

Key Findings:

- PA ranked 43rd in population growth with 2.4% (2010-2020)

- PA will lose a seat in the U.S. House, resulting in 17

- PA has lost at least one seat after every apportionment for the last century

What is Apportionment?

Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution requires a census of the population be collected decennially, in order to determine how many seats each state is entitled to within the U.S. House of Representatives. On April 30, 2021 the U.S. Census released data from the 2020 U.S. Census that will be used for this process of dividing seats among the 50 states, known as apportionment. Apportionment totals are based on the number of people who live in each state, as well as overseas military employees, federal workers and their families residing with them who are allocated back to their home state. The population of the District of Columbia is not included, as they do not have a voting seats in the U.S. House. Currently, each state is given one seat and population is used to divide the remaining 385 seats. As of the 2020 apportionment, each member of the House represented roughly 710,767 individuals.

Why Does it Matter?

Apportionment changes have a great impact on our representation in Congress. Specifically, the number of Electoral College votes a state is entitled fluctuates based on the state's number seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

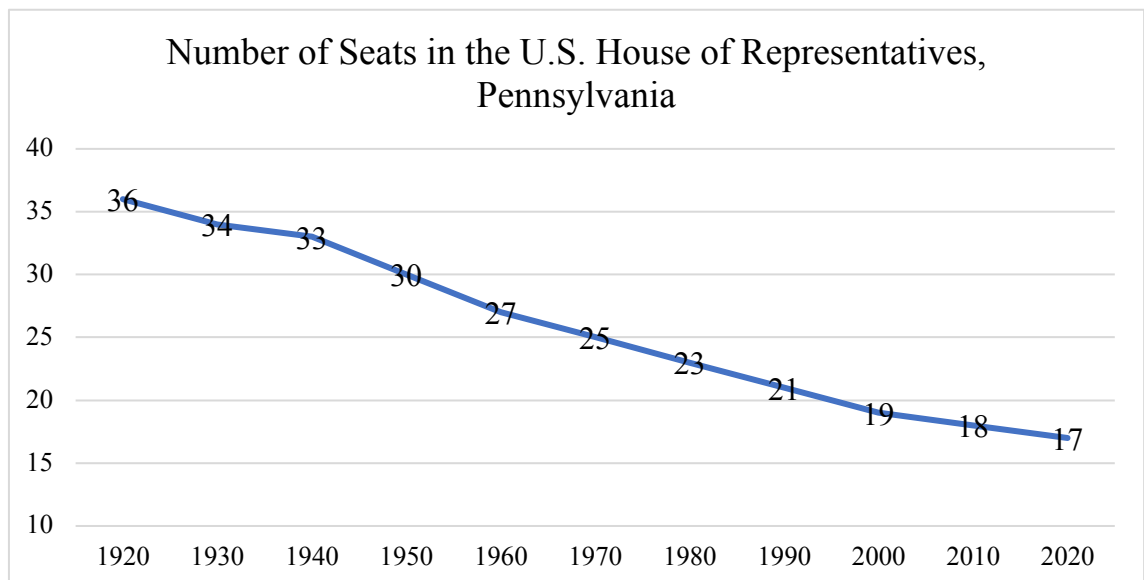


Figure 1 Pennsylvania Congressional Seats (2050-2020)

What Does this Mean for Pennsylvania?

Even with some slight growth in population over the past decade (2.4%), Pennsylvania lost a seat in the U.S. House based on 2020 Census data, a trend the Commonwealth has experienced for the past century. Figure 1 displays the number of seats in the U.S. House apportioned to Pennsylvania after each decennial Census for the past 100 years.

In 1920 PA had 36 seats in the House, as of 2021 the state occupies less than half of those with a remaining 17. However, even with such a loss, PA will still rank in the top five states for Electoral College votes (seats in U.S. House and Senate), as displayed in Table 1.

Table 1 States with Greatest Number of Electoral College Votes, 2021

State	Electoral College Votes
California	54
Texas	40
Florida	30
New York	28
Pennsylvania	19
Illinois	19
Ohio	17
Georgia	16
North Carolina	16

Winners and Losers

Pennsylvania is not alone in losing a Congressional seat. Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, New York, and for the first time California, will all lose one seat in the U.S. House. Conversely, Oregon, Montana, Colorado, Florida, and North Carolina will all gain one seat, with Texas gaining two. Overall, the U.S. population increased by 7.4% between 2010 and 2020. The second slowest rate in U.S. history (1930-1940 having a rate of 7.3%). Table 2 displays the states with the greatest growth in the past decade, Utah being first with an increase of 18.4%.

Table 2 States with Greatest Population Growth, 2010-2020

State	Percent Change
Utah	18.4%
Idaho	17.3%
Texas	15.9%
North Dakota	15.8%
Nevada	15.0%

Pennsylvania ranked 43rd in population percent change. Table 3 highlights the states with the least population growth in the 10 years. Three states, experienced overall population loss; West Virginia, Mississippi, and Illinois.

Table 3 States with Least Population Growth, 2010-2020

State	Percent Change
West Virginia	-3.2%
Mississippi	-0.2%
Illinois	-0.1%
Connecticut	0.9%
Michigan	2.0%

Acknowledgements

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References:

U.S. Census Bureau. 2020. 2020 Census Apportionment Results.

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/dec/2020-apportionment-data.html>

U.S. Constitution art. 1. § 2.

About the Network:

The Pennsylvania Population Network (PPN) is a visible program of demographic and health research, application, and outreach focusing on population characteristics and change in Pennsylvania, the United States and the world.

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