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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

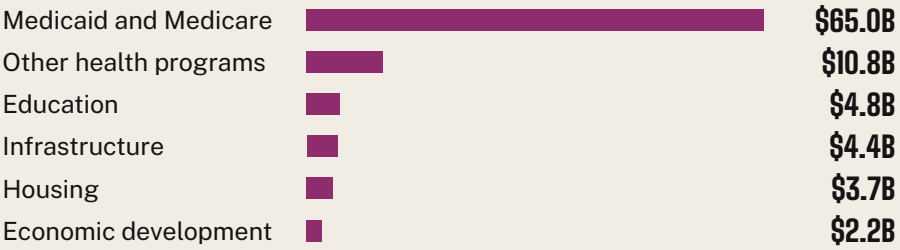
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR ILLINOIS

$88.4 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Illinois in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 6th largest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Illinois's residents could shift about **$884 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 Illinois fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT ILLINOIS TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

3,700 comments came from Illinois. **97% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

3,700
COMMENTS
7th most of 50 states and DC

97%
OPPOSED THE RULE
3,572 comments opposed; 124 supported

29
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
25th highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

771
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES ILLINOIS COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Illinois | 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 Illinois 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 ILLINOIS GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

32 Illinois governments and officials sent opposing comments, including the attorney general: 2 state agencies and officials, 3 associations of local governments, and 26 local governments and regional agencies. Some of them:

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

STATE
Illinois Housing Development Authority

ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
Illinois Municipal League

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
A Cook County commissioner
City of Joliet (mayor)
City of North Chicago
City of Sesser (mayor)
Village of Diamond (mayor)
Village of Schaumburg

A SAMPLE OF ILLINOIS ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Illinois Action for Children
New Moms
The Joyce Foundation
Illinois Public Health Association
Housing Forward
Woodstock Institute
Center for Neighborhood Technology
Forefront
Advance Illinois

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM ILLINOIS

> *"The fundamental public health concern is that changing who is considered a resident for purposes of the census does not change who lives in Illinois or who experiences health events in Illinois."*
>
> **Illinois Department of Public Health**
> state agency measuring the health of Illinoisans · Comment 145639

> *"A 3-month window penalizes anyone who moves in February, from students to seasonal workers to families leaving a shelter."*
>
> **UIC urban planning graduate student**
> works with GIS data; writing as an individual · Comment 64050

> *"My community relies on service workers who may be working toward citizenship or who are in the United States without permanent resident status. I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed rule change to who qualifies to be counted in the next census in 2030."*
>
> **Resident of Carlinville, a rural farming community**
> writing as an individual · Comment 113319

> *"Additionally, if a member is in training for boot camp for 8 weeks during the residency period, they should count towards North Chicago's population, but how will we ensure that those military members are counted?"*
>
> **City of North Chicago**
> home to Naval Station Great Lakes, the Navy's only boot camp for new recruits · Comment 15357

> *"First, keep race and ethnicity questions on the 2030 Census. [...] Removing it would make it harder for communities like mine to be seen, served, and fairly represented."*
>
> **Asian American immigrant and naturalized citizen, Batavia**
> writing as an individual · Comment 10639

> *"How are we suppose to know what areas and races are most impacted by asthma or COPD if the population isn't counted properly?"*
>
> **Respiratory therapist in Chicago**
> writing as an individual · Comment 111175

> *"My children have both Puerto Rican and European ancestry, and where we live has shaped their sense of who they are. I urge the Census Bureau to withdraw the provision that would bar race and ethnicity questions from the decennial census."*
>
> **Parent raising a multiracial family in Illinois**
> writing as an individual · Comment 116842

> *"A child undercounted at birth spends nearly all of childhood in a community funded as if fewer children lived there."*
>
> **New Moms**
> serving young moms on Chicago's West Side since 1983 · Comment 116719

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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