MASSACHUSETTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS THROUGH NOVEMBER 13, 2026

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

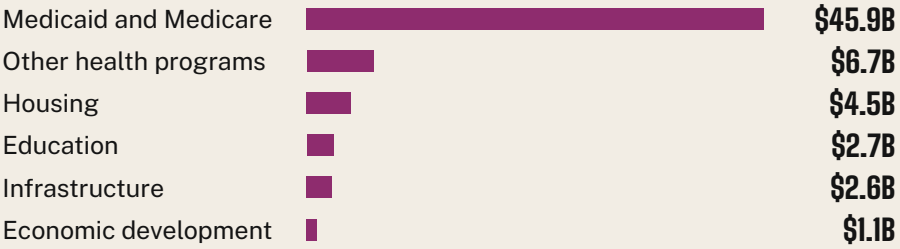
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR MASSACHUSETTS

$62.0 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Massachusetts in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 10th largest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Massachusetts's residents could shift about **$620 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 Massachusetts fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT MASSACHUSETTS TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

2,733 comments came from Massachusetts. **99% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

2,733
COMMENTS
12th most of 50 states and DC

99%
OPPOSED THE RULE
2,699 comments opposed; 31 supported

38
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
10th highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

454
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES MASSACHUSETTS COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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 MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

25 Massachusetts governments and officials sent opposing comments, including the attorney general: 5 state agencies and officials and 19 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

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

Amherst Town Council president

Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates member (Orleans)

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Cape Cod Commission

City of Fitchburg

City of Salem (mayor)

Martha's Vineyard Commission (regional planning agency)

Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission

Newburyport city councilor

A SAMPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

North American Indian Center of Boston

APIs CAN

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

The Boston Foundation

Boston Indicators

Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts

Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts

Agora Education Research

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM MASSACHUSETTS

> *"The proposed rule would limit the population counted toward apportionment to U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents for the first time. As a small town host to multiple higher education institutions, we have year round residents from all over the world, many on student visas and some on work visas."*
>
> **Amherst Town Council, president**
> home to UMass flagship campus and Amherst College · Comment 75132

> *"Children missed by the census still arrive at school needing instruction, support, and services."*
>
> **Former special ed teacher and school committee member**
> writing as an individual · Comment 88452

> *"If adopted, these rule changes would undercount Boston's population by an estimated ~59,000 residents (8.3%)."*
>
> **City of Boston, mayor**
> plans housing, schools, and public health with census counts · Comment 145443

> *"As written, the proposed rule would exclude residents, result in an inaccurate count, and prohibit collection of important data on the characteristics of our population. Such outcomes are unacceptable and would harm all Americans."*
>
> **Early childhood educator and daycare mentor in Somerville**
> writing as an individual · Comment 138652

> *"In particular I think the Jan1-April 1 residency is unworkable and would remove me from the census count"*
>
> **73-year-old Massachusetts resident**
> files taxes in Massachusetts; writing as an individual · Comment 139261

> *"The assigning of a specific enumeration period of January 3 to April 1 is completely arbitrary and precisely intended to yield an undercount of certain states."*
>
> **Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth**
> says 2020 estimate undercounted the state by 131,801 · Comment 126372

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, 3:27 PM ET.

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