ALABAMA

PUBLIC COMMENTS THROUGH NOVEMBER 13, 2026

PROPOSED 2030 CENSUS RULE

WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE SAYS Published Sept. 10, 2026 (91 FR 57524). Comments closed Nov. 2, 2026.

Who is counted, and where (Part 60). People who are not U.S. citizens or green card holders, including students, workers on visas, refugees, and asylum seekers, would not be counted for apportionment (§ 60.4). Everyone else would be counted where they spent the most days from Jan. 3 to April 1, matched to tax records (§ 60.2, § 60.6).

What the census asks (Part 70). The form could not ask about race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, and only sex, date of birth, and household relationship would be required (§ 70.2). Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

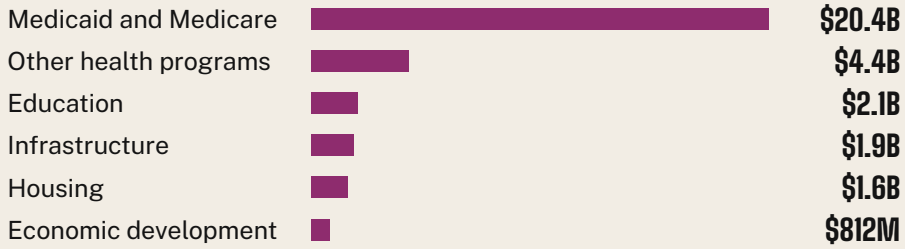
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR ALABAMA

$29.9 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Alabama in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 24th smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Alabama's residents could shift about **$299 million a year** until the next census. The real effect varies by program and by who is missed. Some programs count in more than one category. **SOURCES:** Sean Moulton and Janice Luong, "Census Matters: Why an Accurate Count Is Essential to Funding Our Communities" (POGO, Oct. 28, 2025) and its Alabama fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT ALABAMA TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

545 comments came from Alabama. **96% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

545
COMMENTS
17th fewest of 50 states and DC

96%
OPPOSED THE RULE
522 comments opposed; 22 supported

11
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
2nd lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

70
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES ALABAMA COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Alabama | All comments that name a state



HOW TO READ THESE NUMBERS

Every published comment counts once, including each copy of a form letter. Position is inferred from each comment by the comment analysis. State is inferred from the comment text and is subject to error. About 62% of all 148,532 comments name a state, so state totals undercount. Most comments that support the rule (85%) name no state, so Alabama is compared with all comments that name a state. The government and organization lists on page 2 are a sample, not everyone who commented; each was checked by reading the comment. Quotes are exact; individuals are described as they describe themselves.

A SAMPLE OF ALABAMA GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

TRIBAL NATIONS
Poarch Band of Creek Indians

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
City of Tuscaloosa (mayor)

A SAMPLE OF ALABAMA ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Alabama Association of Nonprofits
Alabama Arise
Birmingham Corps
Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
United Way of West Alabama
Mobile Environmental Justice Action Coalition

National groups based in Alabama also wrote in: Southern Poverty Law Center.

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM ALABAMA

> *"Students who live here for the majority of the year are members of our community."*

City of Tuscaloosa, mayor
home to The University of Alabama · Comment 146109

> *"Alabama came within a few thousand residents of losing a congressional seat in 2020."*

Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
community foundation serving the Birmingham region · Comment 43680

> *"Undocumented immigrants will still show up to our emergency room for care, even if they are not counted in the census."*

Public hospital worker in Huntsville
writing as an individual · Comment 77611

> *"Further, the Bureau has failed to recognize that Tribal citizenship and enrollment numbers are insufficient to capture all who are eligible and receive Tribal services from the federal government."*

Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Alabama's only federally recognized tribe · Comment 145151

> *"There are parts of Alabama that haven't had roads paved in decades."*

Alabama resident
writing as an individual · Comment 124214

> *"Without this data, we'll lose important neighborhood-level data for crime and local economic research."*

Social scientist at a research university in Alabama
opinion is my own; writing as an individual · Comment 61177

> *"If you start eliminating people from the count, you will end up with data that in no way reflects reality, which will make for poor decision making."*

Montgomery resident
writing as an individual · Comment 99474

> *"They fought with every fiber in their being to be counted as citizens, having come from being considered three-fifths of a human."*

Bartender and artist living in Birmingham
descendant of enslaved people; writing as an individual · Comment 133751

Sources: public comments on docket USBC-2026-0628 at regulations.gov, as read and labeled by the analysts' comment analysis; position and state are inferred from each comment's text and are subject to error. Federal funding: Project On Government Oversight (POGO), Census Matters, Oct. 28, 2025 (fiscal year 2023 data). Prepared by Hands Off Our Census. Run Nov 23, 2026, 2:49 PM ET.

CITE THIS BRIEF: handsoffourcens.us. (2026, November 23). *Alabama state brief: Public comments on the proposed census rule, Docket USBC-2026-0628*. Analysis by Chris Marcum and Abigail Haddad. https://handsoffourcens.us