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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

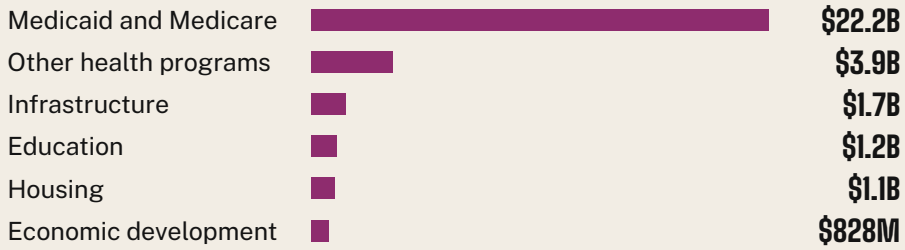
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR OREGON

$30.3 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Oregon in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 25th smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Oregon's residents could shift about **$303 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 Oregon fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT OREGON TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

2,562 comments came from Oregon. **99% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

2,562
COMMENTS
15th most of 50 states and DC

99%
OPPOSED THE RULE
2,533 comments opposed; 29 supported

60
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
2nd highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

394
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES OREGON COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Oregon | 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 Oregon 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 OREGON GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

STATE

Oregon state representative (House District 43)

State of Oregon (eight state agencies)

TRIBAL NATIONS

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Coquille Indian Tribe

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

The Klamath Tribes

ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

League of Oregon Cities

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

Bend City Council

Bend Metropolitan Planning Organization

Central Lane MPO (Lane Council of Governments)

City of Portland (mayor and city council)

City of Springfield (city manager's office)

Lane County

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

Oregon Metro (Portland regional government)

Washington County Board of Commissioners

A SAMPLE OF OREGON ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Our Children Oregon
Oregon Consumer Justice
Nonprofit Association of Oregon
Disability Rights Oregon
Women's Foundation of Oregon
Oregon Pacific Islander Coalition
Northwest Health Foundation
SPOON
Yarg Foundation

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM OREGON

> *"The Proposed Rules threaten accurate Tribal population counts and the continued availability of AI/AN demographic data used for federal programs, civil-rights protections, Tribal advocacy, and accountability."*

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
successor to the 1855 Treaty with Tribes of Middle Oregon · Comment 133783

> *"If this proposal is adopted, Native people like my students would be denied eligibility for programs supporting childcare, housing, education, language survival, and enforcement of treaty rights."*

Retired community college writing teacher in Oregon
writing as an individual · Comment 146568

> *"An undercount would reduce federal transportation formula funding to the region."*

Oregon Metro, Portland regional government
serves 24 cities and 3 counties in greater Portland · Comment 84790

> *"The proposed rule change will likely lead to undercounting the number of people present in our County as well as limiting understanding of the needs and languages of people residing in the County."*

Washington County Board of Commissioners
county health department uses census data for planning · Comment 43718

> *"As a Cuban American who lives in Oregon, seeing my ethnicity on the form would signify that the census treats it as part of who I am, and I would feel more counted and therefore more inclined to answer."*

Cuban American living in Oregon
writing as an individual · Comment 66210

> *"Census records cannot simply be recreated later if important people or information are missing."*

Genealogist in Oregon
writing as an individual · Comment 37390

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). *Oregon state brief: Public comments on the proposed census rule, Docket USBC-2026-0628*. Analysis by Chris Marcum and Abigail Haddad. https://handsoffourcens.us