

Chapter 5:
Congress: The Legislative Branch
Section 3:
The House of Representatives
(pg.137-142)



Membership in the House

- “The Framers intended the House of Representatives to be the chamber most closely in touch with the people.”
 - Hence members are chosen by a popular vote
- Members have to be...
 - At least 25 years old
 - A U.S. citizen for at least seven years
 - A resident of the state he or she represents
- Informal qualifications
 - In 2010, major-party candidates spent \$3.8 billion

House of Representatives Terms and Benefits

- Salary
 - House members - \$174,000
 - Speaker of the House \$223,500
 - Majority and Minority leaders - \$193,400
- Term – 2 years
- Benefits
 - Tax deduction for two residences
 - Travel allowances
 - Staff
 - Health and retirement benefits
 - Mostly all the same as the Senate

Reapportionment and Redistricting

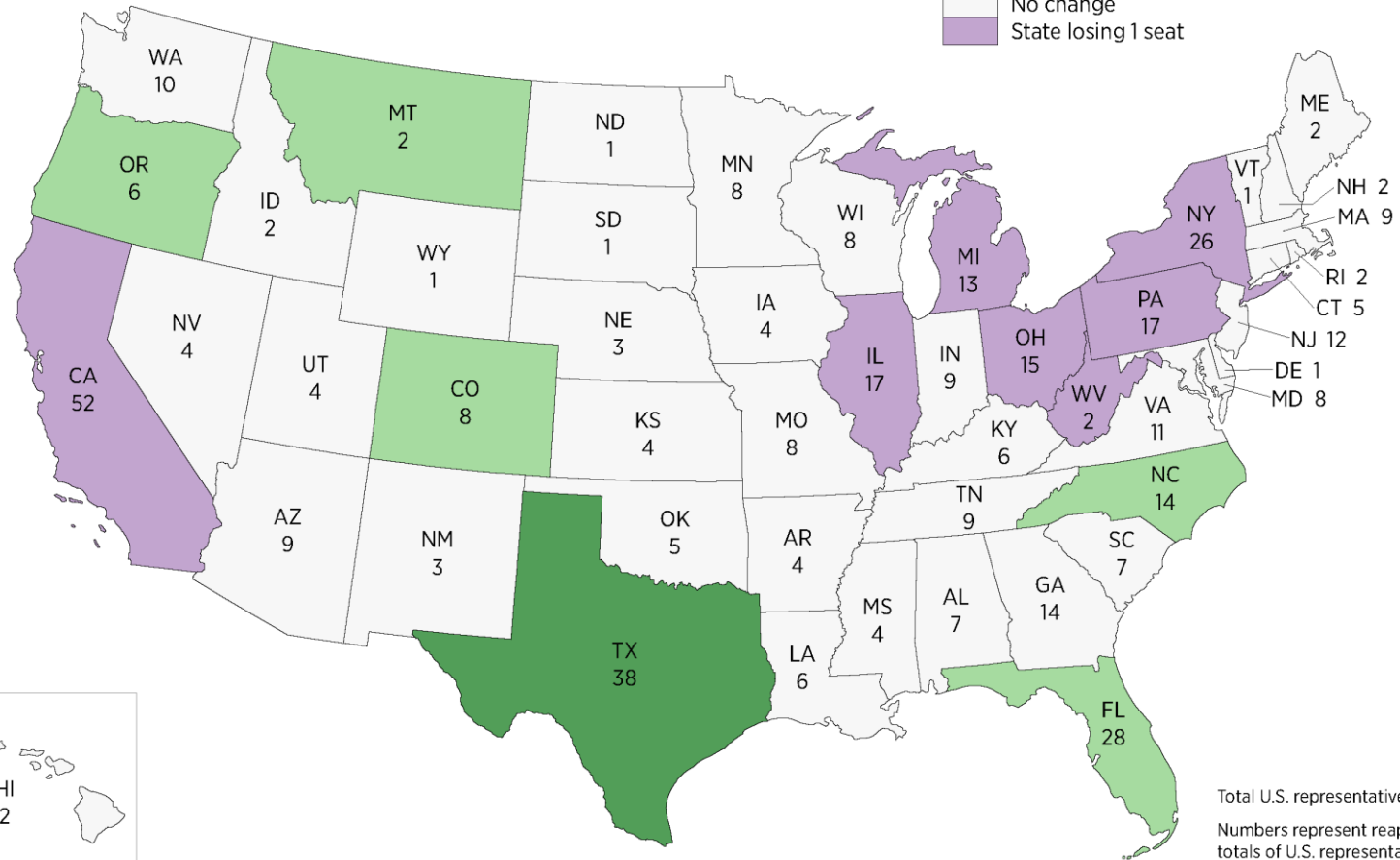
- 435 members of the House to represent 331.9 million people
 - One member of congress represents about 762,988 people
- **Apportionment** = required by the Constitution every 10 years, seats in the House are redistributed among the states based on the results of the census
- **Gerrymandering** = drawing district boundaries for political advantage

Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives Based on the 2020 Census

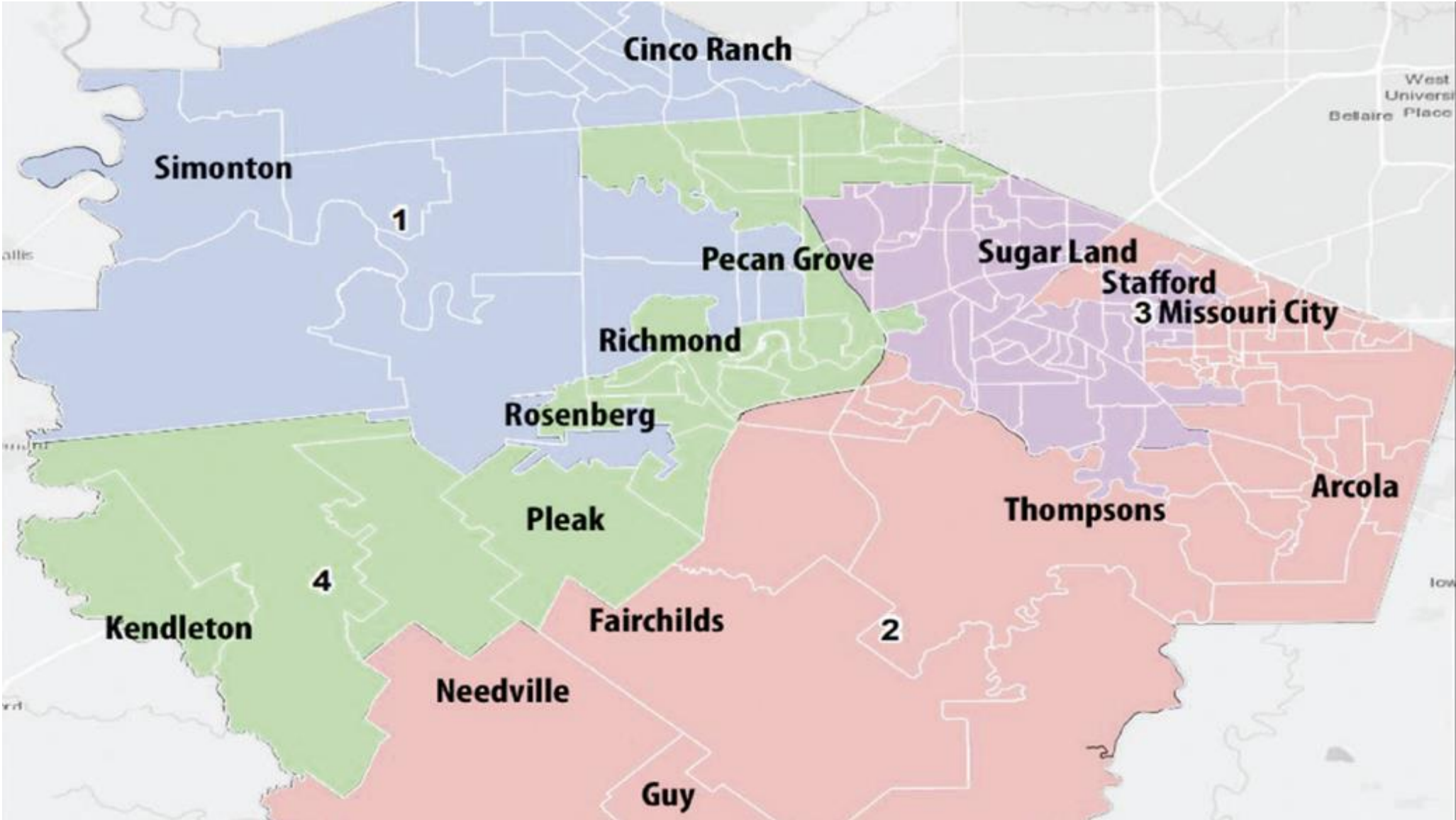


Change from 2010 to 2020

- State gaining 2 seats
- State gaining 1 seat
- No change
- State losing 1 seat



Total U.S. representatives: 435
Numbers represent reapportioned totals of U.S. representatives.





Leadership in the House

- **Speaker of the House** – the most powerful member and the presiding officer of the House
- Elected by the members of the House and comes from the majority party
- Presides over debates and recognizes speakers
- Assigns **bills** = proposed laws
 - They go to committees
- Second in line to the Presidency

Leadership in the House cont.

- **Floor leader or majority leader** – elected by each party; helps to manage the actions and strategy of the party in the House; serves as assistant to the Speaker
- **Whips** – House member whose job it is to encourage fellow party members to vote as the party leadership wants
 - The term "whip" comes from a fox-hunting expression—"whipper-in"—referring to the member of the hunting team responsible for keeping the dogs from straying from the team during a chase.



The Role of Committees



The Role of Committees cont.

- **Standing committees** – permanent committees
 - Example: The House Committee on Ways and Means
 - Deals w/ taxes and other revenue raising measures
 - Has oversight over Social Security
 - These committees can have subcommittees
 - Appropriations has 13
- **Select committees** – carry out specific tasks not already covered in existing committees; like investigations
- **Joint Committees** – special committees formed by members of the House and the Senate to address broad issues that affect both chambers

House Standing Committees

- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Armed services
- Budget
- Education and labor
- Energy and Commerce
- Financial Services
- Foreign Affairs
- Homeland Security
- House Administration
- Judiciary
- Natural Resources
- Oversight and Government Reform
- Rules
- Science and Technology
- Etc.

Rep. Al Green's Committees

- Financial services





House Committee on Financial Services