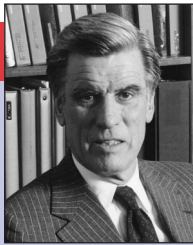




From the National Director



Every ten years, following the decennial census, the NCEC assumes an important responsibility which, when added to all our other political work, imposes a considerable burden on our time and resources.

Yet, it is a burden we shoulder with enthusiasm. If we persevere, we can block our opponents, the regressive right wing, from gaining strength through the manipulation and gerrymandering of congressional district boundaries which they haven't been able to win in national elections.

NCEC is uniquely qualified to lead this fight. Our national bank of electoral and demographic data by precinct does not exist elsewhere. Our professional expertise at interpreting, analyzing and applying this information politically is acknowledged as unmatched.

Simply put: Republicans try to isolate and concentrate minority voters and less fortunate Americans who generally support Democrats in a limited number of congressional districts to reduce their representation and political influence. NCEC produces redistricting plans and maps that treat all Americans equally and fairly.

As this process unfolds over the coming months it will be like hand to hand combat. We will try to give you a blow by blow account.

NCEC is Blocking GOP Attempt to Grab Power by Gerrymandering

In the coming months, NCEC will play a central role in the redistricting process. This process will establish the future political landscape. Successful redistricting is the key to Democratic control of the House not only in 2002, but also for the next ten years. With Congress so closely divided, the redrawing of Congressional districts will have a powerful impact on the political balance of power. It is one battle we cannot afford to lose. NCEC played a pivotal role in both 1982 and 1992 redistricting. Once again, we are committed to stop the radical right from grabbing through gerrymandering what voters wouldn't give them at the polls.

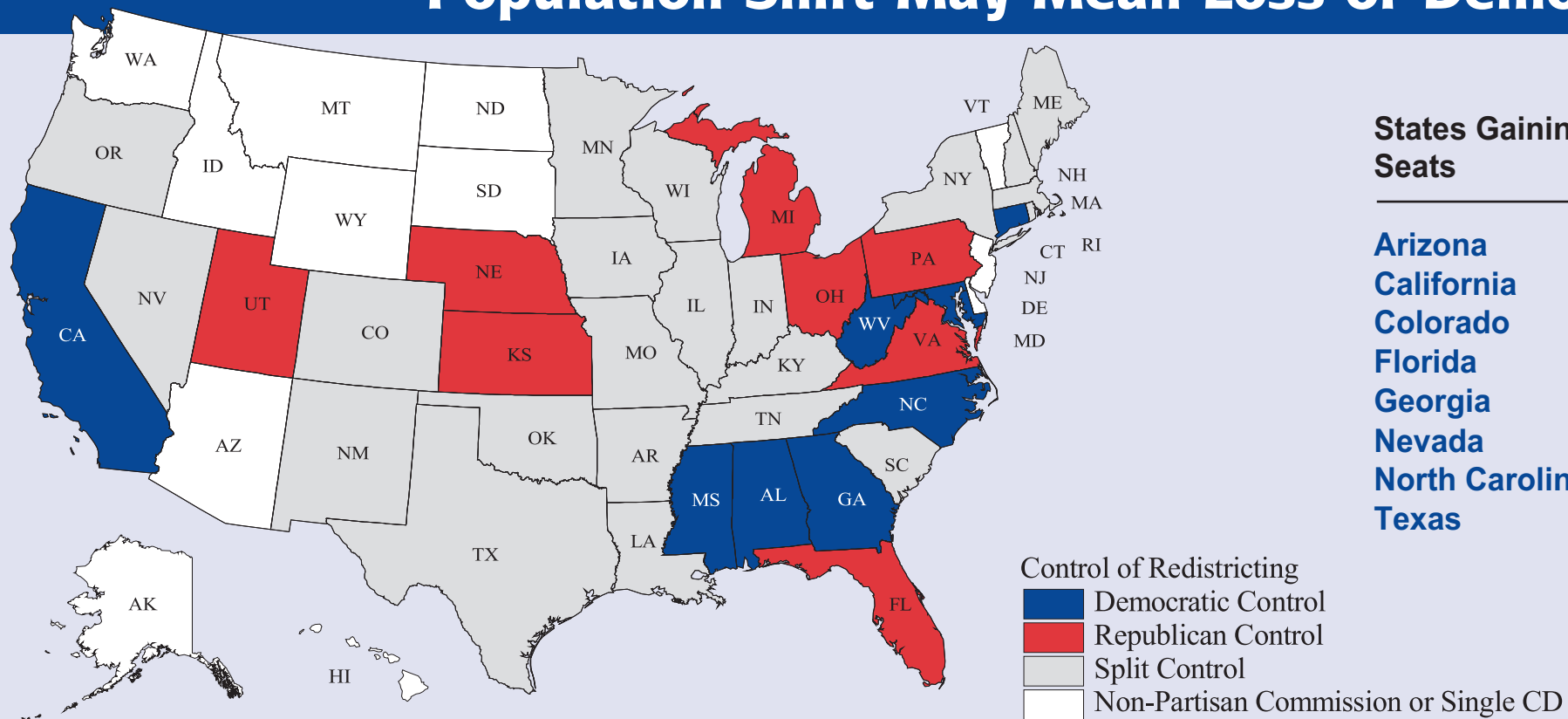
"Every day progressive Democrats are grateful for the National Committee for an Effective Congress. NCEC makes the difference between victory and defeat in close elections. Every decade we are especially thankful to have NCEC on our side. NCEC's data bank of electoral and demographic data and their extraordinary expertise keep Republicans from grabbing districts through gerrymandering that they can't win in elections."

**Representative Martin Frost
Democratic Caucus Chairman**

As a result of the 2000 census and reapportionment, 18 states will see their number of representatives in the U.S. House change in 2002. The nation's population has continued to shift from the Northeast and Midwest to the South and West. Total population increased by 31.7 million (13.2%) since 1990 with three quarters of the growth in Southern and Western states. This translates into a shift of 10 House seats from the Northeast and Midwest to the South and West.

continued on page 2

Population Shift May Mean Loss of Democratic House Seats



| States Gaining Seats | | | States Losing Seats | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------------|---------------------|-------|-------------|
| | Seats | 2000 Winner | | Seats | 2000 Winner |
| Arizona | +2 | Bush | Illinois | -1 | Gore |
| California | +1 | Gore | Indiana | -1 | Bush |
| Colorado | +1 | Bush | Massachusetts | -1 | Gore |
| Florida | +2 | Bush | Michigan | -1 | Gore |
| Georgia | +2 | Bush | Mississippi | -1 | Bush |
| Nevada | +1 | Bush | New York | -2 | Gore |
| North Carolina | +1 | Bush | Ohio | -1 | Bush |
| Texas | +2 | Bush | Oklahoma | -1 | Bush |
| | | | Pennsylvania | -2 | Gore |
| | | | Wisconsin | -1 | Gore |

The starting point for redistricting is the “head count” from the 2000 Census. However, the numbers are far from perfect. The first partisan blow struck by the new Bush administration was to disallow a method of statistical sampling which would have produced a fair and accurate population count, particularly of members of minority groups and the urban poor. All non-partisan organizations protested but Bush showed his disdain of the constitutional principal of one-person, one-vote and upheld the process that undercounted 6.4 million citizens. (see “Bush Supporters...” on page 4)

The fundamental problem we face is that states and districts with the greatest population growth tend to be Republican. As a result of reapportionment, states carried by Al Gore in 2000 lost a net of seven House seats to states carried by George W. Bush. Congressional districts currently represented by Democrats gained an average of 55,000 persons while districts represented by Republicans gained 95,000. And Democrats represent 25 of the 33 districts that lost population. The consequence of this shift is that

several Democratic districts will be merged and many others will have to absorb adjacent Republican territory. The way these lines are drawn will determine the makeup of the US House for the next decade.

Beyond the problems with population counts, Democrats face another serious handicap with the dramatic increase in states where Republicans control the redistricting process. (see graph on page 4)

Although these population trends are national in nature the results will be decided state-by-state. Democrats can see both pitfalls and opportunities.

For example, Republicans are planning to run roughshod over three key “Rust Belt” states which lose a total of four seats. Conservatives control the process in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio where they are proposing to pack minorities into a few districts, thereby isolating them and reducing their influence in Congress. NCEC is developing a legal strategy to prevent this disenfranchising of minority voters.

In Virginia, the right wing Republicans now in control have already forced through a state legislative plan that

puts 13 Democratic state legislators into districts with other Democrats. Governor and GOP party chairman, Jim Gilmore and his cronies in the legislature can be expected to use the same tactics when Virginia’s congressional boundaries are redrawn this summer. In Florida Jeb Bush and Kathleen Harris are expected to continue the overtly partisan tactics employed in the Presidential vote recount and deliver the two new seats to the GOP.

On the other hand, Democrats have opportunities to level the playing field in Georgia and Arizona. Democrats are grossly underrepresented in both delegations and have the opportunity to improve their representation. In Arizona, the six-seat delegation includes only one Democrat. With two new seats in 2002, we have an opportunity to make the playing field a little more even. In Georgia, Democrats hold only 3 of the 11 Congressional districts, in spite of the fact that both Senators and the Governor are Democrats. With Georgia also gaining two seats, there are opportunities for Democrats.

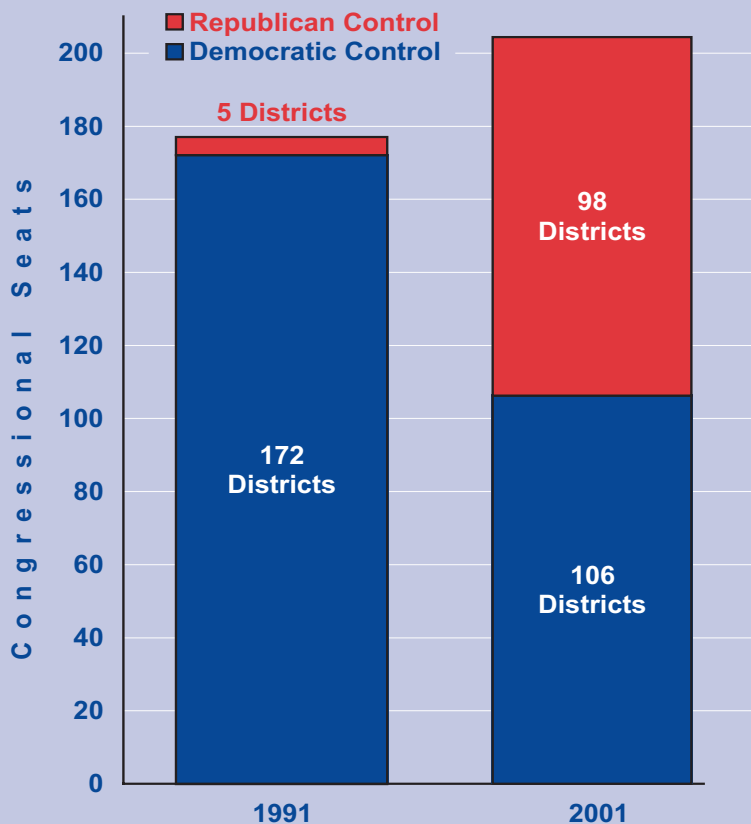
California picks up one more seat, and the growth in

the Hispanic population should translate into gains for the Democrats. North Carolina gains a seat and presents yet another opportunity to undo GOP gerrymandering. Republicans will not be able to keep Democrats tightly packed in a few districts anymore.

NCEC will have to shoulder a heavy burden in the coming months if we are to defend against Republican efforts to gerrymander districts and distort the electoral process. Progressives in Congress are relying on NCEC’s data bank of electoral and demographic information on the nation’s 200,000 election precincts. This unique resource and NCEC’s expertise put us in the front line of defense against Republican efforts to gain political advantage through devious gerrymandering. The GOP strategy is to concentrate minority voters, who generally vote Democratic, into as few districts as possible, thereby reducing minority representation in Congress.

Redistricting will continue for another year. Future issues of the Election Update will report on the process and results in individual states.

Loss of Control of State Legislatures Will Cost Democrats Redistricting Advantage



Because of significant GOP gains in state houses and population shifts to GOP states, Democrats face the prospect that Republicans control redistricting in many more states than they did ten years ago. In 1991, Republicans controlled the process in only 5 districts, compared with 172 districts for Democrats. Currently, Republicans dominate the process in 98 seats while Democrats control 106 seats. This factor alone guarantees that House Democrats will rely increasingly on NCEC's technical expertise to balance the GOP advantage.

Bush Supports Faulty Census Numbers for Redistricting

One of the greatest concerns about redistricting is that the census missed at least 6.4 million Americans in 2000. A disturbingly high portion of those ignored by the census are minorities and the urban poor. For example, in 1990 the percentage of African Americans and Hispanics left out of the count was five times higher than the number of whites. Conversely, the 3.1 million Americans who were counted twice are disproportionately middle and upper-income families with vacation homes. The census undercount denies minorities adequate representation in Congress. Republicans are supporting the use of faulty census numbers to distort the political process, ignore the will of the people, and grab additional seats in Congress. The Bush administration has mandated the use of the flawed "head count" for redistricting instead of the more accurate numbers provided by the US Census Monitoring Board. Gilbert F. Casellas, Presidential Co-Chair of the Monitoring Board, expressed the feeling of many when he recently remarked, "why can't we fix the problem if we have the means to do so?" The use of statistical sampling to provide a more accurate count is supported by many non-partisan organizations, such as the National Academy of Sciences. After the election controversy in Florida, it is clear that the radical right has no concern for the Constitutional principal of "one-person, one-vote," but in fighting to keep minorities from being accurately counted, they have reached a new low.