

11. VOTER REDISTRICTING 2011

The U.S. Census Bureau released its data on February 4 and Mrs. Wright has been evaluating the numbers prior to convening a meeting of the redistricting committee that was appointed last month.

It is already apparent that changes will be necessary in at least four (4) of the seven (7) Election Districts. Based on our total population of 18,570, the hypothetical target population in each District is 2,653. The *Civil Rights Act* provides for a maximum 5% variation above or below the mean — accordingly, the total population for each District should fall somewhere between 2,520 and 2,786.

With the exception of Capron, Franklin and Newsoms, the total population of the remaining Districts now lie outside the target range as illustrated by the gray shading, to wit:

	2000					2010				
	Black	White	Other	Total	Percent Minority	Black	White	Other	Total	Percent Minority
Berlin-Ivor	791	1,747	35	2,573	32.10%	616	2,266	102	2,984	24.06%
Boykins-Branchville	1,299	1,075	32	2,406	55.32%	1,157	1,150	67	2,374	51.56%
Capron	1,169	1,210	33	2,412	49.83%	1,118	1,528	103	2,749	44.42%
Drewryville	1,490	872	28	2,390	63.51%	1,278	982	59	2,319	57.65%
Franklin	599	1,995	24	2,618	23.80%	558	2,133	73	2,764	22.83%
Jerusalem	873	1,675	32	2,580	35.08%	918	1,846	58	2,822	34.59%
Newsoms	1,274	1,209	20	2,503	51.70%	1,248	1,233	77	2,558	51.80%
	7,495	9,783	204	17,482	44.04%	6,893	11,138	539	18,570	40.02%

Accordingly, at a minimum:

- Berlin-Ivor must lose at least 198 people
- Boykins-Branchville must gain at least 146 people
- Drewryville must gain at least 201 people
- Jerusalem must lose at least 36 people

Because Berlin-Ivor is not contiguous to Boykins-Branchville or Drewryville, it is highly likely that all seven districts will have to be modified to balance the numbers.

I anticipate the redistricting committee will spend the month of March evaluating the data and preparing alternatives for public comment by the end of April.

NO MOTION REQUIRED