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The Stouffer Report: *Redistricting Is Coming Soon*

Census forms have been filled out and mailed in. Now, census volunteers are going door-to-door throughout rural Missouri to follow up with those folks who did not send in their forms. Soon, not only will we know Missouri's population, but we will also know how many United States Congressmen Missouri will have in Washington, D.C. based on the number of citizens in our state. We are committed to a redistricting process that ensures all Missourians are appropriately and fairly represented.

Missouri currently has nine Congressional Districts. The [Fourth](#), [Sixth](#) and [Ninth](#) Districts all fall within the 21st Missouri Senatorial District, which I represent. These districts, the 34 districts in the Missouri Senate and the 163 districts for the Missouri House of Representatives — could see changes once the U.S. [Census Bureau](#) has all of its data.

The [2010 Census map](#) shows the county-by-county breakdown of census form returns. Most of the counties in the 21st Senatorial District show a 73-78 percent average for returning

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forms. Saline County falls in the 61-66 percent range. Overall, Missouri's return rate was 72 percent, which matches the national average.

The biggest change from new population figures could result in Missouri losing a Congressional seat. This has been talked about for some time, and several experts have been predicting the possibility. By the end of the year, the Census Bureau will issue a report on how to redraw Congressional district maps.

The Missouri [Senate Select Committee on Redistricting](#) is in the process of gathering information. The Legislature is responsible for redrawing Congressional districts. This has to be done during the 2011 regular legislative session, or else we will have to come back for a special session. The governor will also name two bi-partisan commissions that will create new district boundaries for the Missouri Senate and House.

This is a very lengthy process, and much attention has to be paid to every detail. I will keep you updated on how this is going as the legislative session unfolds next year. I have no doubt we will see a larger population in our area, as more and more folks continue to call rural Missouri home.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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