RHODE ISLAND

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

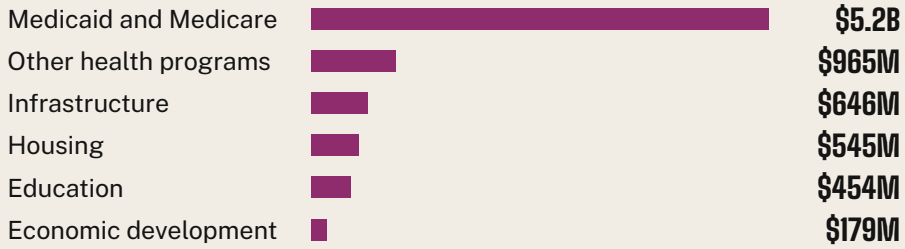
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR RHODE ISLAND

$7.8 billion

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

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Rhode Island's residents could shift about **$78 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 Rhode Island fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT RHODE ISLAND TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

360 comments came from Rhode Island. **98% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

360
COMMENTS
8th fewest of 50 states and DC

98%
OPPOSED THE RULE
352 comments opposed; 7 supported

32
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
19th highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

82
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES RHODE ISLAND COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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 RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

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

STATE
Rhode Island Department of Health
Rhode Island General Treasurer
Rhode Island Secretary of State
State of Rhode Island (governor)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
City of Central Falls (mayor)

A SAMPLE OF RHODE ISLAND ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

United Way of Rhode Island
Rhode Island Foundation
Women's Fund of Rhode Island
NEA Rhode Island

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM RHODE ISLAND

> *"I know from direct experience what it takes to count a community like ours accurately. I also know how quickly that work can be undone. This proposed rule would undo it."*
>
> **City of Central Falls, mayor**
> 22,583 people living in just 1.2 square miles · Comment 113106

> *"For a small state such as Rhode Island, reliable population data are essential to fiscal planning, economic development, and long-term decision-making."*
>
> **United Way of Rhode Island**
> working across Rhode Island for 100 years · Comment 146293

> *"Visibility in the census is how our communities are seen, funded, and represented."*
>
> **Garifuna Honduran-American author in Rhode Island**
> RI resident since 1993; writing as an individual · Comment 146954

> *"My community depends on census data for our school district's Title I funding. As a teacher, I know how much our school districts rely on Title 1 funding to ensure programming for all students."*
>
> **Rhode Island teacher**
> writing as an individual · Comment 40812

> *"If Rhode Island were to lose a congressional seat through the exclusion of certain non-citizens, the interests of all its inhabitants would be handled by a single House member."*
>
> **State of Rhode Island, governor**
> state now has two U.S. House members · Comment 145854

> *"My community depends on census data for so many critical needs such as our road and transit funding. There was a horrible snow storm this past winter that left a lot of damage to our roads that still needs to be fixed."*
>
> **Rhode Island resident who relies on public transit**
> writing as an individual · Comment 9184

> *"A family does not disappear from Rhode Island because of its immigration status."*
>
> **Rhode Island resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 15376

> *"Census numbers help determine how federal health dollars are distributed and how hospitals plan for staffing and capacity."*
>
> **Emergency medicine physician in Rhode Island**
> writing as an individual · Comment 39862

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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