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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

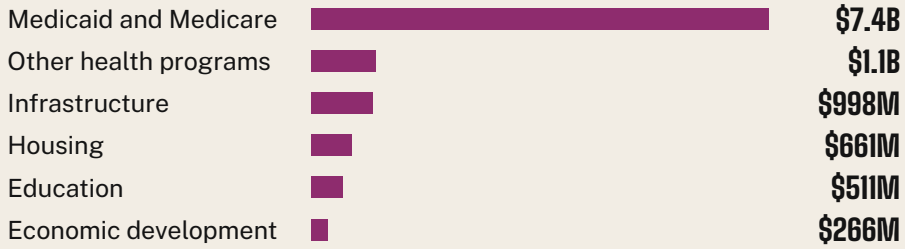
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR MAINE

$10.7 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Maine in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 12th smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Maine's residents could shift about **$107 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 Maine fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT MAINE TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

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

770
COMMENTS
22nd fewest of 50 states and DC

99%
OPPOSED THE RULE
760 comments opposed; 10 supported

55
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
3rd highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

122
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES MAINE COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Maine | 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 Maine 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 MAINE GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

STATE

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Maine Department of Labor (labor market information director)

Maine Office of the State Economist

Maine Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations

Maine State Housing Authority (MaineHousing)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

City of Portland (mayor)

A SAMPLE OF MAINE ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

League of Women Voters of Maine
Maine Education Association
Onion Foundation
Disability Rights Maine
Maine Public Health Association
Maine Association of Nonprofits

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM MAINE

> *"Underestimating local residency would reduce Portland's entitlement funding and obscure neighborhood-level needs."*
>
> **City of Portland, mayor**
> uses census-based CDBG entitlement funding · Comment 130571

> *"Because of the census' 10-year cycle, undercounting children in a census has long lasting results that impact communities for the next decade, or for most of a child's educational career."*
>
> **Public elementary school teacher in Maine**
> writing as an individual · Comment 32556

> *"Many Mainers living out of state from January 3 to April 1 will be inaccurately counted under the proposed changes."*
>
> **Health promotion specialist in Portland**
> writing as an individual · Comment 146303

> *"The resulting impacts of this undercount would be felt most acutely in Maine in places like Lewiston and Portland where refugee and asylum-seeking communities are concentrated."*
>
> **Maine Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations**
> independent, nonpartisan commission created in 2019 · Comment 120599

> *"In Maine, the loss of race and ethnicity data from the decennial census would be especially challenging, given our small populations and rural communities."*
>
> **Maine Office of the State Economist**
> analyzes Maine's economic and demographic conditions · Comment 144604

> *"Reduced funding affects staffing numbers and competitive wages to attract health care practitioner to rural and underserved areas."*
>
> **Nurse practitioner at a community health center in Palmyra**
> writing as an individual · Comment 55016

> *"People with work and student visas, and people who came here after escaping natural disasters, violence, and oppression, would be dropped from the count."*
>
> **Retired teacher living in Washington County**
> writing as an individual · Comment 51126

> *"I am currently the Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee for the Town of Gorham, and without accurate census data, we would be unable to correctly estimate the housing needs of our town."*
>
> **Church minister and town housing committee chair in Gorham**
> writing as an individual · Comment 7051

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, 11:20 AM ET.

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