DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

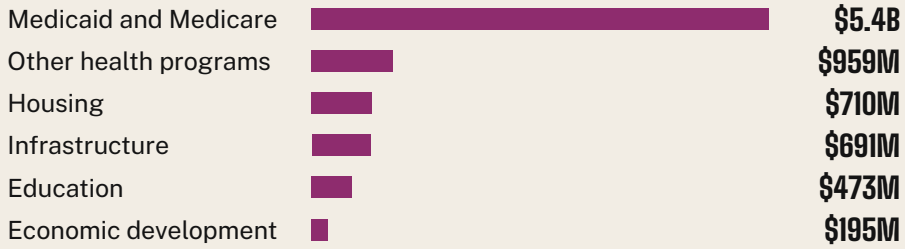
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

$8.2 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to District of Columbia in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 7th smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of District of Columbia's residents could shift about **$82 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 District of Columbia fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

237 comments came from District of Columbia. **98% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

237
COMMENTS
5th fewest of 50 states and DC

98%
OPPOSED THE RULE
232 comments opposed; 2 supported

34
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
16th highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

56
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. District of Columbia | 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 District of Columbia 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 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
District of Columbia (mayor)

A SAMPLE OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

DC Fiscal Policy Institute

Children's Law Center

National groups based in District of Columbia also wrote in: Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Education Fund and National Community Development Association.

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

> *"Another aspect of particular concern to the District of Columbia is the proposed change to count persons in prison where they are held, rather than at home."*
>
> **District of Columbia, mayor**
> most District felons are held in federal prisons nationwide · Comment 146216

> *"Young children were already among the most undercounted groups in the 2020 Census."*
>
> **Children's Law Center**
> has reached 60,000+ children and families since 1996 · Comment 140762

> *"To leave such information on the cutting floor is a gross and unnecessary impediment to a solid understanding of our population and its conditions."*
>
> **Former researcher who often relied on census data**
> writing as an individual · Comment 127387

> *"While population-level data, such as median income, make the District seem fairly prosperous, examining the data by race and ethnicity shows significant economic inequality."*
>
> **DC Fiscal Policy Institute**
> analyzes economic disparities in the District of Columbia · Comment 144701

> *"Without good, accurate data, how can my students trust the very data that I and so many other teachers across the country share with them?"*
>
> **Adjunct professor and data analyst in Washington, DC**
> teaching nearly 15 years; writing as an individual · Comment 147596

> *"People are people, regardless of their immigration status."*
>
> **Washington, DC resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 105436

> *"We are already seeing the closing of labor and delivery centers that lead to higher rates of maternal and infant death!"*
>
> **Washington, DC resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 49154

> *"In its current form, the proposed rule would do serious harm to data on which our laws and policies are premised."*
>
> **Public health professional and licensed clinical social worker in Washington, DC**
> writing as an individual · Comment 144176

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, 11:19 AM ET.

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