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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

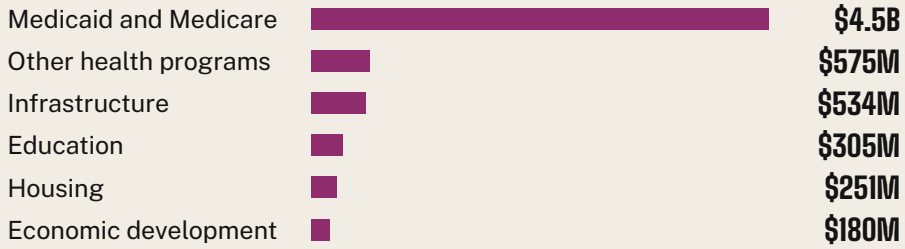
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR VERMONT

$6.2 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Vermont in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 3rd smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Vermont's residents could shift about **$62 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 Vermont fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT VERMONT TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

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

436
COMMENTS
13th fewest of 50 states and DC

99%
OPPOSED THE RULE
433 comments opposed; 3 supported

67
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
Highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

80
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES VERMONT COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Vermont | 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 Vermont 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 VERMONT GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

A SAMPLE OF VERMONT ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Voices for Vermont's Children

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM VERMONT

> *"Census data informs regional and local planning, helps identify unmet needs, and guides investments in housing, transportation, and public services."*
>
> **Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission**
> MPO for the greater Burlington region · Comment 45512

> *"Children are persistently undercounted in the decennial census, yet rather than work to correct this, many of the proposed changes threaten to exacerbate the issue and undermine the accuracy of the count."*
>
> **Voices for Vermont's Children**
> non-partisan child policy research and advocacy group · Comment 121190

> *"There is nothing more important to good government than good data."*
>
> **Vermont resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 102742

> *"The decade when the census was lost because of fire (1890) leaves a gap many historians have spent endless hours trying to fill with less than perfect substitutes. I beg of you do not alter the complete accounting which is so important win [sic] understanding our country."*
>
> **Family and small-town history researcher in Guilford**
> writing as an individual · Comment 57219

> *"And using tax records for residence doesn't work here in rural Vermont, where a mailing address is often a PO box, not a home."*
>
> **Director of the Enosburg Food Shelf in Franklin County**
> writing as an individual · Comment 143630

> *"In a rural state like Vermont, where access to healthcare, transportation, and other essential services can already be challenging, having accurate population data is especially important."*
>
> **Registered dietitian and public health professional**
> has worked in WIC; writing as an individual · Comment 140047

> *"I am also concerned about incarcerated Vermonters who are imprisoned out-of-state."*
>
> **Retired teacher from rural Vermont**
> writing as an individual · Comment 138463

> *"Knowing the percentage of people in your community, by race or ethnicity, who are living in poverty, or struggle to pay rent, have various levels of education has nothing to do with DEI."*
>
> **Vermont resident**
> nonprofit, state agency work; writing as an individual · Comment 43430

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, 3:37 PM ET.

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