

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

www.ci.norfolk.ne.us

February 23, 2012

“Census Changes”



The results of the national census taken each ten years have many implications for national, state and local governments. To maintain a representative governing system, areas are organized according to the data collected from the census to make sure they are represented equally. That's where Beth Deck comes in.

Deck is the City Clerk for Norfolk and is responsible for making sure that each ward of Norfolk is equally represented on the city council. Each city council

member needs to represent an equal amount of residents. As the population shifts in different wards of the city, boundaries of those wards represented by each council member may also shift.

The census data from 2010 showed that there were definite population shifts in Norfolk from the previous ten years.

The population of Norfolk increased from 23,516 in the 2000 Census to 24,210 in the 2010 census. The city is divided into four wards and those wards are each divided into three precincts. Each ward is represented by two council members.

Some wards of the city increased in population and some wards decreased necessitating a change in ward boundaries.

“I matched population numbers with block numbers within specific census tracts, calculated totals, equalized population by ward and then by precinct, and redrew boundaries as necessary,” Deck said.

When possible, major streets were used as dividing lines to make it easier to identify boundaries between wards.

The 24,210 residents are about equally divided into the four wards in the City of Norfolk with approximately 6,053 residents in each ward and 2,018 residents in each precinct. Wards 1 and 2 generally lie north of Norfolk Avenue and Wards 3 and 4 lie to the south.

The population of Ward 1 increased from 5,872 to 6,049 from 2000 to 2010 and Ward 2 increased from 5,878 to 6,056.

Ward 3 and Ward 4 lost population since 2000 so the boundary lines of Wards 3 and 4 were moved north to include more residents. In Ward 3 there were 5,886 residents in 2000 and now there are 6,060 residents. In Ward 4 in 2000 there were 5,880 residents and currently there are 6,045 residents residing there.

“It’s important that residents check to make sure what ward they are in so that they know where their polling place is to vote,” Deck said.

That information including ward and precinct boundaries can be found on the city’s website at http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/administration/polling_places.htm.