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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

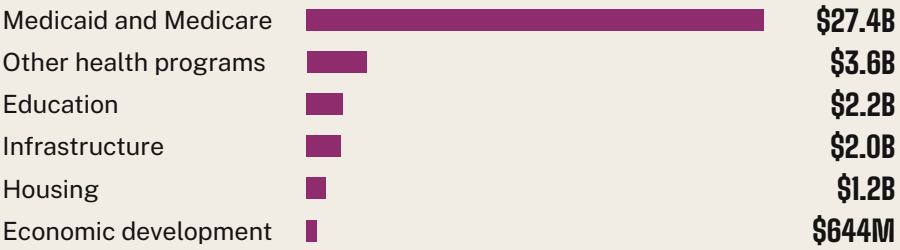
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR KENTUCKY

$35.7 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Kentucky in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 22nd largest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Kentucky's residents could shift about **$357 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 Kentucky fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT KENTUCKY TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

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

785
COMMENTS
24th fewest of 50 states and DC

96%
OPPOSED THE RULE
750 comments opposed; 35 supported

17
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
11th lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

114
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES KENTUCKY COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Kentucky | 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 Kentucky 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 KENTUCKY GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

STATE

Kentucky Housing Corporation (state housing finance agency)

Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission

Kentucky state representative

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

Louisville Metro Government

A SAMPLE OF KENTUCKY ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Kentucky Nonprofit Network

Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM KENTUCKY

> *"Green card holders and other non-citizens use our roads, schools, and infrastructure just the same as citizens."*
>
> **Kentucky state representative**
> Lexington legislator · Comment 121279

> *"Census policy may sound abstract, but representation, public planning, civil-rights enforcement, and the distribution of public resources have real consequences for people like me."*
>
> **Disabled resident on SSDI and Medicare, fixed income**
> writing as an individual · Comment 0032

> *"Our farmers rely heavily on migrant workers to sow and harvest their crops. They need to be counted."*
>
> **Christian County resident, near Fort Campbell**
> writing as an individual · Comment 144297

> *"Census data provide one of the few comprehensive sources available for documenting the presence, demographic characteristics, and geographic distribution of American Indian and Alaska Native people living in Kentucky."*
>
> **Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission**
> Kentucky has no federally recognized tribal land base · Comment 97512

> *"As an educator in the state of Kentucky for 27 years, I know how much money is at stake, and how damaging this proposed rule would be to our public schools."*
>
> **Kentucky educator of 27 years**
> writing as an individual · Comment 96698

> *"I urge you to reject this proposed rule. I worked for the Census years ago, going door to door, up& down stairs in apartment bldg and condos. I was well received."*
>
> **Former door-to-door census worker and ESL teacher**
> writing as an individual · Comment 136982

> *"People will die if disaster services and other services are not apportioned fairly, based on how many people are actually living in an area."*
>
> **Kentucky resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 34975

> *"Kentucky schools, hospitals, emergency services, transportation systems, and nonprofit programs serve people living in our communities every day. An inaccurate count would distort the data that policymakers, funders, and service providers use to make decisions and could reduce resources for communities that already face significant challenges."*
>
> **Kentucky Nonprofit Network**
> statewide association of nonprofits in Kentucky · Comment 74404

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.

CITE THIS BRIEF: handsoffourcens.us. (2026, November 23). *Kentucky state brief: Public comments on the proposed census rule, Docket USBC-2026-0628*. Analysis by Chris Marcum and Abigail Haddad. https://handsoffourcens.us