

Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Census 2010 Factsheet: Lenoir County

How has Lenoir County changed since the last census?

	2000 Census	2010 Projection
<i>Total population</i>	59,619	57,362 (3.8% decrease)
<i>Percent African-American</i>	40.4%	40.1%
<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	3.2%	no data

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!

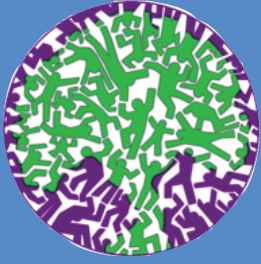
Also, the ACS is a three-year average of phone survey data, and for privacy reasons data is not released for populations less than 20,000. In rural parts of NC, that means small-area data on race, ethnicity, poverty, transportation, health coverage, etc. will be either infrequently released or not available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

What do population shifts mean for political representation?

- Bilingual ballot instructions – if Lenoir County's Hispanic population exceeds 6% in the 2010 count, then state law will require bilingual ballot instructions (*NCGS 163-165.5A*).
- Lenoir County is losing population significantly relative to the state as a whole (which is projected to have a 18.9% increase). Lenoir is split between State House Districts 10 and 12, both of which are predicted to have a decrease in population in the 2010 Census. District 12, which includes eastern Kinston, Dover, Cove City, and parts of New Bern and Havelock, was borderline majority-minority in 2000, with a voting age black population of 47.1% and 3.54% Hispanic. It may lose that status if 2010 Census counts match up with the projected decrease in the African-American population and also fail to count new Hispanic residents. Census outreach work to minimize the undercount is essential!
- State Senate District 12, which encompasses Lenoir, Sampson and Duplin counties may also have to expand, depending on how much of a population loss the US Census counts. District 12 was 79.9% white as of 2000.
- Minority voting power – Lenoir is split between the 1st and 3rd Congressional Districts. The 1st District (represented by G.K. Butterfield) was a majority-minority district as of the 2000 Census, with 48.1% of the voting age population African-American, and 2.8% Hispanic. The 1st district will likely stay majority-minority, but with a slimmer margin, so it's important that census outreach efforts ensure an accurate count, especially of African-Americans and Hispanic/Latino folk in the district. The 3rd District, represented by Walter Jones, was 79.7% white as of the 2000 Census.

How would an accurate count impact federal funding?

- Medicaid: As of January 2010, **13,423** Lenoir County residents were enrolled in Medicaid. An



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accurate count for NC in 2000 would have resulted in **\$57 million** increased funding statewide in **2008 alone**.

- Title I: Lenoir County received **\$3,123,639** in federal Title I allotments in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Those were distributed between 13 Title I eligible schools (see attached list).

Lenoir County: Title I Schools

School	% from low-income families	Total students
Northwest Elementary	63.55%	502
Pink Hill Elementary	60.04%	463
Southwood Elementary	57.53%	372
Moss Hill Elementary	57.39%	460
E B Frink Middle	51.22%	615
Woodington Middle	49.92%	655
Banks Elementary	49.59%	484
Southeast Elementary	100.00%	286
Northeast Elementary	95.18%	560
Rochelle Middle	87.80%	574
Sampson School	84.85%	66
LaGrange Elementary	71.86%	558
Contentnea-Savannah	70.97%	806

Which parts of Lenoir County are Hard-to-Count?

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 the accompanying map for a detail of HTC areas in Lenoir County. 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.

The main HTC area of Lenoir County is downtown Kinston and surrounds. For example, one HTC tract in SE Kinston, is a high-poverty area, 78% of households live in rental units (and 46% of housing structures are multi-family), and 88% of households are either single-parent or not husband/wife households (one of the Census HTC criteria).