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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

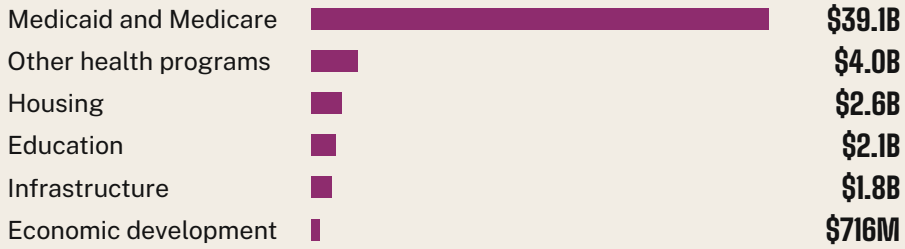
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR MARYLAND

$49.1 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Maryland in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 15th largest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Maryland's residents could shift about **$491 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 Maryland fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT MARYLAND TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

1,827 comments came from Maryland. **97% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

1,827
COMMENTS
19th most of 50 states and DC

97%
OPPOSED THE RULE
1,764 comments opposed; 62 supported

29
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
23rd highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

337
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES MARYLAND COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Maryland 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 Maryland 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 MARYLAND GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

STATE

Maryland Comptroller

State of Maryland (governor)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

Baltimore County Department of Planning

City of College Park

City of Gaithersburg (mayor)

City of Rockville (mayor and council)

City of Seat Pleasant

Montgomery County (county executive and council president)

Montgomery County Planning Department

Prince George's County Planning Department

Town of Washington Grove (mayor)

A SAMPLE OF MARYLAND ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Maryland Philanthropy Network

Manna Food Center

Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership

League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County

The Horizon Foundation

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative

Baltimore Community Foundation

Fort Washington Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

National groups based in Maryland also wrote in: Association on American Indian Affairs.

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM MARYLAND

> *"MCG uses decennial census counts to plan schools, clinics, libraries, and recreation centers, to draw our seven County Council districts, and to receive federal formula funds. [...] Excluding these residents does not reduce the County's obligation to serve them. It only reduces the resources to do so."*
>
> **Montgomery County, county executive and council president**
> Maryland's most populous jurisdiction · Comment 116238

> *"If some people are not counted, EVERYONE suffers from insufficient police, poor roads, misallocation of funds."*
>
> **Baltimore resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 44575

> *"Many of the lowest-income families do not file taxes, and children living with extended family or in non-traditional households are often completely missing from these records. Relying on tax matching ensures that the people who are already the hardest to count will become harder still."*
>
> **State of Maryland, governor**
> notes census data guides $2.8 trillion a year nationally · Comment 145465

> *"The City is concerned that several provisions of the proposed rule could reduce the accuracy of our community's population count and affect our access to federal and state resources. As home to the University of Maryland, College Park has a substantial student population, including international students, and students who maintain permanent addresses outside of the City."*
>
> **City of College Park**
> home to the University of Maryland · Comment 131346

> *"I have been in situations where I was in between places and didn't have an actual home address. [...] How would we be counted if we were still in that situation?"*
>
> **Maryland resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 1452

> *"Every day I see how much our community depends on accurate census data, and I am concerned this proposal would make that data less accurate for the people I serve."*
>
> **Housing intake and education coordinator in Montgomery County**
> writing as an individual · Comment 146475

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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