NORTH DAKOTA

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

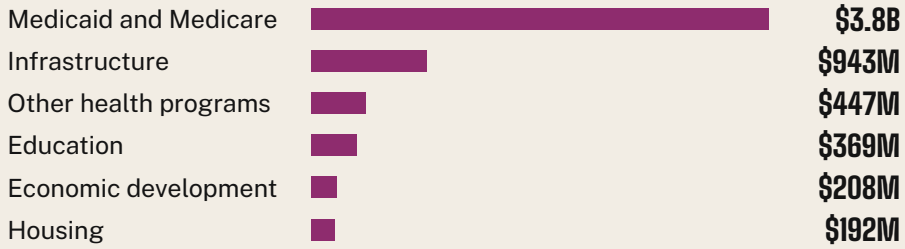
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR NORTH DAKOTA

$5.7 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to North Dakota in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 2nd smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of North Dakota's residents could shift about **$57 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 Dakota fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT NORTH DAKOTA TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

145 comments came from North Dakota. **94% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

145
COMMENTS
Fewest of 50 states and DC

94%
OPPOSED THE RULE
137 comments opposed; 8 supported

18
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
12th lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

20
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES NORTH DAKOTA COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. North Dakota | 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 Dakota 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 DAKOTA GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

STATE
North Dakota state legislator

TRIBAL NATIONS
Spirit Lake Tribe

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

A SAMPLE OF NORTH DAKOTA ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

North Dakota Protection & Advocacy

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM NORTH DAKOTA

> *"Individuals who travel from rural areas to receive services may not be counted, which could affect funding for services in rural areas."*
>
> **North Dakota Protection & Advocacy**
> Disability advocates; services limited to a few ND cities · Comment 145243

> *"As member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota, we reside in remote or very rural communities on Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and must use mailboxes as our addresses."*
>
> **Member of the Three Affiliated Tribes, Fort Berthold**
> writing as an individual · Comment 148349

> *"We need to count all as money allocated to the states and cities is determined by this census."*
>
> **North Dakota resident**
> helped conduct the last census; writing as an individual · Comment 99352

> *"Under federal law, 39 percent of the tribal share calculation is based on a tribe's population relative to the total AIAN population. This has real consequences for the roads, infrastructure, and transportation systems that serve our communities."*
>
> **North Dakota state legislator**
> Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (MHA) citizen · Comment 145942

> *"If the arbitrary date to enumerate people's residence is between January 1 – April 1 as specified, our already sparsely populated state will lose even more people!"*
>
> **Rural North Dakota resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 59956

> *"By generating inaccurate and unreliable data, this change would also make it harder for my state and local officials to properly plan for the services we need and the emergencies we may face."*
>
> **North Dakota resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 30069

> *"If the census is not going to be conducted correctly, what is the point of doing one at all?"*
>
> **Bismarck resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 34524

> *"For smaller Tribal populations, even minor undercounts severely distort federal funding, healthcare allocation, and essential community services."*
>
> **Spirit Lake Tribe**
> Treaty partner under the 1867 and 1868 Treaties · Comment 147057

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, 3:27 PM ET.

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