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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

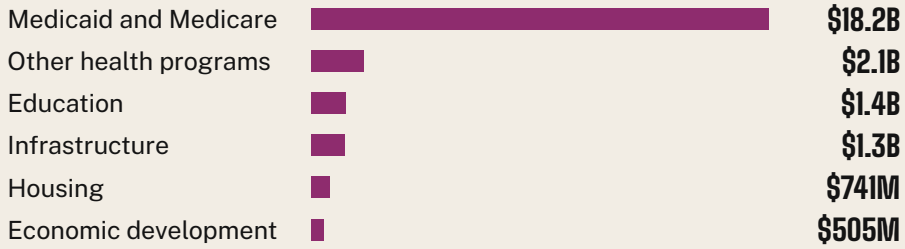
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR ARKANSAS

$23.4 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Arkansas in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 21st smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Arkansas's residents could shift about **$234 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 Arkansas fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT ARKANSAS TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

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

502
COMMENTS
15th fewest of 50 states and DC

97%
OPPOSED THE RULE
486 comments opposed; 15 supported

16
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
10th lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

62
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES ARKANSAS COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Arkansas | 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 Arkansas 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 ARKANSAS ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Arkansas Community Foundation

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

Arkansas Impact Philanthropy

El Centro Hispano

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM ARKANSAS

> *"Arkansas had a statistically significant 5.04% net population undercount in the 2020 Census. We have seen firsthand that an inaccurate count affects a community for a full decade."*
>
> **Arkansas Community Foundation**
> Arkansas nonprofit funder · Comment 20303

> *"We use census data to plan services, measure health needs, apply for grants, conduct research in Arkansas. The full census is the only source that counts every person in every neighborhood, and surveys like the American Community Survey depend on it."*
>
> **El Centro Hispano**
> uses census data to plan its services · Comment 92349

> *"Arkansas hospitals design emergency room services based on race and population data."*
>
> **Arkansas researcher who relies on Census data**
> writing as an individual · Comment 131741

> *"Much of the aid and accommodations I receive in my schooling is built around the understanding of how many people like me there are within not only my own school and city, but my own state."*
>
> **Neurodivergent graphic design student in Little Rock**
> writing as an individual · Comment 140001

> *"These lawfully residing immigrants pay taxes, are engrained in and contribute to our communities, drive on roads and bridges, and send their children to public schools."*
>
> **Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families**
> advocating for Arkansas children for almost 50 years · Comment 126802

> *"Marshallese citizens live and work in the United States legally under the Compact of Free Association. We pay taxes. We serve in the United States military. We start businesses. But we are not U.S. citizens or green-card holders — so under this rule, we would not count."*
>
> **Marshallese entrepreneur in Springdale**
> writing as an individual · Comment 138054

> *"Using tax records to determine who "counts" will lead to massive undercounts in Black, rural, and economically distressed communities."*
>
> **Arkansas resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 130914

> *"Blindfolding our agencies and researchers, local and federal, to respond to disparities doesn't make them go away or remove our responsibility to our citizens."*
>
> **North Little Rock resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 144158

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.

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