PENNSYLVANIA

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

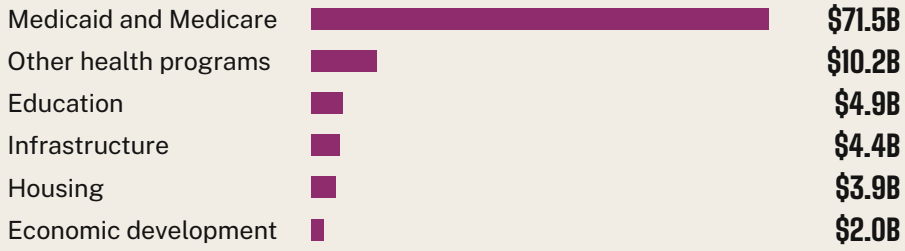
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR PENNSYLVANIA

$94.1 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Pennsylvania in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 5th largest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Pennsylvania's residents could shift about **$941 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 Pennsylvania fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT PENNSYLVANIA TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

4,469 comments came from Pennsylvania. **97% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

4,469
COMMENTS
4th most of 50 states and DC

97%
OPPOSED THE RULE
4,333 comments opposed; 134 supported

34
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
15th highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

810
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES PENNSYLVANIA COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

A southwestern Pennsylvania council member (town not named)
Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Allegheny Intermediate Unit (with Allies for Children)
Borough of State College (council president)
City of Erie (mayor)
City of Pittsburgh (mayor)
Montgomery County Board of Commissioners
Philadelphia City Commissioner (vice chair)

A SAMPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Just Harvest
First Up
Pennsylvania Voice
Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition
Economy League of Greater Philadelphia
William Penn Foundation
St. Martin Center, Inc.
Pittsburgh Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Allies for Children

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM PENNSYLVANIA

> *"Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh together enroll more than 13,000 international students, part of more than 50,000 across Pennsylvania."*
>
> **City of Pittsburgh, mayor**
> About 300,000 residents; PA's only second-class city · Comment 130506

> *"Businesses use Census data for planning where to begin new enterprises; if a local community is undercounted, that may result in, for example, no business being willing to start a grocery store there and people having less access to healthy food."*
>
> **Allegheny Intermediate Unit, with Allies for Children**
> Advocates for children in Allegheny County and statewide · Comment 145219

> *"That is a winter window — and it would count Pennsylvania snowbirds as Florida residents."*
>
> **Roxborough, Philadelphia resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 125692

> *"For one, excluding visa-holders, refugees, asylum seekers, and others does not make them stop using roads, water, schools, or hospitals."*
>
> **Municipal planner in Bucks County**
> writing as an individual · Comment 9117

> *"Like many other communities, we experienced a significant undercount in 2020, and we are committed to ensuring that the 2030 census result is an accurate count."*
>
> **Borough of State College, council president**
> College town; many residents away in early January · Comment 131991

> *"I advise against removing race and ethnicity questions from the short-form Census. While race should not affect how we treat individuals, there absolutely are differences in disease burdens among different race groups."*
>
> **Public health statistician for Pennsylvania government**
> writing as an individual · Comment 7587

> *"Kensington is and has been underserved for generations and this change will only negatively impact our abilities to survive and thrive."*
>
> **Kensington, Philadelphia native and 30-year resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 77860

> *"As both an Oglala Lakota tribal member living off the reservation and someone involved in providing emergency services to my local community, I have seen why accurate data matter."*
>
> **Enrolled Oglala Lakota member living in Pennsylvania**
> volunteer fire department leader; writing as an individual · Comment 8277

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.

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