FLORIDA

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

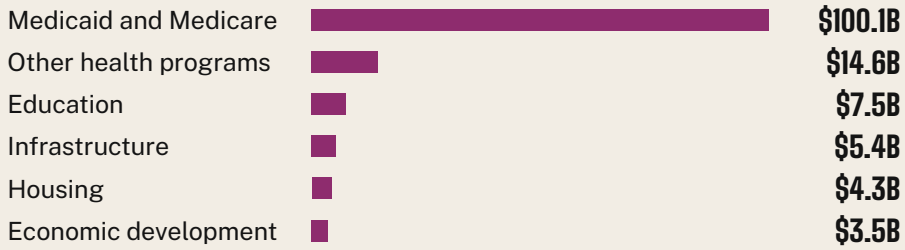
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR FLORIDA

$130.9 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Florida in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 4th largest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Florida's residents could shift about **$1.3 billion 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 Florida fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT FLORIDA TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

4,498 comments came from Florida. **96% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

4,498
COMMENTS
3rd most of 50 states and DC

96%
OPPOSED THE RULE
4,328 comments opposed; 170 supported

19
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
14th lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

566
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES FLORIDA COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Florida 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 Florida 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 FLORIDA GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

TRIBAL NATIONS
Seminole Tribe of Florida (via counsel)

A SAMPLE OF FLORIDA ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Hispanic Unity of Florida
The Women's Fund Miami-Dade
Central Florida Foundation

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM FLORIDA

> *"If implemented, this proposed rule will provide an inaccurate count of those in states and cities."*
>
> **League of Women Voters of Lee County**
> also urged a longer public comment period · Comment 126927

> *"Narrowing the data collected as proposed will fundamentally undermine our ability to define the work of hundreds of nonprofits working systemically."*
>
> **Central Florida Foundation**
> Orlando-based community foundation · Comment 45888

> *"As a Floridian, I am particularly concerned about how inaccurate population counts could affect communities facing hurricanes, flooding, pollution, and other environmental challenges."*
>
> **Lifelong Floridian**
> writing as an individual · Comment 71817

> *"Florida shows why the January 3 to April 1 "enumeration period" is a bad idea. Every winter, our state is full of seasonal residents, and many more Floridians are farmworkers, service workers and travelers who move around for work."*
>
> **Florida resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 87258

> *"These residents will continue to rely on healthcare, childcare, transportation, housing, school, and other public services regardless of their omission on census reports."*
>
> **The Women's Fund Miami-Dade**
> has funded women and girls in Miami-Dade for 30 years · Comment 73810

> *"Is the federal government really going to treat our military personnel as non-people and determine they should not be counted?"*
>
> **Writer, former professor and full-time Florida resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 20570

> *"I am a retired public school teacher, and I fully understand the importance of counting every person. I spent everyday counting my students, knowing that the school budget relied on an accurate count."*
>
> **Retired public school teacher**
> writing as an individual · Comment 51701

> *"Reestablish guidelines for detailed residence situations that encompass the varied living arrangements present in the United States such as for people who have recently moved, people in temporary shelters, and children in foster care. Florida has over 15,000 children in foster care, and over 6,600 licensed foster care homes."*
>
> **Supervisor of court-ordered parent-child visits**
> career in social welfare; writing as an individual · Comment 99747

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, 3:35 PM ET.

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