SOUTH DAKOTA

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

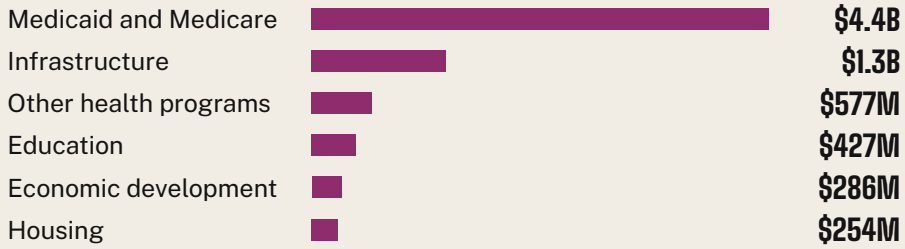
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

$6.9 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to South Dakota in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 4th smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of South Dakota's residents could shift about **$69 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 Dakota fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT SOUTH DAKOTA TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

171 comments came from South Dakota. **92% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

171
COMMENTS
3rd fewest of 50 states and DC

92%
OPPOSED THE RULE
157 comments opposed; 14 supported

18
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
13th lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

16
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES SOUTH DAKOTA COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. South Dakota | 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 Dakota 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 DAKOTA GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

TRIBAL NATIONS
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
Yankton Sioux Tribe

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
City of Box Elder (city administrator)

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM SOUTH DAKOTA

> *"Tribal descendants, non-tribal community members, and, at times, state and municipal governments use our roads and other infrastructure."*
>
> **Oglala Sioux Tribe**
> Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, more than 3.1 million acres in southwestern South Dakota; approximately 54,000 members · Comment 144723

> *"Redefining "usual residence" and relying on tax records, such as W-2s and tax returns, could disproportionally exclude certain tribal citizens."*
>
> **Yankton Sioux Tribe**
> relies on census data to plan services and infrastructure · Comment 148066

> *"If those students are undercounted, the effects on my city of Rapid City could be significantly negative."*
>
> **Rapid City resident who volunteers in economic development**
> writing as an individual · Comment 6230

> *"Eliminating the race and ethnicity questions would rob future generations of [...] understanding of their own communities. These questions also underpin enforcement of anti-discrimination laws and the fair allocation of federal funding."*
>
> **Family roots in the Pickstown/Fort Randall Dam area**
> writing as an individual · Comment 0015

> *"I care about all of my neighbors, including immigrants, Native folks, and all people who may be discriminated against."*
>
> **U.S. citizen living in Sioux Falls**
> writing as an individual · Comment 134191

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, 3:32 PM ET.

CITE THIS BRIEF: handsoffourcens.us. (2026, November 23). *South Dakota state brief: Public comments on the proposed census rule, Docket USBC-2026-0628*. Analysis by Chris Marcum and Abigail Haddad. https://handsoffourcens.us