

Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Census 2010 Factsheet: Cabarrus County

How has Cabarrus County changed since the last census?

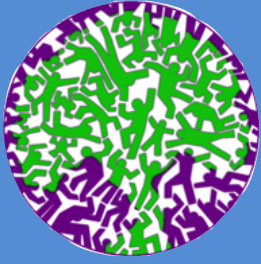
	2000 Census	2010 Projection
<i>Total population</i>	131,063	183,441, a 40% increase
<i>Percent African-American</i>	12.2%	14.3%
<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	5.1%	8.4%

These projections come from NC's Office of State Budget and Management, in conjunction with data from the US Census American Community Survey (ACS 2006-2008). The NC OSBM projections are based on Census 2000 data, so they're only as accurate as the census itself!

Also, the ACS is a three-year average of phone survey data, and for privacy reasons data is not released for populations less than 20,000. In rural parts of NC, that means small-area data on race, ethnicity, poverty, transportation, health coverage, etc. will be either infrequently released or not available at all. In many smaller counties, timely data on the Hispanic population is simply not available.

What does that mean for political representation?

- Bilingual ballot instructions – if Cabarrus County's Hispanic population exceeds 6% in the 2010 count, then state law will require bilingual ballot instructions (*NCGS 163-165.5A*). Outreach amongst the Hispanic-identifying population is essential to make sure Census 2010 numbers meet predictions!
- Cabarrus County is gaining population significantly relative to the state as a whole (which is predicted to have an 18.9% increase). Cabarrus isn't likely to gain an entire new seat in either the state House or state Senate, but the boundaries of existing districts will have to contract in redistricting.
- *NC State House* – Cabarrus County is split between NC House districts 82 (Kannapolis and far west Cabarrus) and 83 (the remainder of the county). In Census 2000, 80.8% of the voting-age population who completed census forms in district 82 were identified as white, and 85.7% in district 83. Because of Cabarrus' population gains, these district boundaries are likely to contract.
- *NC State Senate* – Cabarrus County is entirely within Senate District 36, which was counted as 84.4% white (voting-age population) in the 2000 Census. Currently, District 36 also includes part of south-eastern Iredell County, but with the gain in population predicted for Cabarrus, district boundaries will likely contract to be entirely within Cabarrus (and part of the county might be split off to join up with another adjoining senate district).
- *US House* – Cabarrus County is split between House Districts 8 (most of the county) and 12 (Kannapolis and the western corner of the county). The 8th District was counted as 67.8% white in Census 2000, and is represented by Larry Kissell (D). The 12th District, represented by Mel Watt (D), is borderline majority-minority.



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How would an accurate count impact federal funding?

- Medicaid: As of January 2010, **22,241** Cabarrus County residents were enrolled in Medicaid (1.6% of the total state enrollment). An accurate count for NC in the last Census would have resulted in \$57 million more funding statewide in 2008 alone.
- Title I: Cabarrus County Schools received \$2,867,712 in federal Title I allotments in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Those funds were distributed between 10 Title I eligible schools, with 6,460 total students (see table). Kannapolis City Schools received \$1,298,196 in Title I allotments, which were distributed across 6 schools serving 3,353 students.

Cabarrus County: Title I Schools

School	% from low-income families	Total students
A. T. Allen Elem.	55.3%	548
Beverly Hills Elem.	52.8%	400
Coltrane Webb Elem.	85.1%	449
R. B. McAllister Elem.	41.1%	394
Rocky River Elem.	48.4%	1083
Royal Oaks Elem.	60.7%	338
W. M. Irvin Elem.	47.0%	802
Weddington Hills Elem.	49.2%	890
Winecoff Elem.	55.5%	966
Wolf Meadow Elem.	67.8%	590

Kannapolis City: Title I Schools

School	% from low-income families	Total students
Forest Park Elementary	55.9%	658
Fred L. Wilson Elementary	79.4%	374
Jackson Park Elementary	72.4%	486
Kannapolis Intermediate School	67.5%	859
Shady Brook Elementary	69.8%	331
Woodrow Wilson Elementary	83.3%	645

Where should community organizations focus outreach efforts?

The US Census Bureau tracks these and other neighborhood characteristics through its Hard-to-Count (HTC) index. Areas with an HTC index above 60 are considered 'hard-to-count'. See <http://www.censushardtocountmaps.org/> for an online interactive map of HTC areas. Of course, the Census index relies on 2000 data, and in many cases neighborhood-level characteristics have changed so much since 2000 that your knowledge as a local organizer will be more useful for targeting census outreach than the HTC data.