SOUTH CAROLINA

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

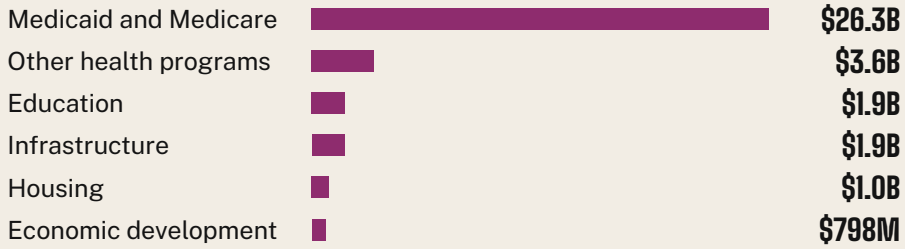
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

$34.4 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to South Carolina in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 23rd largest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of South Carolina's residents could shift about **$344 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 South Carolina fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT SOUTH CAROLINA TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

819 comments came from South Carolina. **95% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

819
COMMENTS
25th fewest of 50 states and DC

95%
OPPOSED THE RULE
775 comments opposed; 42 supported

15
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
7th lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

98
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES SOUTH CAROLINA COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. South Carolina | 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 South Carolina 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 SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

TRIBAL NATIONS
Catawba Nation

A SAMPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Disability Rights South Carolina

Columbia (SC) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

North Charleston Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

> *"Accurate census data is essential to making informed decisions about the needs of our citizens and our community at large."*
>
> **Catawba Nation**
> Tribal Nation seeking government-to-government consultation · Comment 148616

> *"Furthermore, unreliable data would make it extremely hard for policymakers to properly plan for services and appropriate funds in a fair manner, by placing the funds where the need is."*
>
> **Retired state employee in Columbia**
> used census data for redistricting; writing as an individual · Comment 146597

> *"This will hurt many communities including my community in South Carolina. While we have seen tremendous growth in the last 10 years, many of our service people are not citizens and will not be accurately counted."*
>
> **Bluffton resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 44602

> *"Students, military families, seasonal workers, individuals experiencing housing instability, and people who move frequently may have records that do not accurately reflect where they actually reside. Any new methodology should be thoroughly tested and independently evaluated before implementation."*
>
> **South Carolina resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 127881

> *"This rule will impact important data needed for local state and local government to plan for services. Along the coast this could impact planning for evacuation and shelters in in major weather events."*
>
> **Charleston resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 85544

> *"Our local government relied on census data to plan services for PEOPLE living in the community. It allowed us to prioritize resources to the areas of greatest need as well as provide basic human services to all that walked through the door."*
>
> **Retired public health nurse in Spartanburg**
> writing as an individual · Comment 98474

> *"Changing the way the census is taken now would create an incomplete and inaccurate count of our population in the future, hurting communities by allocating less federal funding to key social services and economic development."*
>
> **South Carolina resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 138171

> *"As a census enumerator for the 2020 census, I have seen firsthand how important it is to identify every person, in every household in Oconee County, SC. Oconee Co. is 60% rural, and it is difficult to enumerate many mountain communities."*
>
> **2020 census enumerator in Oconee County**
> writing as an individual · Comment 74604

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, 3:36 PM ET.

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