

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Generic Clearance for Questionnaire Pretesting Research

AGENCY: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment on the proposed extension of the Generic Clearance for Questionnaire Pretesting Research, prior to the submission of the information collection request (ICR) to OMB for approval.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before September 29, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by email to adrm.pra@census.gov and PRAComments@doc.gov. Please reference "Generic Clearance for Questionnaire Pretesting Research" in the subject line of your comments. You may also submit comments, identified by Docket Number USBC-2025-0008, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record. No comments will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be

posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Jessica Holzberg, Senior Methodologist, Center for Behavioral Science Methods, 301-763-2298, and jessica.holzberg@census.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau plans to request an extension of the current OMB approval to conduct a variety of small-scale questionnaire pretesting activities under this generic clearance. A block of hours will be dedicated to these activities for each of the next three years. OMB will be informed in writing of the purpose and scope of each of these activities, as well as the time frame and the number of burden hours used. The number of hours used will not exceed the number set aside for this purpose.

This research program will be used by the Census Bureau and survey sponsors to improve questionnaires and procedures, reduce respondent burden, and ultimately increase the quality of data collected in the Census Bureau censuses and surveys. The clearance will be used to conduct pretesting of decennial, demographic, and economic census and survey questionnaires prior to fielding them. Pretesting activities will involve one of the following methods for identifying measurement problems with the questionnaire or survey procedure: cognitive interviews, focus groups, respondent debriefing, behavior coding of respondent/interviewer interaction, and split panel tests.

II. Method of Collection

Any of the following methods may be used: mail, telephone, face-to-face; paper-and-pencil, CATI, CAPI, internet, mobile device, or IVR.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607-0725.

Form Number(s): Various.

Type of Review: Regular submission, Request for an Extension, without change of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit organizations; Farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,500 per year.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 5,500 hours annually.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0. There is no cost to the respondent other than time to answer the information request.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Data collection for this project is authorized under the authorizing legislation for the questionnaire being tested. This may be Title 13, Sections 131, 141, 161, 181, 182, 193, and 301 for Census Bureau-sponsored surveys, and Title 13, Section 8 for surveys sponsored by other Federal agencies. We do not now know what other titles will be referenced, since we do not know what survey questionnaires will be pretested during the course of the clearance.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include, or summarize, each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that

your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2025–14433 Filed 7–29–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

[Docket No. 250725–0129; RTID 0607–XC083]

2030 Census Redistricting Data Program, Commencement of Phase 1: The Block Boundary Suggestion Project

AGENCY: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of program.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the commencement of Phase 1 of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program: The Block Boundary Suggestion Project. Phase 1 specifically provides states the opportunity to supply the Census Bureau with their suggestions for the 2030 Census tabulation block inventory. Suggestions are made by designating the desirability of linear features for use as 2030 Census tabulation block boundaries. In addition, states have the opportunity to submit to the Census Bureau suggested legal boundary updates. These actions allow states to construct some of the small area geography they need for legislative redistricting. State participation in Phase 1 of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program is voluntary.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 29, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by either of the following methods:

Electronic submission: Submit electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal.

1. Go to www.regulations.gov and enter Docket Number USBC–2025–0006 in the search field.

2. Click the “Comment Now!” icon and complete the required fields.

3. Enter or attach your comments.

By email: Comments in electronic form may also be sent to rdo@census.gov.

All comments responding to this document will be a matter of public record. Relevant comments will generally be available on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at: <https://www.Regulations.gov>.

The Census Bureau will not accept comments accompanied by a request that part or all the material be treated confidentially for any reason. Therefore, do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive, protected, or personal information, such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, or names of other individuals.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Whitehorse, Chief of the Census Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office, U.S. Census Bureau, ADDC/RVDO, Washington, DC 20233, telephone (301) 763–4039.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the provisions of Public Law 94–171 (13 U.S.C. 141(c)), the Director of the Census Bureau is required to provide the “officers or public bodies with initial responsibility for legislative apportionment or districting of each state . . .” with the opportunity to specify small geographic areas (*e.g.*, tabulation blocks, voting districts) for which they wish to receive decennial census population totals for the purpose of reapportionment and redistricting.

By April 1 of the year following the census, the Secretary of Commerce is required to furnish the state officials or their designees with population counts for standard geographies such as counties, cities, census blocks, and for state-specified congressional districts, legislative districts, and voting districts.

In accordance with the provisions of 13 U.S.C. 141(c), and on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of the Census Bureau announces the commencement of Phase 1 of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program. The purpose of this notice is to provide further information on the commencement of Phase 1 of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program: The Block Boundary Suggestion Project. Future **Federal Register** notices will address other phases of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program.

The 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program was initially announced on July 9, 2024 (89 FR 56287). The Census Bureau received two sets of comments regarding the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program. One set of comments was determined to be out of scope, and the second set of comments discussed program operations, timing, and past successful activities. Within this set of comments, the first, to send the solicitation for a state non-partisan

liaison letter to the state’s legislative leadership, was implemented. The second comment, to move the timing of the program’s operations from Spring to Fall, was determined to not be feasible for the overall success of the program. This determination was made based on feedback received during the planning phase of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program. Finally, the third comment, to solicit statewide geography layers from the commentator’s state GIS coordinator to update Census Bureau geography, was out of scope for the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program. This recommendation was forwarded to the relevant area of the Census Bureau for consideration.

State participation in the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program under 13 U.S.C. 141 is voluntary. The 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program is partitioned into several phases, as it was in previous decades. Beginning in late 2025, the program will engage each state regarding their voluntary participation in Phase 1, through their newly designated 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program non-partisan liaison(s). The Census Bureau will make available data from its national geospatial database (MAF/TIGER System), the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS), and the procedures necessary for each state to begin work on Phase 1. States are not required to use the GUPS; however, they are required to provide their Phase 1 submission to the Census Bureau electronically in Census Bureau specified formats. During the submission period, the Census Bureau will provide training in the use of the GUPS and assist the states in understanding the procedures necessary for processing files for their submission. The states will have the opportunity to verify the inclusion of their suggested tabulation block boundary features in the Census Bureau’s MAF/TIGER System as part of Phase 1.

The Census Bureau will continue to communicate with each state to ensure that they are well informed about the benefits of working with the Census Bureau towards a successful 2030 Census. In addition, the Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office will continue to work with each state to ensure they are prepared to participate in all phases of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program. Every state, regardless of their participation in Phase 1, will receive the official redistricting data in Phase 3 of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program as required by Public Law 94–171.