



From the National Director

At the NCEC, getting on with our life is no great problem. Despite the despicable terrorist attacks and the dark cloud of suspicion and fear that hangs over America, in one year we will hold one of the most important elections in our history. Next November we will decide whether the Democratic Party will be in the majority and control the congressional agenda at a time of national crisis, or will that power rest in the hands of right wing Republicans like Trent Lott, Orrin Hatch, Dick Armey and Tom DeLay?

We have been stunned by events but not stunned into inactivity. The process of redrawing congressional district lines, which will help determine the partisan makeup of the U.S. House for the next decade, continues into 2002. NCEC's national, precinct-by-precinct, bank of electoral and demographic data and our special expertise put us in the first line of defense against GOP gerrymandering. In this Election Update we bring you up to date on our progress. And the

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NCEC's Unique Data Bank and Expertise Critical to Prevent GOP Gerrymander.

Although NCEC is in the thick of the redistricting process, it is still uncertain if one party will benefit more than the other. As it stands, it appears as if the parties will achieve rough parity at the end of the process. At press time, twelve states have completed the congressional redistricting process: Arkansas, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia. Four other states await Justice Department "pre-clearance" before their maps can go into effect: California, Georgia, Louisiana, and Michigan.



ONLINE
more information
on Congressional
Redistricting

Democrats. California's new plan could yield one new Democratic seat, while Georgia's could produce three. More plans are expected in the upcoming months, and future issues of *Election Update* will report on them. A state-by-state analysis of redistricting in completed states begins on page 2.

For complete and up-to-date information visit NCEC's Redistricting Resource Center at www.NCEC.org/redistricting. As always you can call our office at 1-800-547-5911 and speak with a staff member.

The congressional plans that have already passed have proven friendly to incumbents, essentially preserving the boundaries in Arkansas, Idaho, Missouri, Nebraska, Virginia, and West Virginia. In states with new seats, however, both parties will closely monitor the 2002 elections. Nevada's new Third District could go either way, as it is split evenly between registered Republicans and

NCEC Progress Report on Congressional Redistricting in Completed States

Arkansas Republicans Ire over New Maps

107th Congress Seats	.4
108th Congress Seats	.4
Prospective Outcome	=

In April 2001, the Arkansas legislature approved a plan devised by the state Senate. The Democratic body sought chiefly to preserve the old congressional boundaries; however, the disgruntled Republican minority protested, arguing that the legislature should draw a plan to even out the population deviations between the districts. Republican Governor Mike Huckabee allowed the plan to go into effect without his signature, a tactic he uses when he opposes a bill. Three Democrats and one Republican currently represent Arkansas.

California Shields its Incumbents

107th Congress Seats	.52
108th Congress Seats	.53
Prospective Outcome	+1 Dem

The new congressional plan may have shifted some boundaries and changed some district numbers; however, it largely protects incumbents. Both parties favor the plan, as it allows the Democrats to retain the majority in the legislature and congressional delegation, while permitting the Republicans to maintain their current numbers. The only two members harmed by the plan are the beleaguered 18th District Democrat Gary Condit and moderate Republican Steve Horn of the 38th District. Condit has yet to say whether he will run again, but Horn has already announced his retirement at the end of his current term.

Georgia Democrats Celebrate Increased Opportunities

107th Congress Seats	.11
108th Congress Seats	.13
Prospective Outcome	+3 Dem

Georgia Democrats are delighted with the new map approved by the Legislature on September 28 and subsequently signed by Governor Roy Barnes. Although Republicans have the majority in the congressional delegation (8 to 3), a new map may put several GOP representatives in jeopardy.

After seeing that the new map would have pitted him against First District Republican Jack Kingston, Republican Representative Saxby Chambliss of the Eighth District has decided to run for Senate against Democrat incumbent Max Cleland in 2002. Polls show Cleland ahead of Chambliss in the senatorial contest.

Idaho Commission Approves Democratic Maps

107th Congress Seats	.2
108th Congress Seats	.2
Prospective Outcome	=

On August 22, 2001, Idaho's redistricting commission passed new congressional and legislative maps. Idaho has only two districts, represented by Republicans C.L. "Butch" Otter and Mike Simpson. Otter's 1st District grew more than Simpson's, and the new map reflects this reality. The new congressional boundary cuts through Boise and Ada counties, removing many Boise voters now in Representative Otter's 1st Congressional District into the 2nd District. About two-thirds of Boise will be in the 2nd District, which includes eastern and southern Idaho.

Illinois: Where Will Phelps Run?

107th Congress Seats	.20
108th Congress Seats	.19
Prospective Outcome	.?

In May, the Illinois legislature passed a map that creates ten Republican districts and nine Democratic districts. Illinois lost a seat with the release of 2000 Census data; therefore, one member's seat had to be eliminated. The member in question is David Phelps, who will either run against Republican John Shimkus of the new 19th or Republican Tim Johnson of the new 15th. In either case, Phelps is a near perfect fit for these culturally conservative districts.

Another Democrat, Rod Blagojevich of the 5th District, will run for governor in 2002. Former White House Political Advisor Rahm Emanuel is among several who will run to retain this seat for the Democrats.

Indiana: GOP Incumbents Face-Off

107th Congress Seats	.10
108th Congress Seats	.9
Prospective Outcome	-1 Rep

With the elimination of a congressional district, Republicans in Indiana confront the reality that two incumbents will face off in 2002. Democrats control the redistricting process in Indiana; therefore, they placed Congressman Steve Buyer of the old 5th District and Brian Kerns of the old 7th District into the new 4th District. Another incumbent, Democrat Tim Roemer of the old 3rd District, has announced that he would retire at the end of this term. Several candidates have already entered the race to replace him, including ex-congresswoman Jill Long Thompson (D), state Senator Bill Alexa (D), and 2000 Republican nominee Chris Chocola.

Iowa's New Plan Forces Incumbents to Move

107th Congress Seats	.5
108th Congress Seats	.5
Prospective Outcome	=

Iowa's legislature passed the congressional redistricting bill on June 19, 2001, which Democratic Governor Tom Vilsack signed into law on June 22, 2001. The plan placed two Republican congressmen, Jim Nussle and Jim Leach, into the new 1st District. Leach formerly represented the 1st District; however, 70% of Nussle's old constituency now lives in the new 1st District. Accordingly, Leach will run in the new 2nd district rather than face Nussle in a primary battle. Nussle will almost certainly face a strong general election battle. There was some initial speculation that Leonard Boswell, the only Democratic member of Iowa's congressional delegation, would run in the Democratic-leaning 2nd; however, he has decided to stay in the 3rd district.

The 5th District will be open in the 2002 elections, as Republican Congressman Greg Ganske of the old 4th District has decided to run for Senate against Tom Harkin. Already, several Republican hopefuls have announced that they are running for the seat. Only one Democrat, Council City Bluffs Councilor Paul Shomshor, has said that he will run.

Louisiana Debate Rages Late into the Night

107th Congress Seats	.7
108th Congress Seats	.7
Prospective Outcome	=

Late on October 15, 2001, the Louisiana legislature passed congressional redistricting bill HB2, a product of hours of intense debate. Governor Mike Foster had had to call a special session for the sole purpose of redrawing the districts, as the legislature could not devise a plan in the regular session. Not everyone is pleased with the map. Members of the Legislative Black Caucus pledged to file suit against the plan, as it lacks a second majority-black congressional district even though black residents are one-third of the state's population.

Michigan GOP Anticipate Big Wins

107th Congress Seats	.16
108th Congress Seats	.15
Prospective Outcome	-3 Dem/+2 Rep

On September 11, 2001, Republican Governor John Engler signed a congressional redistricting bill that, if it stands, will help his party in the 2002 elections. Michigan lost a congressional district after the release of 2000 Census data, and because Republicans control the entire redistricting process, they sought to place incumbent Democrats in the same districts. Democrats brought the plan to federal court in July, contending that the map constituted a racial gerrymander. They have vowed to bring more lawsuits if need be.

In the event that the Democrat's suit fails, the GOP claims that it will win nine of the state's fifteen seats. Already, one Democrat, David Bonior of the 10th District, has announced his retirement to run for governor. It is not yet certain how the suit will turn out; please continue to visit the www.NCEC.org for details.

"NCEC's technical campaign resources are unique and have become indispensable to running an effective, modern political campaign. I don't know what we would do without NCEC."

Missouri Incumbents Rally Around Plan

107th Congress Seats	.9
108th Congress Seats	.9
Prospective Outcome	=

Missouri's legislature passed a congressional redistricting plan on May 16, 2001 that received bipartisan support. On June 1, Governor Bob Holden signed the bill into law. The new plan is incumbent friendly. Eight of the nine members of the Missouri US House delegation approved of the map, with Republican Representative Todd Akin of the 2nd District being the lone dissenter.

Nebraska Remains the Same

107th Congress Seats	.3
108th Congress Seats	.3
Prospective Outcome	=

On May 29, 2001, the unicameral legislature passed a congressional redistricting plan favorable to Republicans. Nebraska's three districts have largely remained unchanged since the 1960s.

New Mexico in Search of a Plan

107th Congress Seats	.3
108th Congress Seats	.3
Prospective Outcome	+1 Dem/-1 Rep

On October 3, Republican Governor Gary Johnson vetoed a congressional redistricting plan passed by the Democratic Legislature. He was probably influenced by Second District Republican Joe Skeen's declaration that he would retire if Johnson signed the bill into law. Skeen and First District Republican Heather Wilson feared that the proposed map would hurt their re-election chances. Meanwhile, two groups of Republicans, one group of Democrats, and a Hispanic voting-rights group are filing separate suits to petition courts to draw the new districts. Stay tuned for updates.

Rep. Martin Frost,
Democratic Caucus Chairman (Democrat, Texas)

Oregon Showdown in Court

107th Congress Seats	.5
108th Congress Seats	.5
Prospective Outcome	=

On October 19, a circuit court judge approved a congressional redistricting map backed by Oregon Democrats. The judge had to decide between a Republican sponsored map and the Democratic plan. Although the plans were very similar, state Republicans have promised to fight the map.

Tortuous Course of Texas Redistricting

107th Congress Seats	.30
108th Congress Seats	.32
Prospective Outcome	=

Recent events in Texas demonstrate the byzantine nature of redistricting. Although the legislature has the responsibility of drawing the congressional lines, they failed to do so by the end of the regular session. It was Governor Rick Perry's prerogative to call a special session to tackle redistricting, but he believed that the feuding legislators could never come to an agreement. The Republican Texas Supreme Court therefore assigned the task of redrawing the map to a Democrat Judge Paul Davis. In early September, hearings to draw the new map began.

After almost a month of hearings, Judge Davis handed down his decision on October 3, 2001. Under this map several Democratic incumbents could have been adversely affected. On October 10, however, Judge Davis released a new version of the map that included a number of amendments in response to numerous comments regarding the fairness of the districts. The new plan was to be challenged in federal court; however, on October 19, the Texas Supreme Court threw out this new map. Now a three-judge federal panel will draw the districts from scratch.

Utah versus North Carolina

107th Congress Seats	.3
108th Congress Seats	.3
Prospective Outcome	=

Utah's Republican Governor Mike Leavitt signed two congressional redistricting plans on October 11, 2001. One was a three-district plan, the other a four-district

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GOP House Members Hoping to Move to Senate

With the 2002 elections only 12 months away, several Republican representatives are making a bid for the Senate. GOP lawmakers see this as their best shot at regaining the majority status.

Over the past few months, five GOP members have announced their intentions to run for Senate. While Lindsey Graham of South Carolina's 3rd District is running to replace the redoubtable Strom Thurmond, John Cooksey of Louisiana's 5th District, Greg Ganske of Iowa's 4th District, South Dakota's Representative At-large John Thune, and Saxby Chambliss of Georgia's 8th District have entered the fray

to face off against supposedly vulnerable incumbents.

Representative Cooksey believes he can beat Louisiana's freshman Senator Mary Landrieu. Landrieu won by a 5,788-vote margin in 1996; however, recent polls have her with a thirty-point lead over Cooksey. Furthermore, as he faces a tough primary battle from Elections Commissioner Susan Terrell, Cooksey has not raised the kind of funds needed to mount an energetic battle against Landrieu.

Another incumbent being challenged by a GOP House member is Iowa's three-term incumbent Tom Harkin. Harkin

Without NCEC, progressive candidates would have to turn to commercial political consultants and pay tens of thousands of dollars for what NCEC provides at absolutely no cost. Their state-of-the-art technical campaign services give candidates the 'right tools to fight the Right.' 🗳️

Senator Tom Harkin,
(Democrat, Iowa)

has won each of his elections by close margins – in 1984, he won 55% of the vote, in 1990, 54%, and in 1996, 52%. Iowa, however, has a history of close elections. Indeed, Gore won Iowa by a mere 4,144 votes; therefore, Harkin's narrow victories merely reflect political realities in his state.

South Dakota's Representative John Thune announced October 8 that he is running against Tim Johnson. Johnson won the 1996 election by 8,579 votes; however, Johnson is a proven vote-getter in this largely Republican state. He has won more statewide races in South Dakota than any other Democrat, serving five terms in the US House.

Finally, Georgia's Representative Saxby Chambliss confirmed on October 15 that he will run against sitting Senator Max Cleland in 2002. The map produced by the Democratic Legislature was unkind to Chambliss, potentially placing him in a district with fellow Republican Jack Kingston. Although Cleland won only 48.8% of the vote in 1996, he is leading Chambliss in pre-election polls by comfortable margins.

The 2002 Senate elections should provide some interesting battles. Please read future newsletters for the latest on these exciting races!

Latest Developments in 2002 Senate Races

Below is the current assessment of the 2002 Senate races. Please read NCEC's January 2002 newsletter for further updates!

DEMOCRATS MUST DEFEND 14 SEATS

Safe Democratic (6)

Biden (DE)
Durbin (IL)
Kerry (MA)
Levin (MI)
Reed (RI)
Rockefeller (WV)

Leans Democratic (6)

Baucus (MT)
Carnahan (MO)
Cleland (GA)
Harkin (IA)
Landrieu (LA)
Torricelli (NJ)

Toss-up (2)

Johnson (SD)
Wellstone (MN)

REPUBLICANS MUST DEFEND 20 SEATS

Safe Republican (11)

Cochran (MS)
Craig (ID)
Domenici (NM)
Enzi (WY)
Hagel (NE)
Inhofe (OK)
McConnell (KY)
Roberts (KS)
Stevens (AK)
Thompson (TN)
Warner (VA)

Leans Republican (7)

Allard (CO)
Collins (ME)
Gramm (TX) - open seat
Helms (NC) - open seat
Sessions (AL)
Smith (OR)
Thurmond (SC) - open seat

Toss-up (2)

Hutchinson (AR)
Smith (NH)

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Missouri's Jim Talent Plans Senate Bid

St. Louis County Republican and former US Representative Jim Talent formally announced his intention to run for Senate in 2002. Talent ran for governor last year and narrowly lost to Democrat Bob Holden. His opponent may be acting Senator Jean Carnahan widow of former Governor Mel Carnahan. Mrs. Carnahan has not formally declared her candidacy; however, she has already raised more than \$2.3 million for a re-election bid.

New Hampshire: GOP Showdown in the Granite State

On October 15, 2001, Representative John Sununu of New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District confirmed that he is challenging Bob Smith for the Republican Senate nomination next year. Asserting that he will be "a temperate and deliberate vote" in the Senate, Sununu, a three-term representative, will run against one of the Senate's most conservative members. Smith angered many in the GOP by briefly quitting the party in 1999 to run for president as an independent. A divisive primary fight between these two conservatives could prove beneficial for the presumed Democratic nominee, Governor Jeanne Shaheen.

North Carolina Senate Race to Feature Political VIPs

On October 3, former Clinton Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles announced his intention to run for Senate in North Carolina. Bowles initially declined the offer from state and national Democrats to run for the seat being vacated by conservative stalwart Jesse Helms. He will now join state Representative Dan Blue and Secretary of State Elaine Mitchell for the Democratic nomination. If Bowles wins the nomination, he will probably face off against Elizabeth Dole.

plan. The three-district plan splits Salt Lake County between Republican Chris Cannon of the 3rd District and Jim Matheson of the 2nd District. The four-member plan divides the county between the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Districts.

Utah's legislature drew two maps because the state believes the Census Bureau erred in not awarding Utah a 4th Congressional District. On January 1, 2001, Utah filed suit against the Census Bureau, claiming that the census's failure to count 11,000 Mormon missionaries overseas cost the state the district, which instead went to North Carolina. In addition, the Bureau's figuring federal military and civil-service employees living abroad into a state's apportionment population, but not the missionaries, constituted an abridgement of the Mormons' constitutional rights. Currently, Utah is arguing its case before a three-judge federal panel.

Virginia Redistricting: Racial Gerrymander?

107th Congress Seats . . . 11
 108th Congress Seats . . . 11
 Prospective Outcome . . . =

On July 11, the Virginia General Assembly passed a congressional redistricting plan to redraw Virginia's eleven districts. Little changed from the 1991 map. Democrats, however, have already made the charge of racial gerrymandering, as the Republican plan reduces the percentage of African Americans in the 4th District from 39% to 34%. On October 16, however, the Justice Department approved the map. If the additional information supporting the claim of racial gerrymandering comes to light, the Justice Department may further review the plan.

latest developments in the Senate races will give you a snapshot of the challenge we face over the next months and how much we depend upon your support.

President Bush tells us that the war on global terrorism could last years. As time goes on and we don't see significant progress and we don't feel that our cities, water, planes and children are better protected, how does America respond?

One thing is certain: during this period of national crisis we must have a majority in the U.S. Senate and House of men and women who are as firmly committed to the support and protection of our constitutional democracy as they are to the apprehension and punishment of the criminals who would engage in terrorism and murder.

The NCEC can make a difference. We are committed to preventing self-righteous, irresponsible, right wing politicians from dominating our government. We need your help.

West Virginia Changes Little

107th Congress Seats . . . 3
 108th Congress Seats . . . 3
 Prospective Outcome . . . =

On September 24, a redistricting bill went to Democrat Governor Bob Wise, who signed the bill in early October. The new plan changes only two counties and generally protects the incumbents.