WASHINGTON

PUBLIC COMMENTS THROUGH NOVEMBER 13, 2026

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

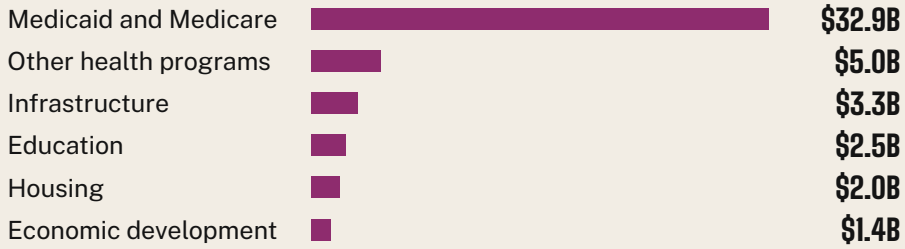
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR WASHINGTON

$45.9 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Washington in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 16th largest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Washington's residents could shift about **$459 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 Washington fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT WASHINGTON TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

4,130 comments came from Washington. **99% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

4,130
COMMENTS
5th most of 50 states and DC

99%
OPPOSED THE RULE
4,094 comments opposed; 36 supported

52
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
4th highest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

946
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES WASHINGTON COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Washington | 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 Washington 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 WASHINGTON GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

66 Washington governments and officials sent opposing comments, including the attorney general: 16 state agencies and officials, 16 tribal nations, 1 association of local governments, and 32 local governments and regional agencies. Some of them:

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

STATE
Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families
Washington State Department of Ecology
Washington State Department of Health
Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner

TRIBAL NATIONS
Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Hoh Indian Tribe
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Lummi Nation

ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
Association of Washington Cities

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
4Culture, King County's cultural public development authority
City of Bellingham (mayor)
City of Des Moines (city manager)
City of East Wenatchee (mayor)
City of Everett
City of Kirkland
City of Pullman (mayor, with Washington State University)
City of Redmond and its council vice president
Jefferson County Public Health
Pierce Transit
Thurston Regional Planning Council

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM WASHINGTON

> *"The Tribe's housing grant would rest on a 2020 baseline that grows staler every year, while the families behind those numbers continue to wait."*

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
Reservation near Auburn; about 3,500 enrolled members · Comment 146725

> *"An undercount would directly reduce the resources available to veterans and their families here in Washington."*

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs
runs the state's Veterans Homes · Comment 113541

> *"These residents use schools, hospitals, roads, emergency services, and other public infrastructure and should not be made statistically invisible."*

Resident of rural central Washington
writing as an individual · Comment 40192

> *"The census count also shapes schools, roads, hospitals, and emergency planning, which is particularly critical here in our retirement community where 214 homes have only one exit out of the park."*

Retired senior in an over-55 mobile home park in Spokane
writing as an individual · Comment 51193

> *"Whether you count them or not, these people still live here and still put demands on services like schools, roads, housing, parks, and other services."*

City of Des Moines, city manager
home to Highline College · Comment 71644

> *"Where someone spends part of a year for treatment or school should not erase where they belong in the count."*

Enrolled Tlingit and Haida citizen living in Bremerton
writing as an individual · Comment 141660

> *"Our census should reflect the population that actually exists, not a politically preferred version of it."*

Washington mother, grandmother, and operations manager
writing as an individual · Comment 91365

> *"Proposed part 60 also has no section on nursing facilities or hospitals, though nursing-facility residents are a core hospice population."*

Health economist and health care consultant in Lynnwood
writing as an individual · Comment 146371

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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