DELAWARE

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

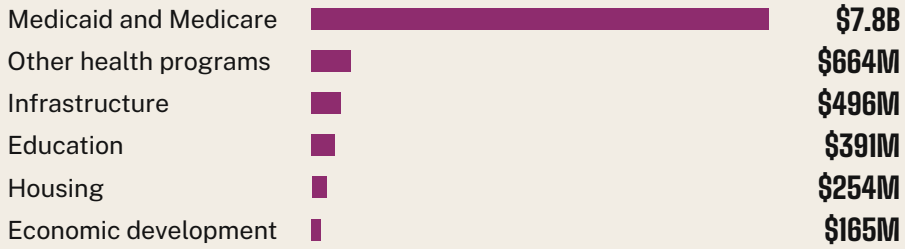
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR DELAWARE

$9.6 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Delaware in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 11th smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Delaware's residents could shift about **$96 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 Delaware fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT DELAWARE TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

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

371
COMMENTS
9th fewest of 50 states and DC

97%
OPPOSED THE RULE
361 comments opposed; 10 supported

35
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
13th highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

60
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES DELAWARE COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Delaware 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 Delaware 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 DELAWARE GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Signed multistate letters asking for more time (Sept. 21) and opposing the rule (Nov. 2)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

New Castle County (county executive)
Wilmington City Council members

A SAMPLE OF DELAWARE ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM DELAWARE

> *"I worry these changes would harm our already strained public services, including our public school and healthcare systems."*

Biology student from a small rural Delaware town
hopes to go into healthcare; writing as an individual · Comment 113563

> *"Reliable racial and ethnic data help organizations identify gaps, support funding requests, and evaluate whether resources are reaching underserved residents."*

Social worker and community development professional in Dover
writing as an individual · Comment 100545

> *"New Castle County is concerned that the proposed definition of "usual residence," combined with the January 3 to April 1 census enumeration period, could shift University of Delaware students out of the County's population count."*

New Castle County, county executive
home to the University of Delaware's Newark campus · Comment 132410

> *"Researchers depend on ethnographic statistics from the Census Bureau for all sorts of projects and studies across academic fields."*

Retired professor of sociology in Lewes
writing as an individual · Comment 43269

> *"It would have been impossible for me to even determine the immigration status or sexual identify [sic] of those I took the Census of."*

Paid census taker in the last census
writing as an individual · Comment 43520

> *"I have used census data for decades in the planning for businesses, both in accurately building proposals for where to build new businesses and for planning expansion for existing businesses."*

Business planner who has used census data for decades
writing as an individual · Comment 44954

> *"Removing established questions degrades decades of longitudinal data, making it difficult to measure long-term progress for Delaware's children."*

Delaware member of the national KIDS COUNT network
source of nonpartisan data on child and family well-being in Delaware · Comment 45835

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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