NORTH CAROLINA

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

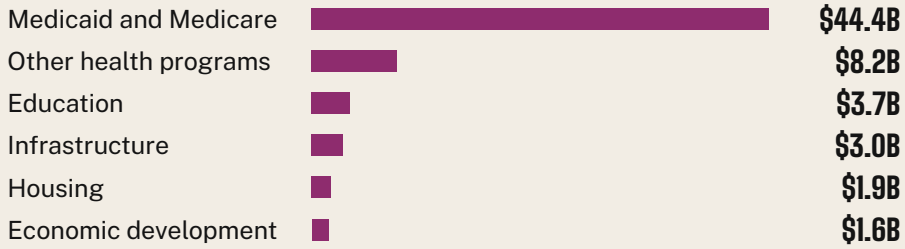
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR NORTH CAROLINA

$60.8 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to North Carolina in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 11th largest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of North Carolina's residents could shift about **$608 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 North Carolina fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT NORTH CAROLINA TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

2,874 comments came from North Carolina. **98% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

2,874
COMMENTS
10th most of 50 states and DC

98%
OPPOSED THE RULE
2,825 comments opposed; 48 supported

26
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
22nd lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

523
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES NORTH CAROLINA COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. North Carolina | 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 North Carolina 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 NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

25 North Carolina governments and officials sent opposing comments, including the attorney general: 6 state agencies and officials, 2 tribal nations, 1 association of local governments, 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
North Carolina Department of Administration
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

TRIBAL NATIONS
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation council member (state-recognized tribe)

ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
North Carolina League of Municipalities

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (Raleigh)
Chatham County Public Health Department
City of Durham (mayor)
City of Goldsboro (mayor and city council)
City of Havelock (mayor and board of commissioners)
City of Raleigh (mayor)
Durham County (county manager)

A SAMPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

NC Counts Coalition
Disability Rights North Carolina
Dogwood Health Trust
WNC Bridge Foundation
Rescue Mission of Cape Fear
NC Demography

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM NORTH CAROLINA

> *"Adoption of this rule will make it harder for North Carolina's tribal members to participate in the census and know if they have been counted or have been excluded improperly."*
>
> **Waccamaw Siouan Indian Tribe**
> state-recognized tribe · Comment 126303

> *"North Carolina's cities and towns have limited means to replace lost funding due to future Census population undercounts."*
>
> **North Carolina League of Municipalities**
> represents more than 550 NC cities and towns · Comment 144171

> *"For a community of Havelock's size and with such a significant military presence, even a relatively modest undercount or geographic misallocation could have a meaningful impact."*
>
> **City of Havelock, mayor and board of commissioners**
> home to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point · Comment 53765

> *"The obligation is universal; the funding denominator would not be. After Hurricane Helene, shelter capacity, water distribution, and strike team staging were planned against population figures."*
>
> **Critical care nurse practitioner with an MPA**
> writing as an individual · Comment 0012

> *"We needed good accurate information, with a population of rural households that often combined generations and other individuals."*
>
> **Philanthropy worker serving rural Northeast NC since 1980**
> writing as an individual · Comment 71726

> *"It is ESSENTIAL for effective resource allocation and data-driven decision making to have accurate data about the people in our communities. This is especially true in WNC's smaller, more rural communities, where not including even a small number of people can significantly distort the picture of the community."*
>
> **Public health professional working with rural communities in Western North Carolina (WNC)**
> writing as an individual · Comment 55621

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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