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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

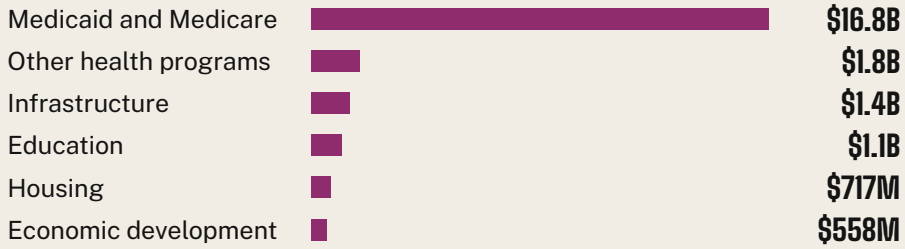
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR IOWA

$21.7 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Iowa in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 20th smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Iowa's residents could shift about **$217 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 Iowa fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT IOWA TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

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

849
COMMENTS
26th most of 50 states and DC

96%
OPPOSED THE RULE
818 comments opposed; 31 supported

26
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
24th lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

112
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES IOWA COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Iowa | 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 Iowa 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 IOWA GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

City of Badger (city clerk)
City of Coggon
City of DeWitt
City of Dubuque (mayor)
City of Maynard (mayor)

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM IOWA

> *"As an Iowan, I oppose these rule changes because they will misrepresent the population of Iowa in several ways, none of which will be for the good of the United States."*
>
> **Iowan and former Census worker**
> writing as an individual · Comment 80308

> *"I urge you to withdraw the proposed 2030 Census rule, including the requirement that a person's usual residence be consistent with and evidenced by their tax records. This requirement could leave tens of millions of people out of the Census."*
>
> **Iowa resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 129371

> *"An accurate census count matters to me. Towns with census population of less than certain threshold numbers (say, 10,000) are often left out of federal government programs and grants."*
>
> **Iowa small-town resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 53987

> *"Even a small undercount is a large share of our population and our budget."*
>
> **City of Maynard, mayor**
> rural Fayette County city of about 470 residents · Comment 141699

> *"Schools serve children regardless of their immigration status, and their needs do not disappear simply because they might be excluded from a government count."*
>
> **Public education worker in Davenport**
> writing as an individual · Comment 104102

> *"significant regulatory actions such as this one deserve a full 90 days for the public to review and respond. I almost didn't hear about the proposed changes until the deadline, and not for lack of engagement."*
>
> **College student in Iowa studying ecology and sociology**
> writing as an individual · Comment 135408

> *"The proposed changes would also undercount many women and girls, especially those who are unemployed, who are survivors of sexual abuse, or who are under age 18."*
>
> **Iowa resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 44674

> *"In Coggon we have a large population of people who go south for the winter."*
>
> **City of Coggon**
> many residents go south for the winter · Comment 131868

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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