

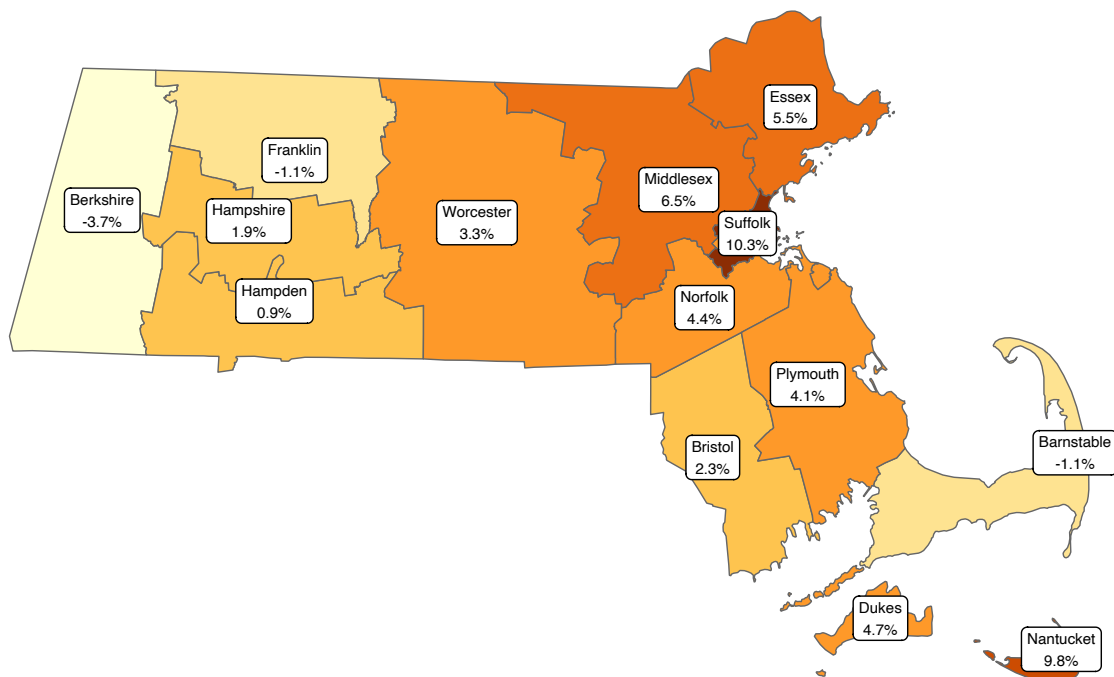
Demographic Change and Majority-Minority Districts in Massachusetts

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Demographic Change, 2010–2020

From 2010 to 2019, the population of Massachusetts increased by 5.3%.¹ This growth was primarily driven by increases in the minority population.² Statewide, the white population shrank from 76.1% to 70.3%, the Black population increased from 6.0% to 7.1%, and the Hispanic population increased from 9.6% to 12.4%. The minority population grew at a higher rate than the white population in every county of the state except Nantucket and Dukes counties. Overall, population growth was highest in Greater Boston and the North Shore.³

Figure 1: Estimated Population Growth by County, 2010–2019



¹2019 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

²Minority population includes people of all races who identify as Hispanic, and all people who do not identify as single-race white.

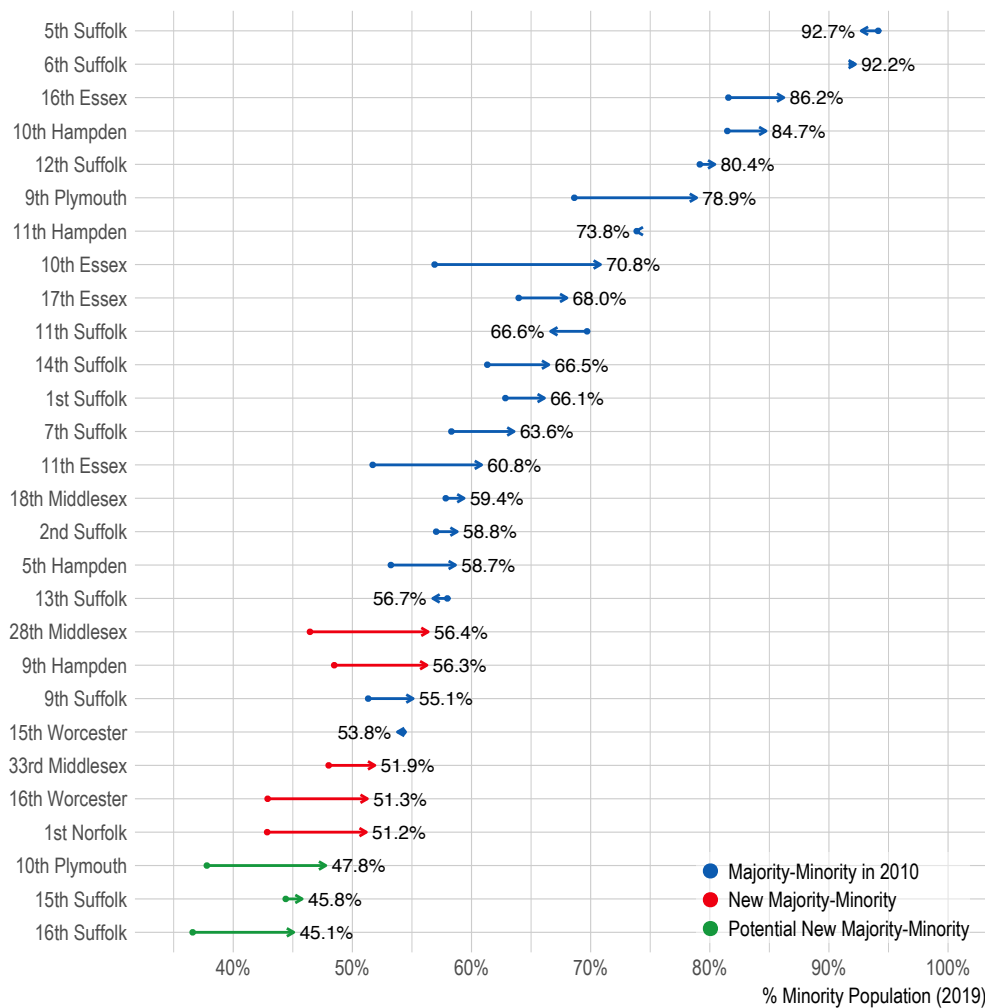
³County and district population estimates from the 2019 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates. These estimates are based on surveys taken over a five year period. The 2020 Census results, expected later this year, will provide the final population and demographic data used for redistricting.

Majority-Minority Districts in the State Legislature

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has 160 members, each elected from a single-member district. In the 2012 redistricting process, the state adopted a map with twenty majority-minority districts, an increase from ten majority-minority districts under the previous plan.⁴ Of these twenty districts, three were majority-Black and four were majority-Hispanic. All twenty of these districts remain majority-minority now.

Demographic changes over the last decade have shifted five districts (9th Hampden, 28th Middlesex, 33rd Middlesex, 1st Norfolk, and 16th Worcester) from majority-white to majority-minority. With these shifts, there are now 25 majority-minority state house districts, of which 4 are majority-Black and 6 are majority-Hispanic. It is likely that most, if not all, of these districts can be preserved as majority-minority under the next redistricting plan. Additionally, three districts (10th Plymouth, 15th Suffolk, and 16th Suffolk) have at least 45% minority population. These districts may become majority-minority under the 2020 census due to continued demographic change, or it may be possible to draw new majority-minority districts using these districts as a starting point. Figure 2 illustrates the minority population shifts in the existing and potential majority-minority districts.

Figure 2: Change in Minority Population for State House Majority-Minority Districts



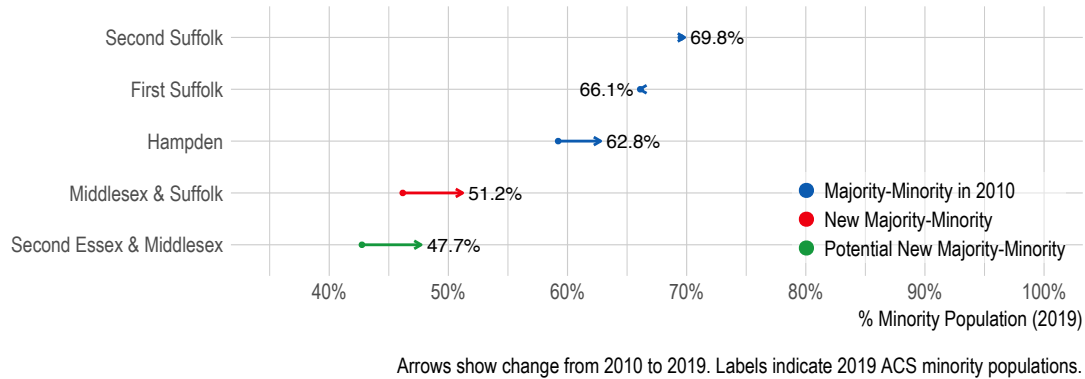
Arrows show change from 2010 to 2019. Labels indicate 2019 ACS minority populations.

The Massachusetts State Senate has forty districts, of which three were majority-minority under the plan

⁴Report from the Chairs of the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting, 2012.

adopted in 2012, an increase from two districts under the previous plan. All three of these districts are coalition districts; none are majority-Black or majority-Hispanic. Due to demographic change, one additional district, the Middlesex & Suffolk District, is now majority-minority as well. The Second Essex & Middlesex District has more than 45% minority population as well, and could potentially be drawn as a majority-minority district under a new plan. The bottom panel of Figure 2 illustrates the minority population shifts in these districts.

Figure 3: Change in Minority Population for State Senate Majority-Minority Districts



Overall, demographic changes in Massachusetts over the last decade have increased the minority population relative to the white population, and shifted six districts (five in the House and one in the Senate) from majority-white to majority-minority while preserving the existing majority-minority districts. Final population and demographic data from the 2020 U.S. Census will not be available until later this year, but it is likely that new plans may be able to include at least 25 minority-majority districts in the House and four in the Senate, with the potential for additional minority-majority districts in areas with substantial minority population growth over the last decade.