NEW MEXICO

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

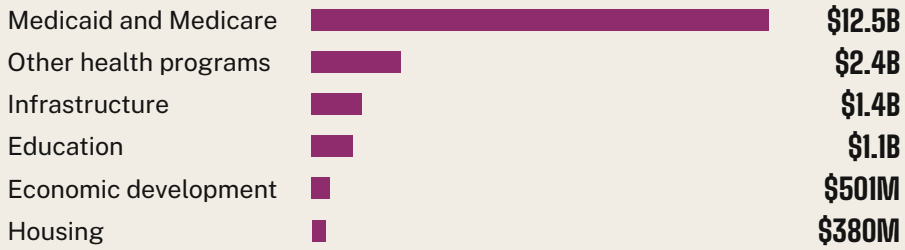
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR NEW MEXICO

$17.7 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to New Mexico in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 17th smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of New Mexico's residents could shift about **$177 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 Mexico fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT NEW MEXICO TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

1,025 comments came from New Mexico. **>99% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

1,025
COMMENTS
25th most of 50 states and DC

>99%
OPPOSED THE RULE
1,020 comments opposed; 4 supported

48
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
6th highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

155
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES NEW MEXICO COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. New Mexico | 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 Mexico 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 MEXICO GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Signed multistate letters opposing the rule (Nov. 2)

TRIBAL NATIONS
All Pueblo Council of Governors
Pueblo of Acoma
Pueblo of Isleta
Santo Domingo Pueblo
Taos Pueblo

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
City of Albuquerque
Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization
Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (Albuquerque)

A SAMPLE OF NEW MEXICO ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

New Mexico Voices for Children
Naeva
New Mexico Thrives
Albuquerque Community Foundation
American Association of University Women, New Mexico chapter

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM NEW MEXICO

> *"Tribal government records belong to Tribal governments; requiring Tribal citizenship data from Tribes is an affront to tribal sovereignty."*

Pueblo of Isleta
Rio Grande Valley, 15 miles south of Albuquerque · Comment 144366

> *"The rule would worsen an existing problem: it is already difficult to accurately count children, especially when they are in rural communities or Tribal areas."*

New Mexico Voices for Children
child well-being research and advocacy group · Comment 126260

> *"As a social worker, I recognize the importance of using reliable population-level data to develop, implement, and evaluate evidence-based policies and interventions. Removing these questions would limit our ability to identify disparities affecting racial and ethnic minority populations and assess whether efforts to address those disparities are effective."*

Licensed master social worker and Hispana from New Mexico
writing as an individual · Comment 140994

> *"As a historian I know the importance of accurate demographic information of ALL the people residing in the United States."*

Historian with a PhD in American history
writing as an individual · Comment 60676

> *"Of particular note in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Region, the Los Lunas Small Urban Area could lose its urban area designation under these changes."*

Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
transportation planning for the Albuquerque region · Comment 146392

> *"Students, temporary workers, refugees, and asylum seekers live in our communities, ride our buses, and use our roads. Leaving them out of the apportionment count raises serious constitutional problems."*

Former public transit communications lead, Santa Fe
about 20 years in transit; writing as an individual · Comment 107234

> *"Our state has historically been the hardest-to-count for several reasons, including our many rural areas and the 23 federally recognized sovereign indigenous nations that reside within our borders. The proposed changes to the census will further compound these counting challenges which will negatively affect the ability of federal, state, non-profit, and other entities to meet the needs of our community."*

Librarian in New Mexico
writing as an individual · Comment 114447

> *"Data is powerful, please don't take this tool away from us."*

Asian New Mexican living in Albuquerque
writing as an individual · Comment 75525

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, 2:49 PM ET.

CITE THIS BRIEF: handsoffourcens.us. (2026, November 23). *New Mexico state brief: Public comments on the proposed census rule, Docket USBC-2026-0628*. Analysis by Chris Marcum and Abigail Haddad. https://handsoffourcens.us