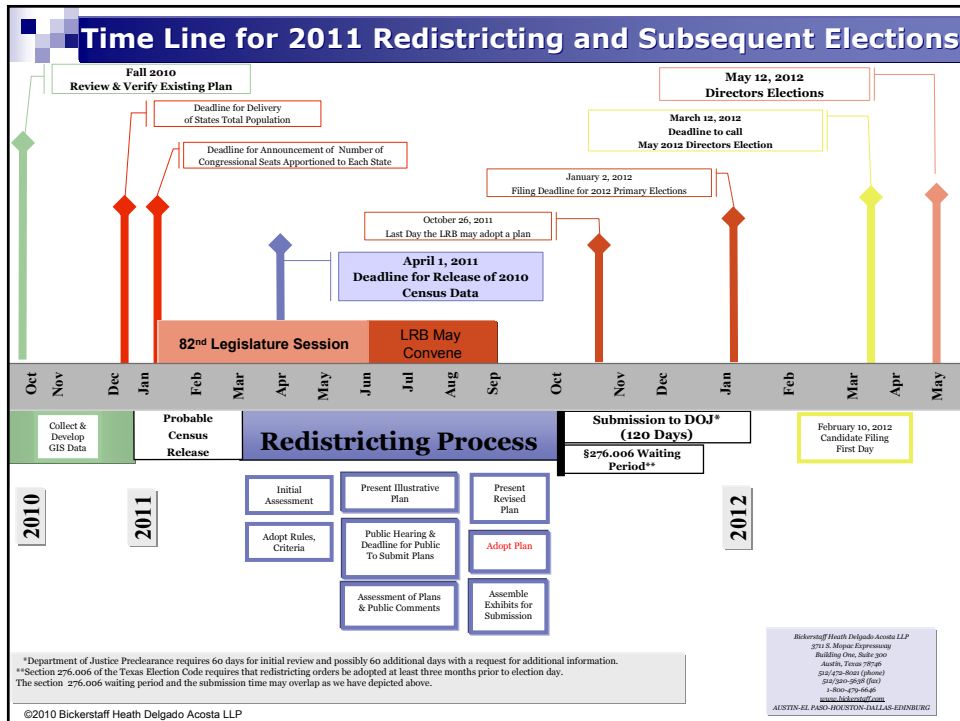
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- Two factors are behind Texas' population growth — net migration into the state and a high birth rate.
  - The biggest contributing factor to Texas' growth is net migration, both domestic and foreign, to Texas.
  - Texas also has a high rate of natural growth, which means more births than deaths.
  - Almost three-fourths of Texas' recent population growth is attributable to increases in racial and ethnic minorities, who account for most of the migration and Texas' high birth rate, according to the Texas State Data Center

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# ■ Redistricting Issues

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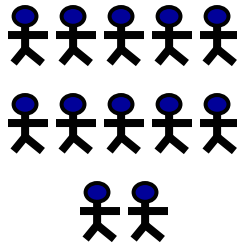
## State Redistricting Responsibilities

- Congressional Districts
- Senate Districts
- House Districts
- State Board of Education Districts (SBOE)

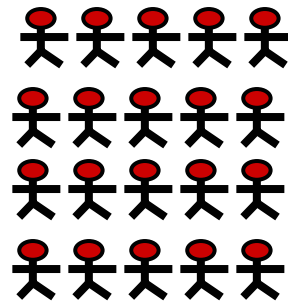
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## Texas Congressional Districts

12 Democrat  
Congressional Districts



20 Republican  
Congressional Districts



Possible 3 New Districts:



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# Texas Congressional Districts

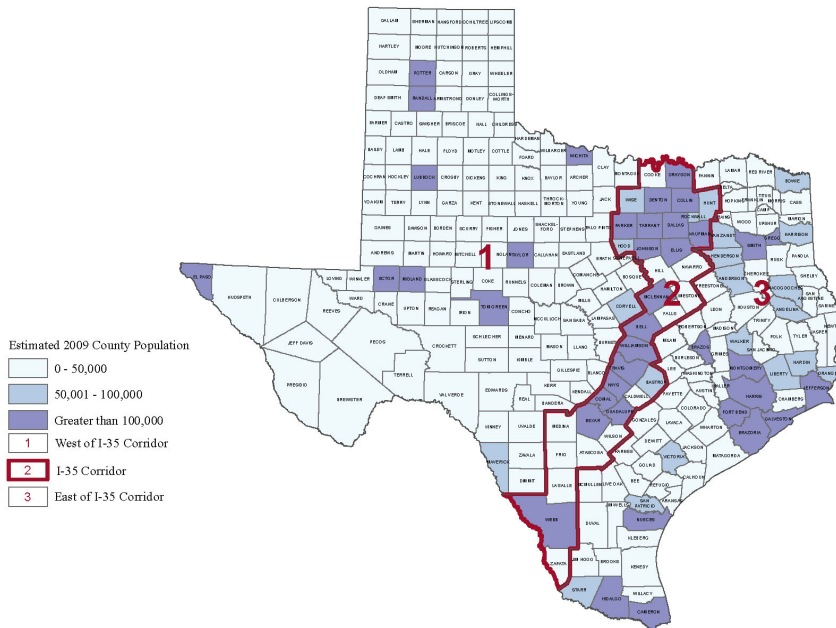


Texas Congressional District Size

**651,620 Persons**

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## Estimated County Population and Change in County Population 2000-2009 with the I-35 Corridor Area



## Who Gets To Draw?

- State Legislature
- Legislative Redistricting Board (LRB)
- Courts

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## Legislative Redistricting Board

- Lieutenant Governor
- Speaker of the House
- Attorney General
- Comptroller
- Land Commissioner
  - Section 28, Article III, of the Texas Constitution requires the board to meet within 90 days of the end of that regular session and, within 60 days of convening, adopt its own house or senate plan to fill the void left by the legislature's failure

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## Other Entities That Must Redistrict in Texas

- Counties (Commissioner Precincts)
- Cities with ward or single member district structures
- School and College Districts with single member districts
- Some Utility Districts with single member district structures (Many are hybrid systems that may not be affected)

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## Law of Redistricting - Legal Principles

- One person – one vote requirement
- Requirements under Voting Rights Act of 1965
  - Section 5 coverage
  - Section 2 protection (minority voters)
- Fourteenth Amendment/*Shaw v. Reno* requirements
- State election law

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## Calculating Deviation

Ideal Size	District 1 Total Population	District 2 Total Population	District 3 Total Population	District 4 Total Population	Deviation
10,000	9,500	10,000	10,200	10,300	8%
	500 less	Exact	200 More	300 More	
	-5.00%	0.00%	+2.00%	+3.00%	
	+3.00% + (-5.00%) = 8.00%				

Highest Positive Percent + Highest Negative Percent = Maximum Deviation

$$\left[ \frac{\text{Total Population} - \text{Ideal Size}}{\text{Ideal Size}} \times 100 \right]$$

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## Requirements Under Voting Rights Act of 1965

- Section 5 coverage – applicable to Texas November 1, 1972.
  - Imposes preclearance obligations
- Section 2 coverage - cause of action for violation of rights of protected minority class.

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## Voting Rights Implications For Districts with At-Large Governance Structures

- Potential Challenges to At-Large Systems based on population changes and electoral performance of District.
- Opportunities for districts to determine if single member district structure is appropriate.

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