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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

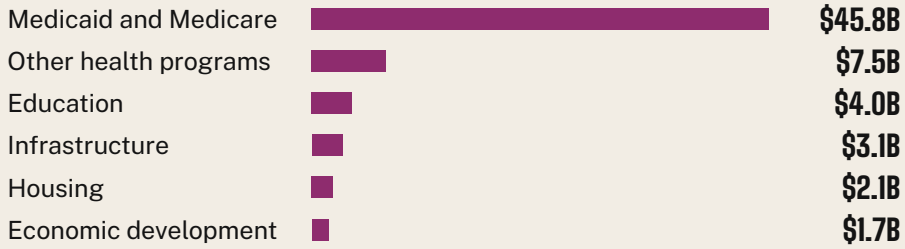
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR MICHIGAN

$62.3 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Michigan in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 9th largest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Michigan's residents could shift about **$623 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 Michigan fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT MICHIGAN TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

3,520 comments came from Michigan. **96% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

3,520
COMMENTS
8th most of 50 states and DC

96%
OPPOSED THE RULE
3,390 comments opposed; 129 supported

35
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
14th highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

509
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES MICHIGAN COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Michigan | 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 Michigan 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 MICHIGAN GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

28 Michigan governments and officials sent opposing comments, including the attorney general: 4 state agencies and officials, 8 tribal nations, and 15 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

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Michigan state demographer (Department of Technology, Management & Budget)

TRIBAL NATIONS

Bay Mills Indian Community

Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi (Gun Lake Tribe)

Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

Canton Township (township supervisor)

Charter Township of Ypsilanti

City of Battle Creek (city manager)

City of Dearborn (council resolution and mayor's office)

City of Detroit (mayor)

City of Ionia (city manager)

City of Sterling Heights (city manager)

City of Ypsilanti (city manager)

Detroit City Council (resolution)

Kent County (county administrator)

Lansing City Council (resolution)

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

A SAMPLE OF MICHIGAN ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

The Skillman Foundation

Think Babies Michigan Coalition

Growing Hope

Community Foundation of Greater Flint

Michigan Immigrant Rights Center

Michigan Nonprofit Association

League of Women Voters of Michigan

Buchanan Area Senior Center

Neutral Zone

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM MICHIGAN

> *"Removing race and ethnicity data does not make health disparities go away: it merely makes them harder to find, harder to measure, harder to fund, and harder to fix."*
>
> **City of Detroit, mayor**
> has spent years documenting health disparities · Comment 146270

> *"This means if even 1,000 people go uncounted throughout our City, we stand to lose $18 million."*
>
> **City of Sterling Heights, city manager**
> home to approximately 134,000 residents · Comment 131334

> *"Our county has a significant immigrant farm workforce that must be counted so that we understand the full needs of our community."*
>
> **Retired pharmacist in rural Michigan**
> child health volunteer; writing as an individual · Comment 120891

> *"Determining legal status is unnecessary because everyone here needs service, whether it is decent roads, emergency services, senior services, legal services, access to healthcare, proficient and safe schools, adequate housing, etc."*
>
> **Former 2020 Census Bureau worker in Marquette**
> writing as an individual · Comment 126841

> *"The 2020 census saw a devastating 5.64% undercount among reservation populations."*
>
> **Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians**
> 336-square-mile reservation, Emmet and Charlevoix counties · Comment 146972

> *"A road system, bridge, or mass transit network must function safely for every single individual physically using it."*
>
> **Mechanical engineering professional**
> writing as a private citizen · Comment 106876

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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