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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

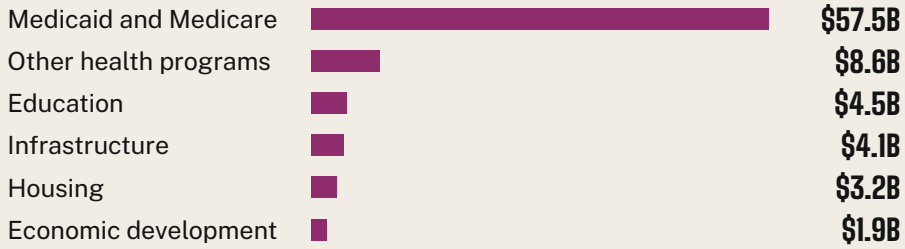
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR OHIO

$77.4 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Ohio in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 7th largest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Ohio's residents could shift about **$774 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 Ohio fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT OHIO TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

3,480 comments came from Ohio. **97% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

3,480
COMMENTS
9th most of 50 states and DC

97%
OPPOSED THE RULE
3,368 comments opposed; 111 supported

29
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
22nd highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

555
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES OHIO COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Ohio | 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 Ohio 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 OHIO GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (111 local health departments)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

Bentleyville village council member
Buckeye Hills Regional Council (8 Southeast Ohio counties)
City of Athens
City of Cleveland Heights
Cuyahoga County (deputy chief of staff)
Franklin County Board of Commissioners
Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners
METRO Regional Transit Authority (Akron)
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (Columbus MPO)
Summit County (county executive)

A SAMPLE OF OHIO ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Women's Fund of Central Ohio
Philanthropy Ohio
YWCA Columbus
Groundwork Ohio
Ohio Equal Rights
Health Policy Institute of Ohio
Cleveland VOTES
League of Women Voters of Bowling Green
Association of Ohio Health Commissioners

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM OHIO

> *"We do not verify citizenship or legal status before a resident drives on our roads, calls 9-1-1, or relies on any other service that benefits the whole community."*
>
> **Summit County, county executive**
> runs shared roads and 9-1-1 for all residents · Comment 145773

> *"When we are responsible for prioritizing major infrastructure investments for a region of 2.5 million people, getting the numbers right is not optional."*
>
> **Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**
> nearly 100 local governments across 15 counties · Comment 144209

> *"Ohio builds prisons in rural counties and draws their populations from urban ones."*
>
> **Independent health-disparities researcher in Ohio**
> writing as an individual · Comment 135300

> *"People like me who are establishing roots in this country and contributing taxes even before we've received citizenship should be considered when determining fair representation and allocating resources."*
>
> **Ohio resident since 2004, citizen since 2022**
> writing as an individual · Comment 147562

> *"CDBG entitlement and federal transit programs also use population thresholds, so modest losses can produce sharp funding cliffs rather than proportional changes."*
>
> **Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners**
> Cincinnati; Deer Park sits just above 5,000 · Comment 120697

> *"If you stop asking, the gaps in health care, schools, and jobs do not go away — we just lose the proof they exist."*
>
> **Young Black mom in Ohio**
> writing as an individual · Comment 117732

> *"Many elderly residents are "snow birds" leaving Ohio for warmer climates for 2-3 months of the year."*
>
> **Ohio resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 143703

> *"Linking census responses to immigration and benefits records will reduce participation. In my clinical experience, trust is fragile. People avoid help when they fear their information will be used against their families. That fear leads to undercounts that harm entire communities."*
>
> **Licensed social worker who teaches at Ohio State**
> former hospital social worker; writing as an individual · Comment 46861

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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