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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

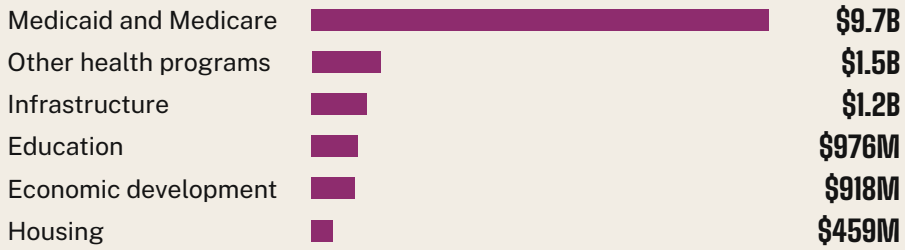
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR UTAH

$14.1 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Utah in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 15th smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Utah's residents could shift about **$141 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 Utah fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT UTAH TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

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

555
COMMENTS
18th fewest of 50 states and DC

99%
OPPOSED THE RULE
549 comments opposed; 5 supported

16
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
9th lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

87
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES UTAH COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Utah | 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 Utah 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 UTAH GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

STATE

Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (with Utah League of Cities and Towns, Utah Association of Counties and two regional councils)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

Salt Lake City (mayor)

Salt Lake City Council

Salt Lake County Health Department

Tooele City (mayor)

A SAMPLE OF UTAH ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Voices for Utah Children

United Way of Salt Lake

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM UTAH

> *"While we recognize the Census must evolve over time, historically, changes have been backed by extensive research, testing, and public feedback before being enacted."*
>
> **Salt Lake City Council**
> says the changes came with a shortened comment period and without the usual research and testing · Comment 143477

> *"Utah is the youngest state in the nation, so the accuracy of the count of young children matters here more than almost anywhere."*
>
> **United Way of Salt Lake**
> works with schools, employers, and health providers · Comment 145435

> *"Undercounting rural residents would result in less funding for rural communities and could have substantial local impacts."*
>
> **Builds Utah population estimates at Gardner Policy Institute**
> writing as an individual · Comment 67480

> *"For Utah, an accurate count is especially vital as our population continues to grow rapidly."*
>
> **Mother of two young men living in Utah**
> writing as an individual · Comment 73132

> *"In the past, Utah's count has been unfairly underrepresented by the lack of count of missionaries who reside in the State, but spend two years committed to religious service elsewhere."*
>
> **Tooele City, mayor**
> relies on CDBG and transit formula funding · Comment 19228

> *"How can we be expected to continue improving the health of our community when we don't even know who lives here?"*
>
> **Public health professional working in Utah**
> writing as an individual · Comment 9700

> *"When families are undercounted, our classrooms lose vital funding for reading interventionists, bilingual paraprofessionals, and foundational language support."*
>
> **Utah resident**
> writes about local public schools; writing as an individual · Comment 134745

> *"Roads, water lines and sewage lines won't be improved to work for the actual number of people living there."*
>
> **Utah resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 35063

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, 11:20 AM ET.

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