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Press Release

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Maryland Redistricting Population Count Released

Adjusted in accordance with "No Representation Without Population Act" of 2010

BALTIMORE – The Secretaries of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) and the executive director of the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) today certified adjusted Census figures for the purposes of redistricting in accordance with the Maryland "No Representation Without Population Act" of 2010.

The Act, approved by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor last year, requires that prisoners in state or federal prisons are counted for Congressional, State Legislative and local redistricting purposes based on their last known address before incarceration. Information on some 22,000 prisoners was reviewed in the process of implementing the Act. Maryland, like all states, redistricts every 10 years after the decennial census is completed. The U.S. Census Bureau on Feb. 9, 2011 delivered the data to Maryland from the national Census conducted in spring 2010.

The adjusted count results in Baltimore City having an additional 5,703 persons (+0.9 percent) above its 2010 Census count. Reductions are seen for several counties that contain major state prison facilities, such as Allegany (-2,559 or -3.4 percent), Washington (-4,833 or -3.3 percent) and Somerset (-2,716 or -10.3 percent). Other large adjustments, but with relatively minor percentage changes, include Prince George's County, which gained 1,701 persons (+0.2 percent), and Anne Arundel County, which due to its state prison facilities had its population reduced by 3,309 (-0.6 percent).

Under the Act and the regulations adopted to implement it, prisoners who were homeless or whose prior addresses could not be located were counted at the prison for redistricting purposes. Also in accordance with the Act, prisoners who were not State residents prior to their incarceration were excluded from the count for redistricting. The exclusion of state prisoners who were not State residents prior to incarceration yielded an adjusted total state population for redistricting of 5,772,231. This adjusted total is 1,321 fewer persons than the official state population count of 5,773,552 released in the 2010 Census last month. Because all Congressional districts must be drawn so as to have a population as close to the ideal district size as practicable, each district would have included 721,694 residents prior to the adjustment and 721,529 after the adjustment.

The deviations are smaller at the State Legislative District level, although they vary by geography. The "ideal" State Legislative District population prior to the adjustment was 122,842, compared with 122,813 after being adjusted for the Act.

Baltimore City State Legislative Districts comprised the top five gainers through the adjustment process. The largest gains were to Legislative District 44 (+1,809 or 1.9 percent), District 45 (+1,587 or 1.6 percent) and District 41 (+1,012 or 1 percent). However, these upward adjustments were modest compared to the overall population of these districts since the last redistricting in 2002 and still leave them well below the ideal district size of 122,813. Outside of Baltimore City, the largest gains were in Legislative District 37 on the Eastern Shore (+655 or 0.5 percent) and Legislative Districts 6 (+551 or 0.5 percent) and 10 (+522, or 0.4 percent) in Baltimore County.

Adjusted population losses were most prominent in areas with large state correctional institutions, such as Legislative District 2B in Washington County (-5,304 or -12.1 percent). This downward adjustment leaves the total adjusted population for Legislative District 2B about 2,200 (-5.4 percent) below the single-member ideal district size of 40,938. In percentage terms, the other most prominent downward adjustments are in Legislative District 1B in Allegany County (-6.5 percent) and Legislative District 38A in Somerset County (-5.8 percent). While Legislative District 38A remains nearly 2,200 above the ideal population size after the adjustment, Legislative District 1B is nearly 3,200 (-7.8 percent) below the ideal population size after the downward adjustment.

To implement the Act, MDP and DLS requested the last known addresses of the prisoners in Maryland's only federal facility located in Cumberland. The Federal Bureau of Prisons denied that request. MDP and DLS appealed that decision to the U.S. Department of Justice. That appeal is pending. Should it be granted, there could be a modest revision of the adjusted population to account for the redistribution of about 1,500 inmates at the federal prison in Cumberland who are currently being counted at that location, in accordance with the state regulations. The redistribution of this number of prisoners is not expected to materially alter the council redistricting plan for Baltimore City and, as such, a decision was made to release the adjusted count in time to be included in the City's redistricting plan which must be adopted by April 1, 2011. If the federal appeal is resolved soon, the final count will be readjusted with those federal inmates who would constitute less than 0.03 percent of the state population. Those who lived outside the State prior to federal incarceration would be omitted from the readjusted count.

The redistricting process will continue this summer with public hearings, review and analysis of proposed plans and eventual adoption of revised districts. They will be in place in time for the Congressional primary of 2012 and the State Legislative Elections of 2014. Information about public hearings will be posted online as soon as it is available. Further information about the adjustment for Congressional and State Legislative Districts and an online map are available at <http://planning.maryland.gov/redistricting>

MDP Secretary Richard Eberhart Hall, DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard, and DLS Executive Director Karl S. Aro certified the adjusted count. MDP is Maryland's designated State Agency coordinator for the Census Redistricting Data Program with the U.S. Bureau of the Census. MDP is also the repository of Reapportionment and Redistricting maps and data products. DLS provides staff support necessary for redistricting to the members of the General Assembly. MDP analyzes the redistricting plans by the general public and interest groups.

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