NEW JERSEY

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

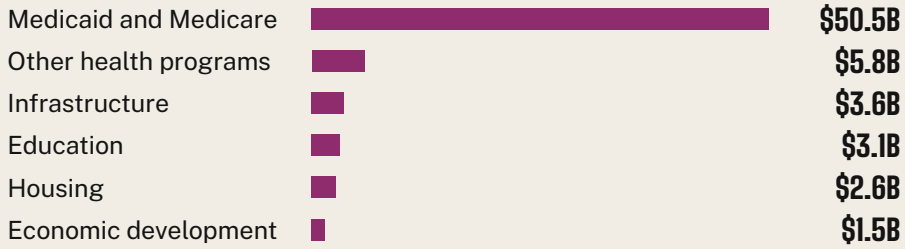
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR NEW JERSEY

$65.7 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to New Jersey in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 8th largest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of New Jersey's residents could shift about **$657 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 New Jersey fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT NEW JERSEY TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

2,664 comments came from New Jersey. **98% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

2,664
COMMENTS
13th most of 50 states and DC

98%
OPPOSED THE RULE
2,614 comments opposed; 50 supported

28
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
26th highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

591
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES NEW JERSEY COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. New Jersey | 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 New Jersey 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 NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Signed multistate letters asking for more time (Sept. 21) and opposing the rule (Nov. 2)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

High Bridge borough council member (form letter)

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (MPO)

Township of Piscataway (mayor)

A SAMPLE OF NEW JERSEY ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Advocates for Children of New Jersey

The Fund for New Jersey

New Jersey Complete Count Coalition

Schumann Fund for New Jersey

New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice

New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

New Jersey Center for Nonprofits

Teardrops: A Mindset for Healing Foundation

Monmouth County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM NEW JERSEY

> *"For example, in Ocean County, which is home to many retirees, as much as 9 percent of the population lives outside the state in the winter months."*
>
> **North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority**
> Planning agency (MPO) for 13 N. and central NJ counties · Comment 146245

> *"Removing race and ethnicity questions would erase our community just as it was about to be counted."*
>
> **PACC (Clifton)**
> Serves Palestinian Americans in Passaic and Bergen counties · Comment 146911

> *"Every person missed means fewer federal dollars for New Jersey's schools, healthcare programs, transportation systems, housing assistance, and other essential services."*
>
> **New Jersey resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 58142

> *"The proposed changes threaten the accuracy and reliability of the 2030 Census, with significant implications for Congressional representation, federal funding, and local government operations."*
>
> **Township of Piscataway, mayor**
> Fifth-oldest NJ municipality; over 63,000 residents · Comment 132151

> *"As a parent, I want my son to inherit a country committed not only to equality as a principle, but also to measuring whether that principle is being realized."*
>
> **African American and Puerto Rican mother in Jersey City**
> writing as an individual · Comment 140895

> *"I find this rule to have a negative effect on the Puerto Rican community, both on the island and in mainland USA."*
>
> **Puerto Rico-born civil engineer living in New Jersey**
> writing as an individual · Comment 106785

> *"Not counting immigrants and others would harm this state as it would significantly underestimate those in need of services from school and library access to healthcare."*
>
> **Professor of Sociology in New Jersey**
> writing as an individual · Comment 120295

> *"Planners need to know how many people live in an area to evaluate current infrastructure like roads, and to plan for future services like where to build new retail districts."*
>
> **Urban planner; member of a 2030 Census advisory committee**
> grew up in a small NJ borough; writing as an individual · Comment 148084

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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