NEBRASKA

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

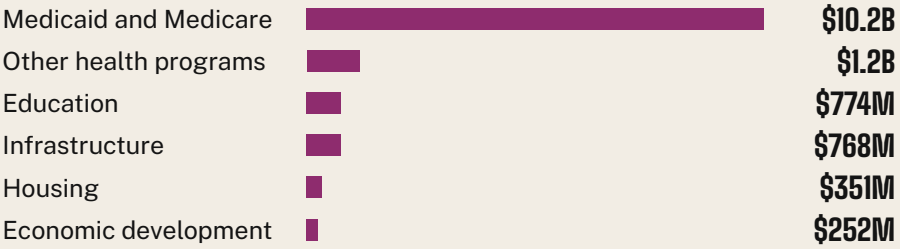
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR NEBRASKA

$13.1 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Nebraska in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 14th smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Nebraska's residents could shift about **$131 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 Nebraska fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT NEBRASKA TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

472 comments came from Nebraska. **92% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

472
COMMENTS
14th fewest of 50 states and DC

92%
OPPOSED THE RULE
436 comments opposed; 36 supported

24
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
20th lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

73
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES NEBRASKA COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Nebraska 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 Nebraska 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 NEBRASKA GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

TRIBAL NATIONS
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Santee Sioux Nation
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

A SAMPLE OF NEBRASKA ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Early Futures Partnership
OpenSky Policy Institute
Nebraska Appleseed

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM NEBRASKA

> *"The federal government cannot undercount Tribal communities and then use its own undercount as the measure of what those communities deserve."*
>
> **Omaha Tribe of Nebraska**
> 7,560 enrolled members · Comment 144853

> *"Two specific proposed changes will result in undercounts of Nebraska children."*
>
> **Early Futures Partnership**
> cites a 3.1% 2020 undercount of Nebraska kids 0–4 · Comment 118224

> *"It may also create underrepresentation for people like myself (a resident of Nebraska) who live in states with colder winters."*
>
> **Nebraska professor of social-science statistics and GIS**
> writing as an individual · Comment 98461

> *"Under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, our Nation received roughly $500,000, enough for a single tower, while neighboring Tribes in Nebraska received far larger awards for full infrastructure deployment. [...] Removing the data that federal agencies use to measure need would make every one of those efforts harder"*
>
> **Santee Sioux Nation**
> Reservation in Knox County, along the Missouri River · Comment 79756

> *"Our family perfectly illustrates the cultural mosaic that makes up this country and our heritages, languages, and identities matter. It matters for ALL people."*
>
> **Teacher and mother in a mixed-heritage Nebraska family**
> writing as an individual · Comment 84273

> *"Every person counts, and every student deserves to be counted."*
>
> **Nebraska educator and school librarian**
> writing as an individual · Comment 69545

> *"These rule changes will harm my state of Nebraska as we're a low population rural state, yet we have legal obligations to provide for our residents."*
>
> **Hastings resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 36651

> *"Whether counted or not, families living here will still be using roads, hospitals, child care, and other social services - but if they're not adequately counted, then it may appear we have fewer resource needs than we actually do."*
>
> **Nebraskan who works on child well-being**
> writing as an individual · Comment 117159

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, 3:36 PM ET.

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