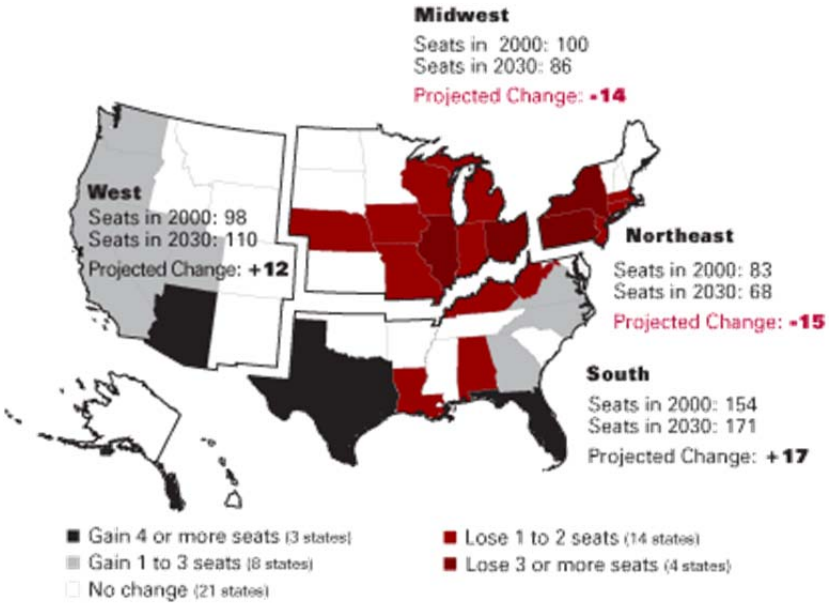
Why the Census Matters to Colorado: Power

Congressional Representation and the Electoral College

Colorado gained a seat in the House of Representatives after Census 2000—giving us seven representatives. This also has an impact on presidential elections since each state's number of electoral votes is equal to its number of representatives plus senators.

Projected Shifts in Representation, 2000 to 2030



Source: IBRC

Local Representation

Census data are also used to define

- State legislature districts
- School districts
- County Commissioner districts

Redistricting

Public Law 94-171, enacted by Congress in December 1975, requires the Census Bureau to provide state legislatures with the small area census population tabulations necessary for legislative redistricting. The law also specifies:

- The states choosing to participate in this voluntary program will define the small areas for which specific data tabulations are desired and submit these areas

following timelines established by the Census Bureau. These small areas include census block boundaries, voting districts, and state legislative districts.
- The Census Bureau must transmit the total population tabulations to the states by April 1, 2011.

The 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program will provide states the opportunity to delineate voting and state legislative districts and to suggest census block boundaries for use in the 2010 Census redistricting data tabulations (Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data File).

The program also will ensure continued dialogue with the states in regard to 2010 Census planning, thereby allowing states ample time for planning, response, and participation.

To read more about the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program, view the website.