Summary

The two scenarios discussed provide benchmarks for analyzing the potential ramifications of the currently large, and geographically concentrated, undocumented populations on the distribution of Congressional seats. Adjustments in settlement patterns and the official population count from Census 2010 will differ from the necessary assumptions used for this analysis. Consequently, this report does not claim to predict the final outcome of 2010 Congressional Reapportionment. This report simply seeks to describe how the spontaneous concentration of undocumented populations might unwittingly influence America’s representative political system.

Map 4 summaries the relocation of House seats for all states when undocumented populations are counted. Note the concentrated loss of ten seats from eight Northern and Midwestern states. There is a coinciding concentrated gain wherein three states (AZ, TX, and FL) gain a total of seven seats.

Map 4: Geographic Relocation of House Seats for All States When Undocumented Populations are Included

In contrast, Map 5 reveals the relocation of House seats when undocumented populations are not counted. In this scenario, six Northern and Midwestern states (MA, NY, NJ, PA, OH, and IA) lose only six seats. Exclusion of undocumented populations mutes the geographic shifts shown in Map 4. Furthermore, the geographic shift of these seats is broader with only Florida gaining more than one seat.

Map 5: Geographic Relocation of House Seats for All States When Undocumented Populations are Excluded