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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

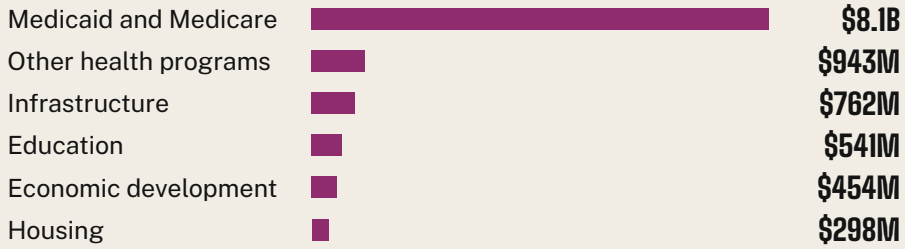
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR IDAHO

$10.8 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Idaho in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 13th smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Idaho's residents could shift about **$108 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 Idaho fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT IDAHO TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

411 comments came from Idaho. **95% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

411
COMMENTS
11th fewest of 50 states and DC

95%
OPPOSED THE RULE
391 comments opposed; 20 supported

21
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
16th lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

57
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES IDAHO COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Idaho | 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 Idaho 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 IDAHO GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

TRIBAL NATIONS
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Fort Hall Business Council)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
City of Boise (mayor)

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM IDAHO

> *"Excluding AI/ANs from census data could lead to irrevocable harm through decreased federal funding and resources for both Tribal communities and other communities where Tribal members live."*
>
> **Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Fort Hall Business Council**
> treaty relationship under the 1868 Fort Bridger Treaty · Comment 146973

> *"These students are part of our community and should be counted where they currently live, attend school, and utilize public infrastructure."*
>
> **City of Boise, mayor**
> home to college students and seasonal workers · Comment 143973

> *"Accurate house to house counts are the only thing that will enable us to keep up with the growth in our district."*
>
> **Librarian at a school in a rural, fast-growing district**
> writing as an individual · Comment 19025

> *"My community depends on census data for Lake Pend Oreille School District funding / our hospital's Medicaid reimbursement / our county's road and transit funding [...] The rule would stop counting millions of people who live here lawfully, including workers on visas, students, and people with temporary protected status or pending asylum claims, along with undocumented residents."*
>
> **Resident of Sandpoint and Bonner County**
> writing as an individual · Comment 47688

> *"Census counts impact my grandchildren's schools, our community infrastructure, medical services, government agencies, and access to reasonable medical insurance."*
>
> **Retired educator in Pocatello, Bannock County**
> grandparent; writing as an individual · Comment 6381

> *"Poverty remains widespread in Tribal communities, and many Tribal citizens earn income from Treaty-reserved activities that are exempt from taxation."*
>
> **Kootenai Tribe of Idaho**
> part of the transboundary Ktunaxa Nation · Comment 146082

> *"If we don't have accurate census data, our schools, medical services, safety services and much more will be underrepresented."*
>
> **Resident of fast-growing Boise**
> writing as an individual · Comment 113423

> *"As an Idahoan, thousands of people each year migrate away from the state in the winter, particularly during the proposed new census period. What will happen when all the rich snowbirds of Idaho (one of the reddest states in the union, might I add), are not counted in Idaho, taking away resources from the state?"*
>
> **Idaho resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 36833

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, 3:08 PM ET.

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