

**From:** Gardner Selby <wgselby@statesman.com>  
**Subject:** Response by Ed Martin, Democratic consultant, to PolitiFact Texas (Excerpted)  
**Date:** May 10, 2010 2:49:01 PM CDT  
**To:** Gardner Selby <wgselby@statesman.com>

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**From:** Ed Martin  
**Date:** May 10, 2010 10:03:51 AM CDT  
**To:** Gardner Selby <wgselby@statesman.com>  
**Subject:** Re: from Matt Angle confirming accuracy of LSP statement

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Ed

There are 435 congressional seats. It's a finite number. The U.S. population will grow by 28,816,094 million people, a 10.2% growth rate. That means each of the 435 seats will grow by an average of 66,244 people to an average size (which varies state to state, of course) of a little over 700,000 people.

If Texas were to retain just the current 32 districts, we'd need a population increase that grows at the same rate as the nation - 10.2% - which is 66,244 per district or a little over 2 million of Texas population growth in raw numbers.

Anglo pop. growth in Texas is only estimated (at most) at 626,182 or a 5.6% growth rate, and that would fall far short of what is needed to gain additional seats.

All Matt said is that ***"This increase in federal political clout is almost entirely due to the growth of the African American and Hispanic populations"*** As he noted to you, he did not say, "all the population growth is due to the growth of the African American and Hispanic populations"

The estimate I sent you earlier from the State Data Center is one of the lowest Texas population projections available. As I noted previously, the Census Bureau estimates that there are more people in Texas in 2009 than that SDC estimate says are here now in 2010 for the official count. The State HHSC posted an estimate from a different SDC model (they have several) that projected a 2010 state population of over 25 million. At a House committee hearing on February 10, the Tx Leg Council redistricting team also offered an estimate of over 25 million.

In the SDC model that projects 25 million plus in 2010, **the combined Hispanic and African American population increase is well over over 3 million, more than enough for four new seats. Even in the lower SDC estimate I sent you earlier, the combined Hispanic and African American population increase of over 2.6 million is almost enough for four new seats, which would require an increase of about 2.85 million (713,000 x 4). But that is not the point.**

**This is the point: the reason Texas can overcome the relatively slow Anglo growth rate to get new seats is the much higher growth rate of Hispanics and African Americans, which far exceeds the national average.**

Of course all population growth contributes to the state total, but the reason Texas grew enough to get more seats - and more clout - is that we grew at a faster rate than the nation as a whole.

**The projections vary somewhat in terms of raw numbers, but the relative growth rates are consistent in every projection, and the minority growth rate is clearly what has driven Texas to a population level that will get us more congressional clout, given the much slower rate of Anglo population growth.** That's all Matt said and that is absolutely true.