



## Population grows by about 3,000

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### **South Beloit's special census numbers in; city to receive \$356,000 more each year**

South Beloit received the final population count back from the U.S. Census Bureau and it's about 100 more than estimated.

The new population is 8,365, which is an increase of 2,968 residents from the 2000 census, when the population was 5,397.

City Clerk Marilyn Hartley's initial estimate of the city population increase was 2,860, which she calculated based on building permit applications and sewer connection permits from the year 2000.

Because the number of residents is higher than city officials estimated, the expected revenue from taxes has also increased.

An additional \$356,000 will be generated each fiscal year for the city, which is \$20,000 more than the prior estimate of \$336,000 in extra funds, Finance Director Michael Salmons said. The estimates are based on the city receiving about \$120 for each new resident, although Hartley said in a past interview that the city could receive anywhere from \$110 to \$150 per additional residents counted.

The funds will come in the form of taxes based on population, such as motor fuel tax, which can only be used for street repairs. The revenue will also be generated from local use tax and income tax, which both go into the general fund, Salmons said.

Commissioner Pam Clifton said the revenue from the special census will make up for the losses of two car dealerships - Central Ford and Finley GMC.

The additional funding could also be used as needed or to purchase stoplights for the higher rate of traffic, Clifton said.

Mayor Randy Kirichkow agreed that the money could be used to provide normal services. Yet he said the additional funds would not cover the pay and benefit increases for police officers who are in union negotiations.

South Beloit still needs to hear back from the U.S. Census Bureau on the official amount of funds the city will receive, Salmons said. The estimated revenues for fiscal year 2007-08 would be about \$118,000, if the city starts receiving the funds within 90 days, Salmons said.

The South Beloit City Council approved of conducting a special census in August 2006 because the city had grown and was missing out on funds from the new residents, Hartley said.

The number of citizens in South Beloit has increased because of the 1,075 new housing units in the city.

Both Clifton and Salmons said they thought the growth in South Beloit would continue, especially since subdivisions such as Twin Oaks have not been filled yet.

"When the housing market starts to rebound, those houses will start moving again," Salmons said.

Clifton said she thinks South Beloit is prepared to handle more growth in the future. The city has made additions to the sewer plant and added more police and fire officers, in anticipation for continued growth, she said.

In the 2010 census, Clifton said she expects the population will have increased by a few hundred to 1,000, while Kirichkow said he expects the population to be about 10,000.

Kirichkow said he appreciated the hard work of enumerators and city employees, especially Hartley, who took on a lot of extra work to make the special census possible.