

EAGLE



In class we have discussed three apportionment methods: Hamilton, Jefferson, and Webster, each with their pros and cons. However, none of these methods are widely used today. You will investigate the method the United States has used since 1941 to determine how many seats in Congress each state receives. This method is called the Huntington-Hill (H-H) method. I suggest the following resources:

- The textbook pp. 512 - 517
- United States Census Bureau
https://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/apportionment/methods_of_apportionment.html

You will be asked to produce a written report and present your findings to the class.

Due Date: 12/10/2014

Point Value: 30 points

Report

Calculations: Create a spreadsheet that can calculate the apportionments using the three methods discussed in class. Test your spreadsheet against the apportionments we calculated by hand. In a separate tab, create a spreadsheet that can calculate the H-H apportionment. Test your spreadsheet against the results of the 1990, 2000, and 2010 censuses. Submit this spreadsheet in electronic form along with your written report.

Questions:

1. Puerto Rico is finally admitted as the 51st state. Recalculate the distribution of seats in Congress according to H-H method. Which states end up losing seats?
2. Texas makes good on its threats and secedes, giving up its 36 seats in Congress. Recalculate the apportionment using the H-H method. Which states gain a seat? Do any states gain two seats? Do any states lose a seat?
3. Pennsylvania and Kentucky merge their populations to create a super state: Pennsylvucky. Recalculate the apportionment using the H-H method. Does Pennsylvucky have more, fewer, or the same number of seats as Pennsylvania and Kentucky separately? Do any other states lose/gain seats?
4. Create one hypothetical scenario as above. Calculate the new apportionment.

Presentation

You must give a three minute presentation to the class describing your findings. Your report should summarize how the H-H apportionment method works. In addition, you should show how you answered two of the questions above (#4 and one other question). You will not have time to try to answer all of them in your presentation.