WEST VIRGINIA

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 Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

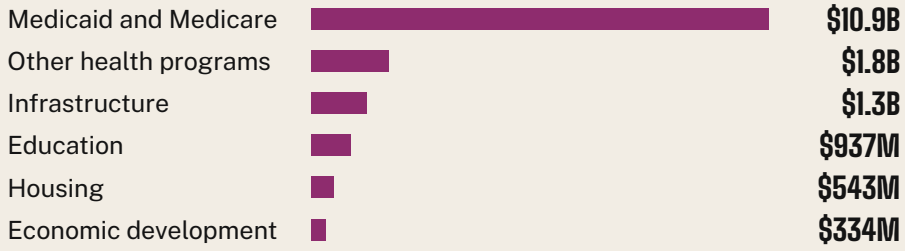
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR WEST VIRGINIA

$15.2 billion

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

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of West Virginia's residents could shift about **$152 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 West Virginia fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT WEST VIRGINIA TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

386 comments came from West Virginia. **96% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

386
COMMENTS
10th fewest of 50 states and DC

96%
OPPOSED THE RULE
371 comments opposed; 15 supported

22
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
17th lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

42
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES WEST VIRGINIA COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. West Virginia | 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 West Virginia 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.

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM WEST VIRGINIA

> *"How can we identify when voting districts have been drawn in ways that divide minority communities, dilute their voting power, or prevent them from having a meaningful voice in government?"*

West Virginia resident
writing as an individual · Comment 123125

> *"The current process while imperfect better serves our communities than a data collection period that spans months and relies on data from other government entities."*

Taxpaying, registered voter in West Virginia
writing as an individual · Comment 121744

> *"An honest census is necessary for us to know where our research and services are needed and to assess whether they have been effective."*

Pediatrician and epidemiologist in West Virginia
writing as an individual · Comment 13488

> *"Tax records reflect a mailing address not necessarily a residential address and for those that are different incorrect data and inferences will be drawn from the data."*

Research economist in Buckhannon
writing as an individual · Comment 124903

> *"These changes would only make things even worse for hard working people. The data collected is very important for community planning and for societal research."*

Ranson resident
writing as an individual · Comment 59790

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.

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