MISSISSIPPI

PUBLIC COMMENTS THROUGH NOVEMBER 13, 2026

PROPOSED 2030 CENSUS RULE

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

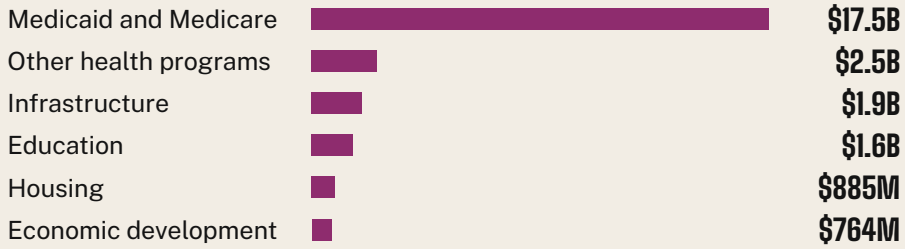
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR MISSISSIPPI

$24.2 billion

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

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Mississippi's residents could shift about **$242 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 Mississippi fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT MISSISSIPPI TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

165 comments came from Mississippi. **93% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

165
COMMENTS
2nd fewest of 50 states and DC

93%
OPPOSED THE RULE
154 comments opposed; 11 supported

6
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
Lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

18
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES MISSISSIPPI COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Mississippi | 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 Mississippi 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 MISSISSIPPI GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

TRIBAL NATIONS
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
Holmes County Board of Supervisors

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM MISSISSIPPI

> *"Suppressing or altering the count of AIAN persons in Tribal service areas severely alters funding ratios, directly underfunding essential community services."*
>
> **Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians**
> 16,254 AIAN persons in its service area · Comment 146253

> *"Excluding residents would create an incomplete picture of the populations that schools, hospitals, emergency services, churches, and local governments serve."*
>
> **A Mississippi Delta church**
> serves families in the Tchula area · Comment 64752

> *"Removing these data sets would erase the people within them from sight, but not from the country."*
>
> **Mississippi resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 40733

> *"These outcomes are completely unacceptable to me as a researcher, a Mississippian, and an American, and they would harm all Americans."*
>
> **Population health doctoral candidate from Mississippi**
> writing as an individual · Comment 129942

> *"Mississippi was severely undercounted in the 2020 Census, and arbitrary changes to Census questions risk damaging people's willingness to participate in the 2030 Census."*
>
> **Demographer at the University of Mississippi**
> works for the state; writing as an individual · Comment 58383

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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