

## Kershaw County Announces A-Tax Grant

The Kershaw County Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee is now accepting Accommodations Tax Tourism Funding Grant applications for the 2026-27 funding cycle.

This grant program is open to non-profit organizations in Kershaw County for advertising and marketing projects or sites that promote local tourism activity.

Key details regarding the application process are as follows:

- Grant Workshop: March 11, 2025, at 5:30 pm in Room 190 of the Kershaw County Administration building (515 Walnut Street, Camden, S.C. 29020).
- Applications: May be obtained by calling the Kershaw County Government Center at (803) 425-6778.
- Submission Deadline: Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2026.
- Submission Address: Attn: Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee  
Kershaw County Administration  
515 Walnut Street  
Camden, S.C. 29020

For any inquiries, please contact Tyler Kirk at Tyler.Kirk@kershaw.sc.gov or (803) 425-1506 ext. 5304.

### Immigrant surge helped boost GOP states' population, and they may gain US House seats as a result

By: Tim Henderson

Shelby Park in Eagle Pass, Texas, on the U.S.-Mexico border is occupied by the Texas National Guard in February 2025. Republican states that emphasize border security might benefit from immigration increases since 2020 since higher population translates to political power. (Photo by Eli Hartman for The Texas Tribune)

The Texas National Park operates out of Shelby Park in Eagle Pass, Texas, on the U.S.-Mexico border in February 2025. Republican states that emphasize border security might benefit from immigration increases since 2020 because higher population translates to political power. (Photo by Eli Hartman for The Texas Tribune)

The millions of immigrants who have crossed the border with Mexico since 2020 could change the balance of political power in Congress — but in a way likely to boost Republican states that emphasize border security, at the expense of more welcoming Democratic states.

That's because many of the new immigrants joined state-to-state movers gravitating to the fast-growing conservative strongholds of Florida and Texas, boosting those states' populations. California and New York also had large influxes from the border but ended up losing population anyway.

The vastly different population changes threaten to scramble the Electoral College map.

California and other Democratic states lost immigration-related population gains when residents moved away during the COVID-19 pandemic or while seeking jobs and housing. Where did those state-to-state movers go? Florida and Texas, in large measure.

South Carolina ranked first in population growth in 2025, based on percentage, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Between July 2024 and July 2025, the state's population grew by about 80,000 people, or 1.5%.

Nationwide, the population grew by 0.5%.

South Carolina ranked fifth in growth by the number of additional people.

Texas gained the most by numbers, with 391,000 more people, followed by Florida, North Carolina and Georgia.

Republicans have long accused Democrats of encouraging immigration for their electoral benefit.

But the shift is likely to help Republican-leaning states in the next decade: The Constitution allocates congressional representation by population — including noncitizens.



Boy Scouts who took over the operation of the city and county government last Wednesday morning for a three-hour period are shown in the top photograph above, in observance of National Boy Scout Week. In the bottom photo at the left is Scout Randy Floyd in conference with Lancaster's Mayor Ledell Steele. At right Clerk of Court Lee O. Montgomery is shown with Scout Clerk of Court Janson Lasley as the two discuss the affairs of the office.—(Photo by Lavoy's)

Every 10 years, the country counts its people and then shuffles the number of U.S. House seats given to each state.

In presidential elections, each state has the same number of electoral votes as it does congressional representatives.

Several experts contacted by Stateline agreed that after the next decennial census in 2030, California is likely to lose four seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Texas is likely to gain four.

Adam Kincaid, president and executive director of the GOP-founded American Redistricting Project, said the changes could dramatically alter the Electoral College map, with the Midwest no longer a "blue wall" against Republican presidential victories if the region loses three seats, by his

calculation. On the plus side for Democrats, he said, immigration helped stem population losses in many blue states.

But it's hard to predict the next five years, Kincaid said. Housing is expensive and hard to get in states such as California and New York, he noted, while also blaming Democratic "policies that drive where people want to live."

"I don't think anybody rationally expects Florida and Texas to grow as rapidly through the decade as they did during COVID," Kincaid said. "We'll all be wrong. These are only forecasts and things will change."

House seats Three forecasts for 2030 — one provided to Stateline by Jonathan Cervas, an assistant teaching professor at Carnegie Mellon University;

one from Kincaid's American Redistricting Project; and one from William Frey, a demographer at The Brookings Institution — all show Democratic states in the Northeast and West losing House seats while fast-growing, mostly Republican states in the South and West gain seats.

In addition to the representation changes in California and Texas, Florida would gain either three or four seats in the U.S. House, depending on the forecast, while Illinois and New York each would lose either one or two seats.

Other possible gains would go to Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Utah, depending on the forecast. Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island and Wisconsin might lose seats.



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